

ASTLEY BRIDGE AREA FORUM

MEETING – Wednesday 30th May 2012

Present, 30 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Hilary Fairclough	- Astley Bridge Ward
Councillor John Walsh	- Astley Bridge Ward
Councillor Paul Wild	- Astley Bridge Ward

Also in attendance

Andrew Kilpatrick	- Area Forum Chief Officer
John Shannon	- Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department
Stephen Rowson	- Business Support Officer, Chief Executive's Department
Ian Taylor	- Head of Parking Services, Environmental Services Department
Ann Schenk	- Director of Strategy and Improvement, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust
Paul Cohen	- Community Housing Manager, Bolton at Home

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of David Crausby MP.

Councillor John Walsh in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Walsh welcomed everyone and introduced the Officers in attendance. No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND FEEDBACK

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. HEALTH SERVICES AT “BOLTON ONE”

Ann Schenk Director of Strategy and Improvement, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust 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 14th May and 11th 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 followed the presentation and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

4. UPDATE ON DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Councillor Walsh provided an update on how plans for the jubilee celebrations in Astley Bridge were going.

The main points were:

- Local schools and youth clubs were producing artwork to go on display from Friday 1st June 2012, this would comprise of 8, 8x4 foot boards and would be displayed on the Railings of the bowling club on Crompton Way.

Q3

- Celebration parties were being held at various dates and times over the Jubilee week by Thorns Road community group, Drummond Street community centre, St Paul's church, Astley Bridge community group, Team Eagley Bank and Aspire community action group.
- Lighting of a beacon at Horrocks Fold car park was planned for the evening of Monday 4th June 2012

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. BUDGETS

Area Co-ordinator John Shannon gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum for 2011-13 financial years as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£25,666
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£19,200
Voluntary Sector Grant [carried forward] (VSG)	£370
Targeted Forum Budget (TFB)	£6,096

A number of suggestions for minor highway repairs were highlighted by residents and these would be considered.

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 any of the following activities; road and footway repairs, reconstruction of roads and footways, enhancement, repair and provision of street lighting, repairs to adopted back streets, repairs to highway drains, provision of new highway drains, maintenance of road markings, traffic calming, repairs to street furniture - benches, street name plates, highway fences, guard rails and bollards, weed control, overgrown hedgerows, removal of graffiti and works to aid the disabled.

Q4

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following schemes has been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2011-13 budget:

<u>Grant pot</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
AFB	Support to the Beacon lighting event	£150
TFB	Oldhams gardening project	£360

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Walsh 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 Astley Bridge Ward.

- Q1 A resident at the meeting asked what was happening with the unused chapel in the cemetery which had been fenced off recently and expressed concern that despite being a listed building it may be demolished.
- A The chapel was deemed unsafe hence the fencing. A report was to be submitted to the Executive Cabinet Member and once more information was available it would be reported back to the forum.
- Q2 Concerns were raised regarding the future of the Library building, the map from its wall and the two stained glass windows.
- A Two options were being considered regarding the building but no decision had been made to date. It was believed the map had already been removed for safe keeping. The future use of the windows would depend on the eventual use of the building.
- Q3 Concern was raised about the state of the roads and the long term cost if remedial work was not done.

Q5

A A number of roads in Astley Bridge had been marked for work as part of the main highways program; the forum could now look at other roads but due to the high cost of repairs only more moderate and minor works could be done.

Q4 What was happening with the Barlow Park Centre and play area?

A The Centre was due to be demolished and hard standing to remain. The play area was due to be moved to Forfar Street near the Children's Centre.

Q5 What was planned for the former Oldhams Lane School?

A An update would be sought from Children's Services on the future of the former school.

Q6 Had Highways provided a response to a previous enquiry regarding two adjacent signposts on the footpath on Moss Bank Way?

A Highways looked at the installation and stated that it was within guidelines and could not be spaced further apart due to underground services running adjacent to the wall. Two poles were needed due to the size and weight of the sign.

Q7 Could something be done about the Litter trap between railings and the park wall on Moss Bank Way?

A This was cleared around 12 months ago, it would be passed to Environmental Services for their attention.

Q8 Could action be taken to reduce traffic speed on Belmont Road?

A There were already two driver feedback signs on Belmont Road to help deter speeding traffic. Greater Manchester Police would be asked to target this stretch of road for further speed checks.

Q9 Was anything being done about the recently erected advertising signs on the cricket ground fencing?

A This issue was already being investigated by the Planning Enforcement team.

It was noted that a community “Beatsweep” was taking place on the Oldhams estate, four sites had skips for clean ups/litter picks, spot checks had been carried out on vehicles including scrap metal waste carrying vehicles, home risk assessments had been carried out by the Fire and Rescue Service and help was offered to the elderly to tidy up gardens.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and that any not answered on the night be brought back to the next meeting.

7. CHAIR’S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Walsh concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the date of the next Area Forum meeting would be Wednesday 19th September 2012. The meeting would be held at Astley Bridge Baptist Church, Eden Street, Astley Bridge, Bolton BL1 6QA

(The meeting started at 7.04pm and finished at 8.25pm)