

## **LITTLE LEVER AND DARCY LEVER AREA FORUM**

MEETING – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Present – 14 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Rees Gibbon	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Sean Hornby	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Paul Richardson	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward

### Also in attendance

Idris Jeewa	- Area Coordinator
Stephen Rowson	- Business Support Officer
Julie Spencer	- Department of Place
Marie Grady	- Bolton at Home
PS Alex Metcalfe	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Andy Smart	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Sean Hornby in the Chair

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillor Hornby asked that a minutes silence be observed for Eric Hyde, a Governor at Royal Bolton Hospital and a passionate campaigner on local issues in this ward who had sadly passed away.

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Hornby welcomed everyone and introduced himself, the other ward Councillors and Officers in attendance.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

#### **4. PRESENTATION – POLICING**

Councillor Hornby introduced Police Sergeant Alex Metcalfe from Greater Manchester Police, who discussed a number of policing issues and comments affecting the ward that the policing team were keeping an eye on. The issues were as follows:

- Youths on the precinct.
- The Park Road construction site.
- The shop at Mytham Road/Booth Road – this had now lost its alcohol licence and there had been no incidents reported since December 2016.
- Speeding issues across the ward – Policing issues were responsive to demand so reporting as much as possible and with specific incidents ideally with number plates was essential. He noted that there was a reporting pack on the police website, mainly for off road bikes but this could also be used for speeding cars.
- The 101 contact number for non-urgent crime reporting was still an issue with answering times.
- The number of issues involving motorbikes around the area was now coming under control and reducing, one had also been confiscated.
- The issue of a HGV parking at the junction of Tong Road and Paramel Avenue would be checked to see if it was something the police could deal with.
- Drug dealing was also becoming more prevalent in the ward but the police needed information and evidence to take action and get the Courts to grant search warrants.
- Any issues residents were not comfortable discussing with an officer for whatever reason could be reported instead to crime stoppers on 0800 555 111
- Resources across the force are constantly under pressure, in the last 3-5 years they are down 20% with workload constantly rising. Officers are doing their best within the limited resources.
- Prisoners were now being taken mainly to Swinton with the close of Bolton cells and in emergencies Wigan and Bury were also options, but this was not as big a problem as one would first think as Officers were now

thinking more proactively about resolving issues there and then rather than imprisoning the culprits first.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

## **5. UPDATE ON AREA FORUM BUDGETS**

Area Coordinator, Idris Jeewa gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum as follows;

For 2015-17 financial year's the budget balances were as follows;

Deprivation Budget (DB)	£1,015.00
Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£2,271.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£7,760.00

And the allocation for 2017-18 financial year, the balances were as follows;

Deprivation Budget (DB)	£1,739.00
Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£3,750.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£9,600.00

Following the report, Councillor Richardson briefly outlined a number of other projects the Councillors were currently involved in. These were;

- A number of sites for double yellow lines to improve safety especially near schools.
- A number of roads in need of resurfacing.
- Two new Zebra Crossings planned.
- The moving of the Library and Health Centre including the possible uses of the old Library building.
- A number of things for the remembrance Sunday events.
- Improving green spaces and addressing fly tipping.

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;

- ii. That it be noted that the following amounts had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2015-17 budget:

<b><u>Grant</u></b>	<b><u>Scheme</u></b>	<b><u>Award</u></b>
<b><u>Pot</u></b>		
DB	Lever Bridge Cub/Scout Group	£620.00
DB	Was used to carry a traffic count on Radcliffe Road.	£792.00
DB	Was given to the Over 65's party	£100.00
DB	Was used for the Darcy Lever Clean Up event	£220.00
AFB	A contribution to the Bolton Hindus Age Inspiration Christmas party	£30.00
HMB	For some resurfacing works and installation of two bollards on Paramel Avenue.	£3,840.00

## **6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**

Councillor Hornby 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 Ward.

- Q1 A number of issues were raised regarding the rail/road disruption at Moses Gate including when it will be sorted, why they were not working 24/7 to resolve it and its effects/delays on the other road works project at this junction.
- A Councillor Hornby had tabled a question on this for the full Council meeting taking place on Wednesday 11/10/2017. He also stated any additional costs to the Council from these delays should be met by Network Rail.
- Q2 Had the owners of the old railway cutting been contacted yet about their plans?
- A Discussions had taken place with the owners solicitors, who had not yet revealed the name of their client. No planning applications had yet been submitted, Members had asked Planning to inform them as and when anything

came in.

Q3 Allotment groups (including Haslam Park allotments) were currently getting no support, they had been asked to raise reports on infringement issues but these were not being actioned for months when situations could have changed.

A Councillor Hornby stated he would take this issue to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee and also raise it with the Director of Place.

Q4 Fallen leaves were a constant issue on Ainsworth Road, how often should this road be swept?

A This would be checked, just to note the trees were due to be trimmed soon.

Residents were also advised that this year's Christmas lights switch on would be by the Mayor of Bolton and would be held near the old Police Station at 6.30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2017

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

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

Councillor Hornby thanked everyone for attending and stated that as the date of the next meeting had not been set, people would be informed through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.22pm)