

## **LITTLE LEVER & DARCY LEVER AREA FORUM**

MEETING, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Present – 38 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Woodward (Chair)	- Little Lever & Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Hornby	- Little Lever & Darcy Lever Ward

### Also in attendance

Idris Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Nicole Buhagiar	- Area Working Support Officer
Graham Mitchell	- Development & Regeneration
Ros Baxter	- Environmental Services
Jo Pitchford	- Children's Services
Joe Fox	- Environmental Services
Claire Burrows	- Bolton at Home
Sergeant Andy Smith	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Connell and Area Co-ordinator, Adrian Wolstenholme.

Councillor Woodward in the Chair.

## **7. INTRODUCTION**

Councillor Woodward welcomed everyone and introduced Councillor Hornby and Area Co-ordinator Idris Jeewa.

## **8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 9. BUDGETS

Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, gave a brief presentation on the subject of budgets and grants. He explained that there were four areas to consider regarding budgets and grants in the Little Lever and Darcy Lever ward:

- Area Based Grant - £5060
- Area Forum Budget - £12, 500
- Highways Maintenance Budget - £10, 245
- Voluntary Sector Grant - £2045.84

Mr. Jeewa explained that the money was allocated towards the areas most needing improvement in Little Lever and Darcy Lever. These decisions were made by the ward Councillors after careful consideration. The Stopes Road Traffic Calming Scheme totalled £10,000 - £5000 was to be funded by the Area Forum Budget and £5000 was to be used from the mainstream Highways Budget. The ward Councillors were still looking into schemes regarding the allocation of the Area Based Grant.

The Little Lever and Darcy Lever ward Councillors had approved two Voluntary Sector Grant applications under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. Mr. Jeewa explained that all local community groups were entitled to apply for the grant and the Councillors would encourage them to do so.

Voluntary Sector Grants for Little Lever and Darcy Lever  
Budget available - £2,045.84

Less grants awarded under delegated arrangements detailed in the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Kirkwall Residents Association - £200  
Little Lever Tigers Under 21s Football Team - £300

Balance to spend - £1545.84

Mr. Jeewa also explained that there were two applications pending, these being from Gravel Pits Action Group and Darcy Lever Football Club. He stated that a decision would be made regarding these two applications in due course.

Resolved – That the report be noted

#### **10. SUMMARY OF BIG ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS – AREA CO-ORDINATOR**

Mr. Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator provided feedback from the Round One Area Forum, explaining how a total of twenty comments were received regarding residents' issues in the Little Lever and Darcy Lever ward. These comments were then analysed and used to form the Big Issues Plan for the ward. The Area Co-ordinator stated that these comments mainly focused on community safety and crime in the area but comments were also received regarding cleaner & greener issues and issues surrounding skills and confidence. The four Big Issues for Little Lever and Darcy Lever were:

- Speeding Traffic on Stopes Road, Little Lever
- Health Centre Provision in Little Lever and Community Centre Initiative
- Provision of Youth Facilities and Activities across the Ward
- Development and Review of Parks and Playing Fields

The Area Co-ordinator explained that all of the above issues were being analysed and worked on by the Council and it's partners in order to improve the lifestyle of Little Lever and Darcy Lever residents.

Resolved – That the report be noted

#### **11. FOCUS ON ROAD SAFETY ISSUES AT STOPES ROAD**

Mr. Fox, Engineer, Environmental Services, gave a presentation on the road safety issues at Stopes Road as this was an area of great concern for the residents at the previous

Forum meeting. Concerns had been raised by residents and Ward Members about the speed of vehicles on Stopes Road, Little Lever. Officers, residents and Members held meetings to discuss the way in which these concerns could be addressed. It was agreed with officers and Members that the High Street traffic management scheme would be extended to incorporate a speed management scheme for Stopes Road. This would include central hatching and filter lanes and a vehicle activated sign on the route in from Bury. A consultation had been organised which would include a plan and questionnaire to give the residents of Stopes Road the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This would be sent out mid September with a return date of early October.

It was also mentioned that the vehicle activation sign to be fitted at Stopes Road had a radar within it allowing it to read the vehicle speed.

Community Speeding Schemes were also mentioned. It was explained that this involved residents being given cameras and the information gathered was then forwarded to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. However this approach was a doubt as residents adopting the scheme in other areas had received a certain amount of abuse.

Following the presentation various questions were put to Mr. Fox and answered. Residents were informed that they would receive further updates in the future as and when they occurred.

Resolved – That the report be noted

## **12. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**

Mr. Jeewa continued the meeting by introducing the Questions and Answers Session. Numerous questions and comments were volunteered by the residents. These included:

- Community Safety issues and how anti-social behaviour was going to be tackled. Could the residents keep diaries or could more cameras be installed?

## Q5

- The removal of the fence at Lord Street ginnel and whether this could be done lawfully
- Pyrant Homes were paying a security guard to discourage anti-social behaviour indicating that there was a problem in the area, so why couldn't they construct a fence or introduce a more effective and permanent approach?
- At Lord Street residents had issues regarding traffic mounting the pavements and nearly knocking down walls.
- One resident commented that he wished to raise a complaint regarding the mobile phone mast and asked whether it could be removed.
- It was also commented that Little Lever shopping centre was an area prone to littering and suggestions such as more bins or a P.C.S.O. patrolling the area were suggested.
- One resident indicated that there were problems with the cricket club. Other residents agreed.
- A question was also asked regarding any plans to replace the fence that was coming down on Masefield Road.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions that have not been answered at the meeting be directed to the appropriate Council Department or external agency.

### **13. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Councillor Woodward thanked everyone for attending and informed all attendees that the next Little Lever & Darcy Lever Area Forum would take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School at 6.00pm.

(The meeting started at 6.30p.m. and finished at 8.40p.m.)