

You've said... and we've listened

Feedback to the Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum to be held on Thursday 12 th October 2017			
No	Issue	Department	Response
1	"At what level of recycling would there be a negative impact on residents' Council tax bills?"	Place	<p>Bolton Council has to operate a balanced budget and with recent cuts imposed on local government it has been necessary to make changes to services to save significant amounts of money.</p> <p>The introduction of the slim bins has saved over £2million so far, which has contributed to these savings and prevented other services like school crossing patrols and short break care for disabled children being cut.</p> <p>If residents can improve recycling further it will help reduce the impact of cuts in the future.</p>
2	"Why did Bolton Council expand the Westhoughton Town Centre footprint in December 2014 when most secondary centres had an excess of retail space and were in decline?"	Place	<p>The Sainsbury's store was granted planning permission in 2008 and completed in 2010. The Lidl store was granted planning permission in 2009 and completed in 2011. Both stores were open before the Allocations Plan, the document which amended the boundary of Westhoughton town centre, was published for consultation in 2013 and adopted in 2014. The town centre was extended to reflect the completion of these significant anchor retail units.</p>

	Was it to facilitate easier planning for the two supermarkets, whilst two town centre sites were left derelict?"		The need for improved convenience goods provision in Westhoughton was identified through the 2008 Retail and Leisure Study report which stated that there is a localised deficiency in convenience goods provision in the Westhoughton area.
3	"Whilst a small portion of the overall Council tax bill, what was the justification for the 6.8% increase in the Westhoughton element of the bill? A rate of increase of 280% greater than the 1.8% for Bolton."	Westhoughton Town Council	<p>The increase in the 2017-18 Precept - £140,157, from £130,750, is an increase of 7.2%, which equates to an increase of £1.07 for the year for a Band D Council Tax payer.</p> <p>This is mainly due to the upgrade in CCTV cameras, the election fee for 2019 and the use of temporary office accommodation during the Town Hall renovation.</p>
4	"What was the cost of the 140 litre black bins? How much did the Council receive for the returned 240 litre bins?"	Place	<p>The purchase of the 140 litre bins cost a total of £1,077,405, the distribution of the bins and removal of the old bins cost £257,551, the Council received income of £262,808 for the recycling of the old bins</p> <p>The Council spent a total of £446,060 on other actions associated with the roll out. This included; additional staff to advise and support residents and implement the changes, delivery of additional recycling bins, communicating with residents about the changes, engaging with schools and community groups, door knocking all households in the borough and achieving a 40% contact rate.</p>

			<p>By end February 2017 the council had avoided over £2million in waste disposal cost by introducing slim bins.</p> <p>By using one off money to pay for the changes we have allowed ongoing savings of over £2million to be made.</p>
5	<p>“Regarding vacant land at the top of Mill Street and possible use as a car park; would it be possible to arrange to speak with the owner and pursue this? Could this be considered?”</p>	Place	<p>Given current resources there are no plans to approach the owner with the aim of leasing this land as a car park.</p>
6	<p>“Following work carried out by United Utilities at Bamber Croft, Wingates, a bollard which had been in place for many years was removed and reinstated in a different place. This had led to people parking on a verge on a bend which prevents residents from accessing off road parking at their dwellings. Could the bollard please be reinstated in the correct position?”</p>	<p>Bolton at Home</p> <p>United Utilities</p>	<p>This question was passed to Bolton at Home and United Utilities.</p>

7	Some sycamore trees at Wingates Grove and Bamber Croft had self-seeded and grown to maturity in locations dangerously close to dwellings. To date no action had been taken to remove these trees. Could the Council investigate and have the trees removed?"	Bolton at Home	This question was passed to Bolton at Home.
8	"Regarding concern that a bin waggon was dropping glass as it moves along Green Common Lane, off Platt Lane, on collection day, could this be reported and resolved?"	Place	Green Common Lane was inspected on 24.03.17 and evidence of glass debris could not be found. The inspector also spoke to a member of the household of the person who asked the question".
9	"What was the planned provision of local policing teams and police stations for Westhoughton?"	GMP	The Westhoughton Neighbourhood Team will continue to work from the Middlebrook station; there were no plans to change this.
10	"It is understood that KPMG will be carrying out the audit of the payment by the Council of £300,000 to Asons; Is this an appropriate	Chief Executives	KPMG are not employed by the Council; they are appointed nationally as our independent auditors so it is entirely appropriate that they carry out this review.

	appointment for this audit given that KPMG are already employed by the Council to audit its budget? Should not another firm have been appointed for this review?"		
11	"Could a hatched yellow box junction be installed at the junction of Cricketers Way/Fairways/Wigan Road to prevent drivers blocking the junction?"	Place	This request was being pursued by Highway Services.
12	"How often was Bolton Scene delivered to residents? As there had not been a delivery at Hunger Hill for some time".	Chief Executives	<p>Bolton Scene comes out four times per year during March, July/Aug, Sept, and November. The timing of distribution is linked to key events in the Bolton calendar such as the budget settlement, and the Food & Drink Festival. The number of editions is restricted to four per year by the government.</p> <p>A check will be made on distribution in the post code area of the person asking the question.</p>