

HORWICH & BLACKROD TWO TOWNS AREA FORUM

MEETING – TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2019

Present – 27 members of the public attended the meeting

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|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Councillor Susan Baines | - Horwich and Blackrod |
| Councillor Peter Wright | - Horwich and Blackrod |
| Councillor Marie Brady | - Horwich North East |
| Councillor Kevin McKeon | - Horwich North East |
| Councillor Richard Silvester | - Horwich North East |

Also in attendance

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Idris Jeewa | - Area Coordinator |
| Marion Griffin | - Chief Executives |
| Dawn Lythgoe | - Department of People |
| Michelle Horrocks | - Department of Place |
| Malcolm Russell | - Department of Place |
| PCSO Pat Richardson | - Greater Manchester Police |
| PCSO Wendy Spencer | - Greater Manchester Police |

Town Councillors

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Councillor John Price | - Blackrod Town Council North Ward |
| Councillor Jake BostockSmith | - Horwich Town Council Bridge Ward |
| Councillor Steven Chadwick | - Horwich Town Council Lever Park Ward |
| Councillor Sue Denton | - Horwich Town Council Bridge Ward |
| Councillor David Grant | - Horwich Town Council Vale Ward |
| Councillor Craig Rotheram | - Horwich Town Council Vale Ward |
| Councillor Gordon Stone | - Horwich Town Council Church Ward and Mayor of Horwich |

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Ann Cunliffe and Chris Green MP.

Councillor Richard Silvester in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Silvester welcomed everyone and introduced himself, the other Councillors and Officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th September 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Minute item 7. Questions and Answers session

Q2. Several people raised concerns regarding parking on double yellow lines on Friday and Saturday nights particularly on Lee Lane and Winter Hey Lane. Could there be increased enforcement to stop this?

Q6. There is water coming down drainpipes from shop premises running down on to the pavements, especially on Winter Hey Lane and Lee Lane.

4. PRESENTATION – BOLTON FLU BUDDIES

Councillor Silvester introduced Dawn Lythgoe, Public Health Programme Manager, Department of People who gave the following presentation on Bolton Flu Buddies. The main points were as follows:

Objectives:

- To have a better understanding of flu (influenza) and the importance of vaccination

- To act as a Bolton Flu buddy – become an advocate for the Bolton flu programme and help to share the facts and share the myths
- Signpost people to where they can get their vaccinations
- Flu is not a cold, it is a more serious acute viral infection. of the respiratory tract and is highly infectious
- All ages are affected: new born babies; elderly people; pregnant women; people with underlying health problems/diseases; people with partial or complete suppression of the immune system
- Transmission of the virus is thought to be facilitated when people gather together during the colder months
- Handwashing is important and should be done regularly – should take about 20 seconds. It is one of the easiest ways to protect yourself and others from illness such as flu and food poisoning
- The flu vaccination stimulates your immune system to make antibodies to attack the flu virus. It may take 7 to 14 days for your immunity to build up fully after you have had the jab.
- All children aged 2&3 year old and all children in school years reception to year 6 can get the vaccine free.
- People aged 65 and over; people who are very overweight (BMI over 40) and people with underlying health issues/medical conditions
- A free vaccine is available to people living in a long stay residential care home or other long-stay facility; people receiving carer's allowance or are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill; healthcare workers with direct patient contact; Social workers with direct contact with vulnerable people.

The take home message:

- Get the vaccination – protect yourself and others
- Catch it, bin it, kill it – wash your hands and teach others to
- Tell colleagues, family, friends and in your communities – help protect them too

Several questions followed the presentations and were addressed at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

5. PRESENTATION – HORWICH TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Councillor Silvester introduced Michelle Horrocks, Growth and Regeneration Manager, Department of Place who gave the following presentation:

- The Council has agreed a New Town Centre Strategy for three town centres, Horwich, Westhoughton and Little Lever
- Strategies and master plans will be developed in partnership with key stakeholders and public consultation
- The Council has undertaken a procurement exercise and appointed BDP to do the masterplanning for each town centre. Work due to be completed March 2020.
- The Council borrowed £100 million of prudential funds to invest in Bolton Town Centre
- The success of the Bolton Town Centre Masterplan has seen a vast amount of private sector investment levered into the town.
- £16million in total is available for the four district centres, which is a mix of £12m from Bolton Town centre funding and an additional £4m from the Council's capital programme
- The Council will bid for external funding as and when it arises
- A consultation process to enable all stakeholders to easily access maps and clear information around the development options. To gather views of residents, businesses, visitors, shoppers and other interested parties on the proposed developments in three town centres, Horwich, Little Lever and Westhoughton
- Progress to date: A Steering group established and met in August 2019. Comments/ideas gathered and will feed into the masterplan development
- Consultation/Communications plan in place which will be Council led

- Tenders evaluated and consultants appointed end of September 2019
- Inception meeting held 8th October 2019
- Inception report – October 2019
- Timescales: Final baseline – late November 2019
- Draft Masterplan Strategy & key delivery opportunities presented – December 2019
- Final & Delivery Strategy presented March 2020
- Final sign off – March 2020
- Formal approval by Executive Cabinet member Summer 2019

How to get involved:

- Use your Steering group representatives, send your thoughts and ideas to Bolton Council at:

HorwichTownCentreFunding@bolton.gov.uk

- A stakeholder workshop will be held in December 2019
- Public consultations on proposals in January 2020

Several questions followed the presentations and were addressed at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

6. BUDGET UPDATE

Area Co-ordinator, Idris Jeewa gave an overview on budgets remaining and the schemes supported through these. He also gave an update on the one-off Public Realm & Highways funds allocated to each ward and how this was spent:

| <u>Horwich and Blackrod</u> | <u>Current Balance</u> |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 2015-17 Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB) | £0.00 |
| 2017-18 Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB) | £0.00 |
| 2018-19 Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB) | £0.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2018-19 Deprivation Budget (DB) | £0.00 |
| Public Realm & Highways funds (PR&H) | £7,954.10 |
| Community Safety Initiative (CSI) | £3,500.00 |

Horwich North East

| | <u>Current Balance</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2015-17 Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB) | £0.00 |
| 2017-18 Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB) | £307.00 |
| 2017-18 Highways Budget (HB) The Balance of this budget £2,932 was added to the Public Realm & Highways pot see allocation below | £0.00 |
| 2018-19 Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB) | £3,750.00 |
| 2018-19 Deprivation Budget (DB) | £1,490.00 |
| Public Realm & Highways funds (PR&H) | £2,166.87 |
| Community Safety Initiative (CSI) | £3,500.00 |

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following schemes had been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2015-17 budget:

Horwich and Blackrod 2015-17

| <u>Grant Pot</u> | <u>Scheme</u> | <u>Award</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| AFB | Blackrod Centenary Community Gardens Group | £100.00 |
| AFB | Blackrod Methodist Church Luncheon Club | £200.00 |
| AFB | Allocated to the Vicarage Road Remedial Works Scheme | £478.00 |

Horwich North East 2015-17

| <u>Grant</u> | <u>Scheme</u> | <u>Award</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---------|
| <u>Pot</u> | | |
| AFB | For a 'No Through Road' sign on Cooper Street | £200.00 |
| AFB | For the signs on Factory Hill | £400.00 |
| AFB | For some new directional signs for Brazley Community Centre and St Elizabeth's Church | £287.00 |

- iii. That it be noted that the following schemes had been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2017-18 budget:

Horwich and Blackrod 2017-18

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| <u>Grant</u> | <u>Scheme</u> | <u>Award</u> |
| <u>Pot</u> | | |
| AFB | Allocated to the Vicarage Road Remedial Works Scheme | £748.00 |

Horwich North East 2017-18

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| <u>Grant</u> | <u>Scheme</u> | <u>Award</u> |
| <u>Pot</u> | | |
| AFB | For some new directional signs for Brazley Community Centre and St Elizabeth's Church | £565.00 |
| AFB | For pipe installation at Nellies Clough | £913.00 |
| AFB | For two benches at Georges Lane/Chorley Old Road | £1,275.00 |

- iv. That it be noted that the following schemes had been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2018-19 budget:

Horwich and Blackrod 2018-19

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| <u>Grant</u> | <u>Scheme</u> | <u>Award</u> |
| <u>Pot</u> | | |
| AFB | Allocated to the Vicarage Road Remedial Works Scheme | £3,750.00 |
| DB | Allocated to the Vicarage Road Remedial Works Scheme | £993.00 |

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| PR&H | Carriageway resurfacing, Mottram Street | £24,612.00 |
| PR&H | Carriageway resurfacing, Greenbarn Way | £18,464.08 |
| PR&H | Carriageway resurfacing and remedial works on Vicarage Road | £21,849.83 |

Horwich North East 2018-19

| <u>Grant</u> | <u>Scheme</u> | <u>Award</u> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| <u>Pot</u> | | |
| PR&H | Carriageway resurfacing, Rockhaven Avenue | £23,000.00 |
| PR&H | Footway resurface, Chiltern Close | £24,906.38 |
| PR&H | Footway resurface, Catherine Street West | £27,205.43 |

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Silvester introduced this item on the agenda and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Wards.

- Q1 Regarding the budget for road safety transfers of £993, mentioned in the last minutes for Horwich & Blackrod ward, what is a road safety transfer?
- A The Area Co-ordinator explained that these were picture stencils of either an elephant or rocket with a road safety message that could be transferred onto the pavement to help children cross the road more safely. The previous Horwich & Blackrod Ward Councillors chose four locations to have these on.
- Q2 The Area Forum meetings used to be held quarterly, then twice a year, now it is just once a year. Who makes the decision on the frequency of these Area Forum meetings?
- A The Area Co-ordinator explained that over the years there have been a number of reviews about the service and as resources within the service have been reduced, this has impacted on the frequency of the meetings. If residents would like additional meetings, they should contact their local ward Councillors.
- Q3 A question was raised at the last meeting regarding a sign that had been knocked down in a car accident on Manchester Rd.,

Blackrod. It was a directional sign pointing to Blackrod Church School, could it be replaced again please?

A This would be referred back to Highways with a request to replace the sign.

Q4 A resident referred to a question asked at the previous area forum about whether newly installed dropped kerbs met current British Standards? He believed the dropped kerb on Greenstone Avenue did not meet the standard.

A The Area Co-ordinator would ask Highways specifically about this location and generally whether dropped kerbs met British Standards.

Q5 Some re-surfacing work on the pavements of Catherine Street and Brady Street had been undertaken recently but when will the remainder of the pavements be done in this area, especially Catherine Street East and Mary Streets East and West ?

A The Chair replied that Members were aware that these pavements needed to be completed and as soon as funds become available, they will consider them.

Q6 What can be done to enforce the 20mph zones? Cars are still speeding particularly around back roads off Lee Lane.

A This will be taken back to the Highways department and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) as to what action they can take to enforce.

Q7 There are drug issues visible in Horwich and nothing appears to be happening. What are the Police doing about this?

A The ward Councillors will press Bolton Council to ask GMP what work is being done to address this situation.

Q8 There is a big problem on Green Lane with speeding cars. The average speed is 27/28 miles per hour, although it's a 20mph zone. Could traffic calming be introduced by taking the road back down to cobbles?

A This would be enquired with Highways.

Q9 What is the criteria for installing zebra crossings?

A This would be referred to Highways.

- Q10 A question was asked as to whether the budgets controlled by the area forum could be reported to the Town Council meetings on a quarterly basis?
- A The Area Co-ordinator explained that as these budgets were given to the area forums by Bolton Council and therefore decisions on their spend was made by the ward Councillors only. If the ward Councillors wanted to share this information at Town Council meetings that would be their choice.
- Q11 A resident asked if the two zebra crossings, one near the Leisure Centre and the other on Lee Lane could be re-painted as they were fading away?
- A This would be taken back to Highways with a request to re-paint them.
- Q12 Would it possible to have dedicated Bolton Council staff for each area, for example Horwich, Blackrod, Farnworth, etc?
- A With the amount of cutbacks in recent years within Bolton Council, this would be highly unlikely as unfortunately there just isn't enough staff resources.
- Q13 In the feedback sheet it is stated that the cost of building the new Leisure Centre was £9.8m. Was this wholly paid for by Bolton Council or were outside funds used?
- A We will get a response from the Council on this.
- Q14 Is there an update on the proposed new Health Centre?
- A Councillor Bains replied that although she had been in contact with the NHS Foundation Trust, it will most likely be November when they will be able to provide an update as to progress.
- Q15 If the new Health Centre does not get built, what can the land be used for?
- A We will need to ask Bolton Council about this.
- Q16 The public telephone boxes in Horwich are in need of a good clean, who is responsible for this?
- A Responsibility lies with British Telecom.
- Q17 There are some pedestrian refuges on Chorley Old Road along from the Bob Smithy pub all of which have no lights working in them and one with no top, when will they be replaced?

A This will be reported back to Highways.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and those which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Silvester thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next forum was still to be confirmed, however, it would not be until the May 2020 to April 2021 municipal year. Residents would be informed through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 7.06pm and finished at 9.09pm)