

HALLIWELL AREA FORUM

MEETING, 9th February 2013

Present – 9 members of the public attended the meeting

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| Councillor Cliff Morris | Halliwell Ward |
| Councillor Akhtar Zaman | Halliwell Ward |

Also in attendance

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| Shaheen Sameja | Halliwell and Crompton Neighbourhood Manager, Chief Executive's Department Bolton Council |
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| Malcolm Russell | Head of Neighbourhood Services Environmental Services, Bolton Council |
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| Donna Ball | Assistant Director, Fleet & Waste Management; Environmental Services Bolton Council |
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| Wendy Meredith | Director of Public Health Health and Adult Social Care Bolton PCT |
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| PC Hayley Fleming | Greater Manchester Police |
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| PC Anna Worthy | Greater Manchester Police |
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| Marion Griffin | Business Support Officer, Chief Executive's Department |
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Councillor Cliff Morris in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of David Crausby MP and Councillor Linda Thomas

8. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Councillor Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and Officers in attendance.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September, 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

11. MANAGED WEEKLY BIN COLLECTIONS

Donna Ball, Fleet and Waste Management services, Bolton Council gave an update as follows:-

The Council has to save over £40 million between 2013 and 2015. With increasing demand on budgets across all areas of the Council the waste service needs to increasingly contribute to overall savings in order to achieve the Councils on-going aims to protect the most vulnerable in Adults and Children's services.

The cost of disposing of residual waste (black bin waste) each year is rising. It currently cost £210.62 a tonne to dispose of black bin waste and we receive an income of £25 for every tonne of recycling, so it is vital that we reduce black bin waste and increase recycling if we are going to avoid rising disposal costs.

If we continue to dispose of the same amount of residual waste (black bin waste) each year, the cost of disposal is likely to increase from £15.8 in 2011/12 to £24.6 million by 2015/16 which in the current economic climate is not sustainable.

The results of the public consultation which was held in November 2012, on the proposed changes to the Waste Service in respect of managed weekly collections were as follows:-

- 63% of residents making supportive comments.
- 72% said the proposed changes would have none or little impact on their household
- Greater impact on larger households, those living in flats and families with children in nappies
- Many useful comments and suggestions made

Waste audits could be done and advice would be available from Recycling Officers for larger families and other households who are recycling as much as possible, but, who are unable to cope.

The changes would take place for food waste collections week commencing 15th April 2013.

Managed weekly collection commence 13th May 2013.

Further information would be sent to all households before the changes take place. Food recycling waste caddies will be introduced to every school in Bolton.

Door to door visits have been undertaken in areas where the recycling rates had been low. The result is improved recycling rates in these areas.

This was followed by a number of questions which were answered on the night.

Q1. Can the methane gas which is a by-product from landfill, be turned into energy?

A. Yes, currently waste is extracted and the methane gas goes into an Anaerobic Digestive Chamber and energy goes to the National Grid.

Q2. At the Victory Community Centre in Halliwell we give presentations about the importance of Recycling in the Community. Can support be given to the Victory or other Centres to raise awareness?

A. Waste and Fleet Management would be happy to provide support and assistance to the Victory on any issues with regard to Recycling.

Community Waste funds are available each year for community groups to apply for in respect of recycling schemes.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

12. NEW HEALTH CHANGES

Wendy Meredith, Director of Public Health, Bolton PCT gave an update on the following:

Health and Wellbeing –

- A ward profile is produced and a 3 year survey which is repeated in Autumn.
- Life expectancy in Halliwell is not as good as overall in Bolton, therefore, representing a Health challenge.
- Work has been undertaken with local doctors in the Halliwell area to try to address chronic health issues with residents.
- The Big Bolton Health check will be repeated this year.
- Specific services are available which aims to support individuals to improve their health:
'Stop smoking'; 'Clock on to Health'; Healthy Eating; Community growers.
- The health trainers are working closely with General Practitioners.

Work to try to improve people's mental health and wellbeing.
Five recommendations to assist with this are:

- Connecting with other people
- Keep active

- Take notice – see friends and family
- To give
- Keep learning

Shaheen Sameja explained that the Halliwell UCAN could offer the residents the opportunity to run a gardening group, with all facilities provided.

Q. Is there any work with regard to alcohol awareness being done as there are a lot of people who drink regularly in the pubs and at home.?

A. There have been concerns with regard to binge drinking and the anti-social behaviour which this brings. More people are drinking at home, and Bolton PCT have been trying to address this. The Government has proposed a minimum price for alcohol; one reason for this is to try to target home drinkers.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

13. UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Shaheen Sameja gave an update on Neighbourhood Management activities in the area and explained that the whole approach is to improve the quality of life for local residents and “Narrowing the Gap” between some of the more challenging areas that need extra help and support.

The six key Neighbourhood Management themes are:

- Health
- Prosperous
- Stronger
- Safer
- Achieving
- Cleaner & Green

In Halliwell there is a multi-agency team working on these themes

- Police
- Environmental Services
- Children's Services

- Respect Me, Respect You Partnership of 12
- Voluntary groups

And many others

Programme for 2011-2013

What we have done so far...

Cleaner Greener:

- Improve Back Gilnow Grove, Back Marlborough, Back Elmwood Avenue, Back Russell Street
- Increase community usage of Queens Park and facilities
- Work with local voluntary groups
- Door knocking exercise around fly tipping and bin fires
- Support “ad- hoc” environmental enforcement operations
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Safer:

- A CCTV camera for Halliwell
- Addressing challenging behaviour in families
- Tri signs
- No cold calling zone around Victory Estate

Young People:

- Healthy Relationship project
- Support a program of holidays/weekend/evening targeted activities for young people
- Stranger Danger
- Activities for young people at UCAN to start from March 2013

Community/ Cohesion:

- Strengthening the Respect Me, Respect You partnership
- Engage with new and emerging communities
- Support other community/faith/cultural groups

Prosperous:

- Targeting “hard to reach” Halliwell groups to improve their chances of accessing suitable employment, training and education through workshops and other suitable activities with various partners
- Work Club – UCAN team

- Insyt Media
- Hold money management sessions at various venues and within community groups – Hoot at UCAN

Health:

- Work with health colleagues including CVS to raise awareness around mental health issues and develop appropriate activities
- Increase awareness amongst various communities in Halliwell in partnership with relevant agencies around substance misuse including drugs, smoking and alcohol
- Healthy Walking – Halliwell Moochers
- Think Positive

The programme will be delivered:

Through Venues :

UCAN Centre

Schools

Brownlow Community Centre

The new pavilion at Queen's Park

By the Multiagency team – The UCAN Sunshine team

Total footfall at the Halliwell UCAN from 1st April 2012 to 31 January 2013 is 14625.

21 groups over the last 10 months have booked rooms in the Halliwell UCAN a total of 1,040 times.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

14. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Morris introduced this agenda item and invited all forum attendees to ask any questions they may have regarding issues in the Halliwell Ward.

Q1. Could the reduction of speed limit on Shepherd Cross Street be reduced, as there has been a number of instances where children have almost been hurt or killed by drivers that use the pavement as a car park?

Is there funding available to get the speed limit reduced?

Can the road be gritted?

A. The Council is dealing with the above issues.

When road 'humps' were placed on Shepherds Cross Street, the residents asked for the chicanes to be removed.

As an alternative, the Council are now looking at implementing a 20 miles per hour speed limit or a CCTV camera.

The Council is working with the police to try to ensure parents picking up children from the school, are not parking on the pavement and the possibility of placing double yellow lines on the road.

The street cannot be gritted as the Council have to focus the resources on gritting the main roads.

However, as there is a school in this street, the safety of the children is paramount, and Councillor Morris will take the road safety issues forward.

Most schools have sand boxes and the caretakers ensure that this is used.

Q2. If double yellow lines were placed on the road could traffic wardens patrol the street once a week?

A. The Council would monitor this and see whether traffic wardens could patrol the street.

Q3. The Police asked whether there could be a 'walk-in bus' for parents and children, with yellow bibs provided for all?

A. Councillor Morris confirmed that some Bolton schools do provide this facility.

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

15. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Morris thanked everyone for attending and informed them that the next Halliwell Area Forum meeting would be confirmed in due course and will then be advertised in the Bolton News and on the Council Website.

(The meeting started at 10.30am and finished at 11.45pm)