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## **SOUTH TURTON AREA FORUM**

**28TH MARCH 2007**

Present – 37 Members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor P. Brierley

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Bradshaw Ward

Councillor Mrs Brierley

-

Bradshaw Ward

Councillor Greenhalgh

-

Bromley Cross Ward

Councillor Critchley

-

Bromley Cross Ward

Councillor A. Wilkinson

-

Bromley Cross Ward

### Also in Attendance

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Mr. A. Donaldson

-

Chief Executive's Department

Wayne Waring

-  
Environmental Services

Mark Edwards  
-  
Environmental Services

Kevin Wright  
-  
Environmental Services

John Evans  
-  
Environmental Services

Isabel Southern  
-  
Adult Services

Anne Gorton  
-  
Children's Services

Oliver West  
-  
Development and Regeneration

Andrew Chalmers  
-  
Development and Regeneration

Helen Longworth  
-  
Chief Executive's Department

Idris Jeewa

-

Area Co-ordinator

Shaheen Sameja

-

Area Co-ordinator

PC Tann

-

GMP

PCSO Squires

-

GMP

Kate Treadwell

-

Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Mayor and David Crausby MP.

Councillor P. Brierley in the Chair

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

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 8th February, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **34. PRESENTATION: BOLTON'S CORE STRATEGY**

Mr. A. Chalmers from the Planning Division gave a presentation which outlined the process for shaping the future of Bolton through a sustainable Community Strategy.

This Strategy would guide renewal, lead improvement of Services and tackle deprivation.

Coupled with this, were a number of key aims and objectives, as follows:-

- a strong and confident Bolton;
- a prosperous Bolton;
- an achieving Bolton;
- a healthy Bolton;
- a safe Bolton; and
- an attractive Bolton.

The Forum was advised that the Strategy would take two years to prepare and set out how each locality in Bolton would change over the next 10-15 years. The Strategy would be adopted in December, 2009.

Mr. Chalmers went on to indicate that the Council were seeking ideas and comments from individuals on what the plan should contain.

In terms of possible issues for the South Turton area, it was indicated that these were:-

- maintaining a good quality visual environment;
- ensuring residential areas had good access to services ;
- providing a choice of ways of travelling;
- provision of jobs and community facilities; and
- maintaining the green belt.

In conclusion, it was indicated that a consultation leaflet was available and responses should be submitted to the

Council by 13th April, 2007.

Various questions and comments were raised on the following:

- traffic congestion on roads such as Blackburn Road, Darwen Road and Turton Road;
- potential traffic from extra housing proposals in the area, particularly within the Bromley Cross area;
- local facilities coming under increased pressure due to increased housing;
- the need for policies such as this to be in plain English in order that local residents could understand the policy; and
- the pressure from the national government upon planners to build extra housing.

**Resolved - That the presentation be noted.**

### **35. PRESENTATION: ROAD SAFETY**

Mr. M. Edwards, Highways Management and Mr J. Evans, Highways and Engineering Division, gave a presentation which focused on road safety in the Bolton and particularly within the South Turton area.

The Forum was informed that road safety was understood to entail the following:-

- casualty reduction;
- highway planning;
- traffic management;
- highway maintenance; and
- highway improvement.

Mr Edwards stated that there was approximately 4,500 road accidents in Bolton in a year.

Road accidents were relatively low in South Turton compared to the rest of the Borough. 111 road accidents

had been reported in South Turton over the last three years. From these accidents there had been 150 casualties and three fatalities. Of these accidents most of those involved were car occupants. In addition, twenty eight of the 150 casualties were pedestrians and twenty of these pedestrians were children.

The presentation highlighted that the main areas in which accidents occurred were on Darwen Road, Bradshaw Road, New Lane and Hardy Mill Road. Mr Edwards stated that, unlike other areas of the Borough where the majority of accidents happened at junctions, many of the accidents in the Turton area happened on routes. This meant that instead of tackling these accidents through junction improvements, changing road users' behaviour needed to be looked at.

Various questions and comments were raised on the following:

- educating pedestrians regarding how to use the road;
- collisions caused by double parking;
- the importance of children learning about road awareness in schools; and
- the enforcement of wearing seatbelts.

**Resolved - That the presentation be noted.**

### **36. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND BUDGET REPORT**

Mr I. Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator updated the Forum regarding the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The Forum was informed that at the last Forum money from this fund was used towards two projects in conjunction with the Fire Service.

Mr Jeewa stated that £32,318.65 was the remaining funds left for allocation during 2007-2008.

**Resolved – That the update be noted.**

### **37. EXTENSION TO TURTON'S SCHOOL VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS**

Mr. I. Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, requested that members granted an extension to use the voluntary sector grant to create a Japanese garden at Turton School.

By way of background information, Mr Jeewa stated that under the Voluntary Grants Scheme, Turton School had been granted money to create a Japanese garden. Unfortunately this work had not been undertaken as of yet and the grant had to be spent by 31st March.

Therefore, it was requested that members gave an extension to enable the work to start.

**Resolved – That the Voluntary Sector Grant given to Turton School be extended till October, 2007.**

### **38. OPEN FORUM**

Verbal and written questions were received which detailed the following issues:-

(a)

There had been damage to the parkland next to Bromley Cross Library which seemed to have been caused by lorries. Could the land be reseeded and landscaped?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter was being looked into and the relevant officers were seeing what could be done to repair the land.

(b)

What was being done about the litter including motorcycle parts being dumped by the boundary metal fence on the far side of Bromley Cross Station. Would it be possible to regularly clean up the area?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that he had contacted the GMPTA and that this was recognised as a longstanding problem. The area was cleaned up on a regular basis. However, the Forum was advised that members of the public could contact GMPTA on 0161 228 7811. Councillors requested that the frequency of these visits for clearing the area be reported to a future meeting.

(c)

Could two footpaths in Lower Stile Lane be cleared of alcohol bottles and other litter?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter was being looked into by the Street Care Team.

(d)

Could warning signs regarding motorists' speed be erected near Eagley Court and the Sportsmans Pub in the Bromley Cross area?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this issue was currently being looked into and would be reported back to a future meeting.

(e)

How did the Council allocate home insulation grants. Was it determined by age and the state benefits an individual was receiving or by their location in the Borough?



The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into. It would then be brought back to a future meeting of this Forum.

(f)

Could it be ensured that the barriers were closed around the High Ridings area as bottles and cans were littering the area?

Councillor Critchley stated that it was up to the land owners to close these gates as this was private land.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into. It would then be brought back to a future meeting of this Forum.

(g)

Burglars had been targeting houses across the Borough posing as Waterboard Officials. They appeared to be white males with a Scottish or Irish accent between twenty and thirty years of age. Please could the Forum be advised to always check to see who was calling before answering the door and to check ID cards of people from the Waterboard before allowing them into your house.

The Area Co-ordinator thanked the member of the public for this piece of information.

(h)

Manor Court was now closed and boarded up. What was the future of the building from now on?

Councillor P. Brierley stated that, as of yet, no planning applications had come before the Planning and Highways Committee. He looked forward to seeing the proposals and would update the Forum accordingly.

(i)

Had there been money made available to Care Homes in the past to install double glazing?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into and any progress would be reported back to the next meeting.

(j)

What was happening regarding the planning application for an outside smoking area for the Flag Pub and the Licensing application for extended hours?

Councillor Critchley stated that the Planning and Highways Committee had refused the application. However, the licensing application had yet to come before the Licensing Committee.

(k)

At the back of a new development on Darwen Road there was a stone wall made of heavy slabs. This wall had moved due to high winds. What could be done to ensure it was not a danger to passing children and walkers?

The Area Co-ordinator stated he would look into this matter and report back to a future meeting.

(l)

Bradshaw Road near Turton School has been flooded on a number of occasions. Could a report be given on why there was such a problem in this area?

John Evans stated that he would look into this within his department and feedback any information to the Forum.

(m)

When would Threadfold Way near the Eagley Mills development be adopted by the Council? Double yellow lines were needed in this area as double parking was a nuisance and becoming dangerous.

John Evans stated that it took time to adopt a road as the Council had to investigate any potential maintenance problems. However, he would investigate what was happening regarding the progress with this road and report back to a future Forum.

(n)

Could lids be provided for the green recycling boxes?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that it was possible to get a lid and nets for these bins.

Councillor P. Brierley said he would enquire as to whether a collection of lids and nets could be brought to the next few Forums.

(o)

What were the purple recycling boxes used for?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this was intended for plastic goods, bottles and tins.

(p)

Were there any plans for the play area around Winter Hill Brow?

Councillor Critchley stated that Jon Gorton had indicated that some work was going on to look into this. However, the problem of vandalism would have to be addressed if any work did take place in the area.

**Resolved – That the questions be noted and that the questions which have not been answered be directed to the appropriate Council department or external agency.**

### **39. BROMLEY CROSS YOUNG PERSON'S DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

Councillor A. Wilkinson informed the Forum that a Young Persons' Development Group had been devised for the area.

Councillor A. Wilkinson stated that local organisations, charities and schools would be involved with this group and called for residents to volunteer their help. The group would be divided into two in order that one night could cater for ten to thirteen year olds and another for fourteen to nineteen year olds.

The first meetings were scheduled to take place on 19th and 20th April, 2007 at Birtenshaw Sunday School Hall, near Eagley Court.

**Resolved – That the update be noted.**

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

Councillor P. Brierley then closed the meeting and thanked Council Members, Officers and Members of the public for their attendance at this Forum meeting and other Forum meetings throughout the municipal year. He also thanked members, Officers and Members of the public for their contribution during this time.