

## **KEARSLEY AREA FORUM**

MEETING Monday 9th July 2012

Present - 47 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor C Burrows	-	Kearsley Ward
Councillor D Burrows	-	Kearsley Ward
Councillor Irving	-	Kearsley Ward

### Also in attendance

Angela Lunt	-	Environmental Services
Andy Bolan	-	Environmental Services
Denise Kehoe	-	Bolton at Home
Dr Jackie Bene	-	Bolton NHS Foundation Trust
PC Andy Smith	-	Greater Manchester Police
POSO Andy Mc Cormick	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Derek Swift	-	Greater Manchester Police
Idris Jeewa	-	Area Co-ordinator
Sue Vickers	-	Business Support Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Yasmin Qureshi MP, and Andrew Donaldson, Area Forum Chief Officer

Councillor Irving in the Chair

## **2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

Councillor Irving welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, Councillors Carol and Derek Burrows. He also introduced Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator and other Council and partner officers present. No declarations of interest were given.

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>TH</sup> March 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to Cllr John Rothwell' s apologies which had been omitted.

It was also noted that at the area forum meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 as part of the Re-cycling and Food Waste Scheme presentation, a question was asked relating to whether there was a legal requirement to recycle, the officer replied by stating that it was not a legal requirement.

## **4. PRESENTATION – BOLTON ONE**

Councillor Irving introduced Dr Jackie Bene, Medical Director, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, who gave a presentation on the health services being provided at the new “Bolton One” development in the town centre.

The main points were:

- Services were to be transferred between 14<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- A number of outpatient services would be provided
- Other services would also be provided such as X-Ray, Breast Screening, Pharmacy, Hydrotherapy and a GP practice
- Facilities to aid accessibility
- Statistics on performance
- Plans and priorities for 2012/13

A number of questions were asked and answered at the meeting. Dr Bene assured residents that she would respond quickly with answers to questions to which no information was immediately available.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **5. PRESENTATION – LOVE BOLTON HATE LITTER**

Councillor Irving introduced Andy Bolan, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager with Environmental Services, who gave a presentation on the work of the Council in combatting the problem of dog fouling.

The main points were:

- Antisocial aspect
- Health risks
- Bolton's zero tolerance policy
- Public perception/involvement
- Prevention/education
- Legislation
- Enforcement

A number of questions were raised and answered on the night. Those that required further investigation would be responded to.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

## **6. BUDGET UPDATE**

Councillor Irving introduced Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, who gave an update on current balances for budgets devolved to the Area Forum for the financial year 2012-13.

Since the last area forum in March, Members had approved a number of projects and schemes to which they had allocated funding:

A number of groups were given funding to hold Jubilee parties, these included:

- £500 to FLAG
- £400 to Friends of Prestolee
- £300 to residents in Ringley Meadows
- £500 to Kearsley Friendship Group for their Christmas Theatre trip
- £400 to FLAG for cost of coach hire for a trip
- £220 for the purchase of 10 Off Road Motorcycle Warning Signs
- £1,000 for the Shoenstatt Movement to help pay for the refurbishment of Kearsley Mount Cottage
- £3,500 to help FLAG repair the Church vestry to use for storage.
- £330 for Lord St Children's Centre for trips, etc. jointly approved by Members with Farnworth Area Forum
- £500 to Stoneclough Community Centre to help the club get started.

All of the above grants were approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

A balance of £8,443 remained in this budget.

Members also had access to a Highways Maintenance Budget and currently there remained £9,600.

Decisions on these remaining budgets would be reported back to future area forum meetings.

Resolved – (i) That the report and update be noted.

(ii) That the schemes awarded grants under the Council's scheme of delegation be noted.

## **7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Councillor Irving invited firstly the Area Co-ordinator to read out any written questions submitted by residents and then those present to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Kearsley Ward.

The following questions and comments were raised:

- Q1 Why has the Council decided to stop local charities from using the Canopy in Victoria Square. The Charities that use the Canopy are likely to lose a great deal of their annual income if this facility is withdrawn from them and the people of Bolton who buy from the Charities will be denied this very convenient method of helping local charities. It seems an unnecessary move on the Council's part and will be missed by a lot of people who stop to browse whilst shopping in the Town Centre.
- A Charities are not being refused bookings to use the canopy on Victoria Square. We are still supporting them and enabling them to use the canopy to raise awareness and fund raise. However having reviewed the way that the canopy is operated we feel that the sale activities that are undertaken there by many groups are better suited to the trading environment of the outdoor market. This market attracts three million customers a year and therefore we feel that the footfall will be a significant number and will be to the benefit of the charities concerned.
- Q2 A question was asked in relation to the Village Stocks at Ringley and who was responsible for the maintenance, as there had been damage to some of the fencing caused by a road accident.
- A We were not sure as to who owned the Stocks and therefore was responsible. The Area Forum has agreed to undertake a Land Registry search to ascertain ownership. The Area Forum also agreed to fund the repair of the damaged fences.
- Q3 A resident asked if yellow lines could be painted on Sandhole Road and a speed limit imposed in the area generally, especially near the roundabout?
- A All road safety is a priority, with recently erected traffic lights and a 20mph limit on the estates being sought. The issue has been discussed at a Policy Development Group. The question will be referred to the appropriate Department.
- Q4 An update on status and ownership of Kearsley Town Hall was requested? Concerns were that neighbouring properties were depreciating due to its condition.

A Members agreed to carry out a Land Registry search to find out who now owns the Town Hall. Having checked with the Planning Department there are currently no planning applications for this site.

Q5 A resident asked for copies of minutes from the past 2 years area forums be brought to the next meeting. Back dated copies don't appear to be available on the website.

A Copies of the Area forum minutes are available through the Council's website. The process is as follows :

- Click 'Your Council' on the homepage
- Then select 'Councillors, Democracy & Elections'
- On right hand side of page select 'Agenda, Minutes, etc'
- This opens the 'Committee Selection' page
- Select the period you want the minutes for (click 'submit')
- Scroll down and select the committee
- On the overview page under 'Meetings' it will give you all the dates of the meetings for that year
- Select the meeting date you need (opens in new page)
- Minutes should be located there

Q6 An update was requested on Wilson's Bridge.

A United Utilities is continuing to work towards the eventual removal and replacement of the bridge. The project team has a proposed solution and hopes it will be given the go ahead by the company shortly to start work on more detailed designs.

At the moment, if the work is approved, we anticipate that the scheme would get underway either late this year or early next year. We appreciate people in the area would like to see a new bridge in place much sooner, but engineering projects such as this do need to go through several stages to be designed and receive funding. Also, this is a site of specific scientific interest and we will need to consult with the relevant bodies, such as Natural England, before any work takes place. We will also need to carry out the necessary

environmental surveys.

We are well aware that local people want a new bridge in place and although nothing may be happening on site, we would like to reassure everyone we have a team in place behind the scenes working on a solution.

Resolved – That the questions and comments be noted and the questions which were not answered be forwarded to the appropriate Council Department or external agency.

## **8. CLOSE OF MEETING**

Prior to closing the meeting Councillor Irving made the following announcements:

- An OFSTED inspection of Kearsley Academy has given it an “outstanding” award.
- Stoneclough Community Centre has a programme of new activities and invites support.
- Kearsley Park Bowling Club invites new members – all welcome.

Councillor Irving then concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He announced that the date and venue for the next Kearsley Area Forum would be **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October at Trinity Church Hall, Market Street, Farnworth, Bolton BL4 8EX, with the drop in at 6.30pm and main meeting at 7.00pm.**

(The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 8.11pm)