

RUMWORTH AREA FORUM

MEETING, 18th November 2009

Present – 15 members of the public attended the meeting.

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| Councillor Ibrahim (Chair) | - Rumworth Ward |
| Councillor Adia | - Rumworth Ward |
| Councillor Kay | - Rumworth Ward |

Also in attendance

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| John Shannon | - Area Co-Coordinator |
| Jeanette Pemberton-Billing | - Area Working Support Officer |
| Shabir Fazal | - Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion |
| Kevan Roberts | - Environmental Services |
| Pauline Dixon | - Rumworth Neighbourhood Manager |
| Lisa Cubbage | - Environmental Services |
| Salma Mogradia | - Community Development Leadership Officer |
| Rafael Martinez | - Safer Communities Officer, Adult & Community Services |
| Caroline Horner | - Bolton At Home |
| Rabia Chohan | - Community Worker, Children's Services |
| Sergeant Rob Knight | - Greater Manchester Police |
| Inspector Phil Spurgeon | - Greater Manchester Police |

Apologies for absence were submitted by Shauna Morton from Bolton at Home.

Councillor Ibrahim in the Chair.

15. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Ibrahim opened the meeting and introduced the other Councillors and Officers in attendance.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

17. PRESENTATION OF CIGARETTE ANTI LITTER CAMPAIGN

Lisa Cubbage from the Environmental Services Department, gave a brief presentation on the Council's new anti-cigarette campaign which was being introduced across the Borough to reduce cigarette litter, and handed out free disposable cigarette pouches which could be used to extinguish cigarettes without the need for littering in the streets.

Resolved – that the presentation be noted.

18. UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Inspector Phil Spurgeon and Sergeant Rob Knight both from Greater Manchester Police gave an overview of the major issues that had been affecting the Rumworth community in the past 12 months.

They pointed out that there had been a marked downward trend in burglaries, car crime, drug related incidents and anti social behaviour, with 250 fewer people having been victims of crime, compared to last year, but stressed that they were still making these their priority to address within the community.

They re-iterated the policing pledge of ensuring that there were 80% more police on the beat, and that they would respond to all reports of crime within an hour. As a result of working closely with Bolton at Home, they had also managed to

execute more arrest warrants, leading to successful evictions for drug related incidents and anti-social behaviour, along with confiscation of assets.

Inspector Spurgeon and Sergeant Knight both confirmed their commitment to reducing crime in the area, preventing and tackling anti social behaviour, tackling drugs and acquisitive crime and to reassuring the public.

They gave out the contact telephone numbers of the Central Area Neighbourhood Policing Team – 0161 856 5619 or Bolton.neighbourhoodteam@gmp.police.uk, as well as the GMP telephone number for non-emergencies – 0161 872 5050.

There was then a presentation from Rafael Martinez, Safer Communities Officer, Adult & Community Services, who detailed 5 Community Safety Projects funded through a £40,000 budget which had been dedicated to the area. The projects had been selected by local people during a participatory budgeting process.

Project 1 – Environmental Clean ups/ Beat sweeps. (£12,000)

This was begun in August 2009 and would continue across the Rumworth area until February 2010 at a cost of £12,000.

Project 2 – Mobile CCTV. (£15,000)

A camera had been purchased and training set up for the Policing Team and it was expected that the completion date would be early December 2009.

Project 3 – LEAP Conflict Resolution Training for Young People (£10,000)

Council Youth Inclusion Team was training 24 volunteers on the LEAP principles; they would then spread this to other volunteers in the area, further developing Peer

Mentors.

Project 4 – Drug Awareness Session for Parents (£3,000)

The scheme was for Year 6 children who were eligible, and one set of sessions had taken place in October run by Project '360', and there were several more sessions due to take place in December at various schools in the area. The telephone number for anyone wanting further details was 01204 337330.

Project 5 – Youth Project – Ladybridge Community Centre (£6,000)

It was explained that this was a pilot scheme which would run until March 2010 for 18 weeks. It was explained that the diversionary activities were aimed at young people and would include boxing and street dancing and be held at Ladybridge Leisure Centre, with joint funding from Neighbourhood Management.

It was also suggested by a member of the public that the GMP, Rumworth Neighbourhood Team, Area Co-ordinator and officers be commended on their work which had been done in the community, and recorded by the Bolton News.

Resolved – that both reports be noted and a vote of thanks from the Area Forum be extended to the Greater Manchester Police and Neighbourhood Team.

19. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

Councillor Adia declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Area Working Manager gave a short update on the budgets and grants devolved to the Rumworth Area Forum. The current proposals and budget balances were as follows:

1.0 Area Based Grant 2009/10

1.1 It was proposed that the following projects be supported through this budget.

- Pikes Lane Community Group - £5,000
- Goshia Community Voice - £5,000
- The Wellfield project - £5,000
- Quebec Hall - £5,000
- Support for provision of play and recreational facilities in Rumworth ward - £20,000

The balance remaining unallocated would be £13,460.

2.0 Area Forum Budget 2009/10

2.1 It was proposed that the following projects be supported through this budget

- Contribution to cost of carriageway overlay on Mercia Street - £2,750
- Full cost of carriageway overlay on Adelaide Street - £3,375
- Full cost of Carriageway overlay on Brandwood Street - £6,595
- Cost of drainage works on King George V playing fields - £10,000

The balance remaining unallocated would be £5,497.

3.0 Voluntary Sector Grants 2009/10

3.1 The following awards had been approved by Members so far this year;

- Solidarity Group (formerly new Bolton Somali Association) - £500

Q6

- Deane Football Club - £500
- Nixon Triangle Group - £500
- Fighting Fit Club - £333 (joint award shared with Hulton Area Forum)
- High Street and Derby Youth Group - £500
- Goshia Community Youth Voice - £500

The balance remaining was £336.70

4.0 Highways Maintenance Partnership Budget 2009/10

4.1 It was proposed that the following projects were supported through this budget;

- Contribution of cost of carriageway overlay at Mercia Street - £2,245
- Contribution to cost of reopening Cannon Street North and associated works - £8,000

This budget would be fully allocated.

5.0 Positive Contributions Budget

5.1 It was proposed that the following groups were supported through this budget;

- Pikes Lane Community Group - £2,500
- Goshia Community Voice Youth Group - £2,500

The balance remaining in this budget would be £5,000.

The funding outlined above will be used to tackle local priorities. In order to ensure that the remaining balances are used within the current financial year some proposals may be approved under the Councils scheme of delegation and decisions reported to the next Area Forum meeting. Local people were encouraged to make voluntary sector grant applications and suggestions for use of these budgets. Resolved – that those applications submitted to the meeting for approval in the sums now detailed be approved.

20. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

The Chair invited attendees to ask questions and express any concerns they may have regarding the Rumworth area.

Several questions were asked about issues relating to speeding traffic at;

(i) Pikes Lane/Salisbury Street

Two incidents involving children being knocked down by cars had been reported and it was suggested that a volunteer school crossing patrol person might be the answer. It was also suggested that the Schools in the area were spoken to in order to promote a road safety campaign to educate the children.

(ii) Back Deane Road

It was asked if it might be possible for speed humps and extra lighting to be installed to improve road safety.

(iii) Willows lane

Would it be possible to have a school crossing patrol, or pedestrian crossing on Willows Lane to help children crossing to and from Brandwood School and in the early evening?

Resolved – That the questions that have not been answered at the meeting be directed to the appropriate Council Department.

22. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Ibrahim closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. Following the meeting it was confirmed that the next Rumworth Area Forum would take place on Thursday 11th March 2010 at Emmanuel Church Centre, Vicarage Street, Bolton, BL3 5LE, at 5.30pm for the Drop in with the main meeting at 6pm.

(The meeting started at 6.15 pm and finished at 7.25 pm)