

SMITHILLS AREA FORUM

MEETING – 4th February 2016

Present – 6 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Hayes	-	Smithills Ward
Councillor Martin	-	Smithills Ward
Councillor Swarbrick	-	Smithills Ward

Also in attendance

John Shannon	-	Area Coordinator
Stephen Rowson	-	Chief Executives Department
John Kelly	-	Environmental Services
Laura Swann	-	Environmental Services
Jess Britch	-	Woodlands Trust
PC John Gregory	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Bav Jhala	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Sandra Furnival	-	Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by Chris Green MP

Councillor Martin in the Chair

9. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

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

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

12. INTRODUCTION OF SLIMMER GREY BINS

Prior to the main presentation on the slimmer grey bins Councillor Martin introduced Jess Britch Smithills Estate Ranger, from the Woodland Trust, who gave a brief presentation on the Smithills Estate Project.

The main points were:

- The trust was now managing over 1,700 acres of land at Smithills
- Although they did not own Smithills Hall they were based there.
- They were looking for volunteers in a number of capacities:
 - Aid with species surveying from winter trees to fungi
 - Being a part of a “Friends of” group
 - Being part of a forum group
- The forum group would help consider options for the regeneration of the estate for wildlife including looking at access points, improved paths and tree planting to re-establish the woodland

Councillor Martin thanked her for coming to the forum to provide information on this valuable project. He then introduced Laura Swann from Environmental Services, who gave a presentation on the introduction of slimmer grey bins.

The main points were:

- Why Recycle? And what goes in which bin; a leaflet was now available on what should and should not be put in the burgundy bin
- There were no other changes, collection days and frequency would remain the same
- Larger items – collection service
- What can be recycled at the local centres
- Savings needed on cost of collection and disposal
- What other authorities in Greater Manchester are doing
- Advantage of slimmer bin over less frequent collections

- The introduction schedule and preparing for the change
- Phased container exchange
- The new waste audit policy if you are unable to manage
- More information at:
<http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Binsandrecycling.aspx>

It was also noted that the compost generated from the green bin collections was available to purchase at a reasonable cost from the two recycling centres and Heaton Fold:

- ❖ Raikes Lane (Hurstwood Court), Bolton BL3 2NP
Open 8am-6pm Monday - Sunday
- ❖ Over Hulton, Salford Road, Over Hulton BL5 1DG
Open 8am-6pm Monday – Saturday
Sunday and Bank Holidays 10am – 4pm
- ❖ Heaton Fold Garden Centre, Overdale Drive, Bolton
BL1 5BU Tel:01204 336848 www.heatonfold.co.uk

A number of questions followed both presentations and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentations be noted

13. UPDATE ON BUDGETS AND PROJECTS

Area Coordinator John Shannon gave an update on current balances for budgets devolved to the Area Forum for 2013-15 financial years as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£762.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£0.00

The following points were noted:-

- The Area Forum Budget was available to fund activities which provided a benefit to the ward
- The Highways Maintenance Budget was available to fund asset improvement work covering any of the following

activities; Reconstruction, Refurbishment, Patching and Slurry seal works.

The budget devolved to the Area Forum for the 2015-17 financial years to cover the period up to March 2017 were:

- Area Forum Flat rate budget – Allocation, £9,375, Balance, £9,375
- Highways Maintenance Budget – Allocation, £19,200, Balance, £19,200

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following scheme had been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2013-15 budget:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
<u>Pot</u>		
AFB	Contribution to cost of additional signage at The Triangle church	£200.00

14. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Martin 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 Ward.

The questions were as follows:

- Q1 A member of the Friends of Moss Bank Park informed the meeting that the group hoped to secure funding for new signage and seating for the walled Rock Garden; the group were making an application for funding of £1,500.
- A The Councillors and those present endorsed the application and expressed their support for the Friends of Moss Bank Park and the valuable contribution they have made to the regeneration of the Rock Garden.

Q2 A resident asked if the Council had any pest control officers to deal with rats and other vermin as there was a problem.

A Yes the council had a pest control team, they could be contacted by ringing the main switchboard on 01204 333333 or via the council's web site.

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

15. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Martin thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next forum was still to be confirmed, but residents would be informed through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 7.34pm)