

## LEVERHULME AREA FOUUM

MEETING, 4TH JULY, 2007

Present – 37 Members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Connell	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Hornby	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Woodward	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Sherrington	- Tonge with Haulgh Ward
Councillor White	- Tonge with Haulgh Ward

### Also in attendance:

Ms. J. Leonard	- Bolton PCT
Ms. K. Oddi	- Bolton PCT
Mr C. Cave	- Planning
Mr. J. Rowlands	- Corporate Resources
Mr. N. Maher	- Community Safety
Mr. D. Love	- Environmental Services
Mr. A. Gittins	- Environmental Services
Ms. S. Brannigan	- Children's Services
Ken Cooke	- Greater Manchester Police
Trish Paul	- Greater Manchester Police
Francis Ryder	- Greater Manchester Police
Mr. A. Ahmed	- Area Co-ordinator
Mr. A. Wolstenholme	- Area Co-ordinator

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| Ms. L. Whitworth | - Area Working Support Officer          |
| Mrs. V. Ridge    | - Principal Democratic Services Officer |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Peel and R. Wilkinson.

Councillor Connell in the Chair.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIR**

Councillor Connell welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

## **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 21st March, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **3. DISUSED FOOTBALL PITCH AT SNOWHILL, DARCY LEVER**

Mr. D. Jolley, Chairman of the Bolton Sports Federation gave a brief presentation to the Forum which explained the work undertaken by the Bolton Sports Federation and also detailed future plans to bring the disused football pitch at Snowhill, Darcy Lever back into community use.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **4. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE – NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

PCSO Cooke, attended the meeting and outlined the valuable work being undertaken within the Leverhulme area by the Police and the Police Community Support Officers.

A number of questions were raised and responded to.

Resolved – That PCSO Cooke be thanked for his work in the Forum areas.

## **5. GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND CONGESTION COMMITTEE**

The Assistant Director Highways and Engineering, Mr. P. Molyneux, gave a presentation on a proposed bid to the Government by the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, in conjunction with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, for funding to improve the transport infrastructure across Greater Manchester.

The bid, if successful, would result in a £2.9 billion investment in the Greater Manchester infrastructure which would be made up of:-

- £1.2 - £1.8 billion from the Government; and
- the remainder from the introduction of Congestion Charging.

The bid would be put together as a package which would deliver a range of environmental, social and economic outcomes and avoid transport becoming a constraint on the delivery of economic growth. Benefits of the package would be:-

- the largest ever local transport investment programme outside London of up to £2.9 billion; and
- an increase in public transport capacity in the morning peak by some 40% along the corridors affected by the charge.

The Government would decide on the Bid and, if Greater Manchester was successful, it would mean:-

- extended metrolinks;

- additional rail rolling stock and platform lengthening;
- new interchanges;
- more park and ride spaces;
- a step change in travel information; and
- a behavioural change programme.

Mr. Molyneux then went on to outline the proposed charges to be introduced which, in summary, were as follows:-

A Two charge points on corridors to regional centre:

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- outer charge point – at/close to M60; and
- inner charge point – at/close to intermediate ring road.

B Charge only during peaks and in peak periods:-

- inbound - 7.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. (A.M. Peak); and
- outbound - 4.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (P.M. Peak).
- inbound - £2 (M60) and £1 (Ring Road)
- outbound - £1 (M60) and £1 (Ring Road)
- round trip to centre and back - £5.00.

C Range of choices for traveller:-

- change time of trip;
- change mode of travel; and
- consolidate trips.

There would be no charge until the majority of the investment was in place.

Following his presentation, Mr. Molyneux invited and responded to questions from the Forum and encouraged members to give feedback on the proposals.

A number of issues were raised, as follows:-

- (a) who would fund the investment for the infrastructure whilst the charges were being collected;
- (b) how soon would the physical improvements be visible;
- (c) the scheme was not economically viable;
- (d) priority should be given to improving public transport;
- (e) changing times and travel could lead to further congestion;
- (f) would the park and ride stations involved security improvements;
- (g) why were private companies being subsidised;  
and
- (h) would there be concessions for disabled people.

Mr. Molyneux thanked people in attendance for their input and agreed to pass the feedback on to the GMPTA.

Resolved – That Mr. Molyneux be thanked for his informative presentation.

## **6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS SCHEME 2007/2008**

The Area Working Support Officer advised members that five applications had been received for Voluntary Sector Grants, as follows:-

- Moorgate Court and George Barton Street Residents' Association - £500 towards the cost of organising a trip to Thornton Cleveleys, Blackpool;
- Firwood and Moorfield Residents Association - £500 towards the cost of organising a day trip to Colwyn Bay and the Zoo;
- Kirkwall Residents Association - £410 towards the cost of organising a visit to Smithills Coaching House and meal;
- Eldon Street Residents Association - £500 towards the cost of taking the mature members on a day trip to Cleveleys; and
- Darcy Lever Football Club - £500 towards the cost of paying for pitch fees for the season and for training equipment to keep the squad active and achieve their full potential.

If the above grant applications were approved, there would be £3,725.84 remaining.

Members were also advised that the Little Lever West Residents' Association had returned £135.84 to the grants pot.

Resolved – That the applications, as now detailed, be approved.

## **7. OPEN FORUM**

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

- (a) concern was expressed regarding flyposters being put up in the area;

It was agreed that this issue would be investigated.

- (b) concern was expressed regarding the length of time it took to either acknowledge or respond to letters from members of the public.

It was stated that Corporate Performance Management had been introduced in the Council since April, 2007 and, therefore, all letters should now be acknowledged within 14 days.

- (c) when would the results of the environmental study be known.

It was stated that the results would be available for Round 3 of the Area Forum meetings which was November, 2007;

- (d) what were the plans for the replacement of the Chadwick Campus.

It was agreed that a response would be provided.

- (e) a question was raised which asked was it the case that an individual, who was facing six charges of possessing material for a purpose connected with terrorism had in fact been a failed asylum seeking living in Tonge Moor. Might this Authority's continued enthusiasm for the promotion of multiculturalism persuade more potential terrorists to come to the town in the future.

It was felt that the question had an underlying tone of racism and, therefore, was not appropriate for this type of forum meeting.

- (f) concern was expressed regarding the condition of footpaths around Broderick Drive and, despite this being raised previously, no action had been taken.

It was agreed that this would be investigated further.

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.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved – That the next meeting of the Forum be held on Thursday, 20th September, 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.40 p.m.)