

WESTHOUGHTON WITH CHEW MOOR AREA FORUM

MEETING, THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2015

Present – 15 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor David Chadwick	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Martyn Cox	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor Anne Graham	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor Kevan Jones	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Zoe Kirk-Robinson	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor Anna-Marie Watters	- Westhoughton South

Also in attendance

John Shannon	- Area Co-ordinator
Jane Bickerstaffe	- Business Support Officer
Malcolm Fairhurst	- Environmental Services
Anne Burns	- Bolton at Home

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Chris Green MP.

Councillor Jones in the Chair.

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME.

Councillor Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced fellow Councillors and Council Officers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th March, 2015 were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON WESTHOUGHTON YOUTH PROJECT

Councillor Jones introduced Karen Openshaw from Bolton Lads and Girls Club, who gave an update on the Westhoughton Youth Project. The main points were as follows:

- Bolton Lads and Girls Club was established 126 years ago
- A decision was made to provide projects and activities on a Hub and Spoke model with the hub being the building on Spa Road, Bolton with satellite clubs across the borough
- The first satellite would be in Westhoughton using a Council property that was previously part of the Business College on Central Drive
- £50,000 had been made available for the project through the Council's Community Empowerment Fund with a further £40,000 raised with assistance from residents, local community and businesses
- The club will provide many activities/workshops for the young people who attend
- Project Manager now on site, but support still needed from volunteers and sponsorship from community champions/businesses. A business Breakfast had been organised to pursue this

A number of questions were asked and answered on the night.

Councillor Jones then invited Anne Burns from Bolton at Home to give a brief update on the John Holt Centre.

- John Holt Centre building was owned by the Council with activities provided by Youth Services
- Four years ago, due to cuts, the building was under threat but volunteers took over the lease and now run the centre full time
- Provide clubs, for older people as well as children/youths
- The centre continues to run very successfully on a limited budget

Resolved – That the presentations be noted.

5. UPDATE ON BUDGETS AND PROJECTS

Councillor Jones introduced John Shannon, Area Co-ordinator, who gave an update on budgets and projects devolved to the Area Forum.

Area Forum Budget Update 2013/14 and 2014/15

Westhoughton North & Chew Moor:

Highways Maintenance Budget;

Allocation - £19,200 Balance - £6,351

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget;

Allocation - £13,750 Balance - £4,988

Approvals since last meeting;

- £730 awarded to Westhoughton Active Volunteer Enterprise (WAVE) for first aid training
- £190 awarded to John Holt Centre Mums and Tots Group for a reading corner
- £467 for signage on Wearish Lane to deter use by HGVs

Westhoughton South:

Highways Maintenance Budget;

Allocation - £19,200 Balance – £19,200

Area Forum Flat Rate budget;

Allocation - £13,750 Balance – £3,597

Approvals since last meeting;

- £920 awarded to John Holt Centre based Mums and Tots Group for first aid training and reading corner
- £467 for signage on Wearish Lane to deter use by HGVs
- £270 for additional railings at Allenby Close

Area Forum Budget Update 2015/16 and 2016/17

Westhoughton North and Chew Moor

Area Forum Flat Rate - £9,375

Highways Maintenance Budget - £19,200

Targeted Budget (narrowing the gap) - £2,900

Westhoughton South

Area Forum Flat Rate - £9,375

Highways Maintenance Budget - £19,200

Targeted Budget (narrowing the gap) - £10,602

Resolved – That the update, together with the projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, be noted.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Councillor Jones 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 Westhoughton with Chew Moor area. One written question was received prior to the meeting and was read out first;

Q1 What is the progress on the introduction of double yellow lines at the junction of Holden Lea and Church Street?

A These proposed yellow lines are part of a traffic regulation order which is currently going through the advertising and legal processes, it was hoped the order will be introduced soon.

Q2 Could something be done about cars using Bolton Road as a race track, from the junction with Chew Moor Lane to Calver Hey Close? Could speed bumps be put in place? The resident added that the problem had been reported to the police traffic branch.

A Given the amount of funding required for speed bumps it was unlikely that these could be installed; the request would however be referred to Highways Services. Residents were also encouraged to report all incidents of speeding to the police to help highlight the level of the problem.

Q3 Following the incident in July when two young children were hit and injured by a car on Wigan Road at Hunger Hill, could measures such as another pedestrian crossing or reduced speed limit be introduced?

A residents meeting had taken place and it was intended to hand a petition to the council.

A Previous investigations by Highways Services, around 2010, had raised concerns about reducing the speed limit on a highway adjacent to the M61 and about finding a suitable location for any crossing. Members asked for further investigations to take place.

Q4 What was the function of the illuminated sign on Manchester Road at Wingates, outside St Johns Church?
As it was obscured by a box in front of it.

A The sign had been installed by the Highways Agency to give warning of any traffic disruption on the motorway network. Highways Services would be asked to investigate the position of the adjacent box.

Q5 Following two recent police raids for drugs offences at privately rented accommodation in Wingates, could the growing number of high fences being erected on this open plan estate be removed?

Is it correct that tenancy and Right to Buy agreements prohibit the erection of such fences?

A These questions would be passed to Bolton at Home for response.

Q6 Could something be done about traffic congestion on Platt Lane leading onto Park Road and Chequerbent roundabout?

Would it be possible to narrow the footpath on Park Road to create a left turn lane?

A Any alterations to these highways would require significant funding and may not alleviate the congestion, but this is under review at the moment.

Q7 Is there any update on the proposals for Winifred Kettle House following the presentation at the previous meeting?

A The following update, from Adult's Social Care, Integration and Provider Services, was read by the Chair;
"As part of NHS Bolton and Bolton Council's development of Integrated Health and Care Services it remains our intention to relocate health services provided in Westhoughton Clinic to Winifred Kettle, along with returning some others to Westhoughton such as physiotherapy and district nursing treatment rooms. Alongside these services Winifred Kettle will be refurbished to accommodate an Integrated Neighbourhood Care Team and space for local voluntary sector groups. The existing older adults day services will remain and the environment will be refreshed.

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust has been working with Bolton Council and NHS Bolton to design and specify the

space that will be used by NHS services and we are currently finalising the specification for the rest of the building. When this is done we will be in a position to procure a builder and work should start very quickly after this.

We hope to have part of if not all the works carried out by early April 2016”.

Q8 Are houses going to be built on the former Council Depot on Howarth Street?

A The site had outline planning permission for housing, but no proposals have been submitted to date.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and those that were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting and advised that the next Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum would be held at John Holt Centre on Thursday 3rd March, 2016, Drop-in at 6.30pm prior to the main meeting at 7.00pm.

(Meeting commenced at 7.00pm and ended at 8.00pm)