

HARPER GREEN AREA FORUM

MEETING 6TH SEPTEMBER 2010

Present – 22 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Clare	-	Harper Green Ward
Councillor Francis	-	Harper Green Ward
Councillor Mistry	-	Harper Green Ward

Also in attendance

Jeff Smethurst	-	Chief Officer
Dawn Hampton	-	Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department
Phil Bailey	-	Cleansing Manager, Environmental Services
John Green	-	LIFT Manager, NHS Bolton
Emily Hewson	-	Positive Activities Team Leader, Children's Services
Dave Colbourn	-	Health & Safety Estates Manager, Upper Orchards School
Lesley Franks	-	Neighbourhood Management Support Officer
Shelly Williams	-	Neighbourhood Management Support Officer
PCSO Paul Cusick	-	Greater Manchester Police
Margaret Thornley	-	Community Housing Manager, Bolton at Home

Carole Heaton

- School Transport Manager,
Development & Regeneration
Department

Councillor Francis in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Francis welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, fellow Councillors from the Harper Green Ward, Bolton Council officers and partners.

Councillor Francis requested all attendees complete a diversity monitoring questionnaire and for those with an email address to register in order that information regarding Area Forums could be sent electronically.

Apologies for absence were received from Yasmin Qureshi, MP; John Pye, Farnworth Neighbourhood Management; Amina Jeewa, Great Lever Neighbourhood Management; Royal Bolton Hospital Representative.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2010 were submitted.

Councillor Francis noted from a resident that a question raised at the previous meeting had not been minuted or responded to. This question was in relation to a condition of the Essa Academy planning consent. Councillor Francis confirmed that this would be looked into and reported back directly to the resident

Councillor Francis here left the meeting and the meeting was chaired by Councillor Clare

3. FARNWORTH HEALTH CENTRE

John Green from NHS Bolton, gave a presentation on the proposed new health centre in Farnworth, outlining the proposed new build on the corner of King Street and Albert Road.

The following items were discussed at the meeting: -

- A number of services that currently ran from other centres could be moved to the new centre, but this would be a clinical decision and dependent upon needs.
- Dental Services would be Community Dental Services, which already ran from the Frederick Street site, and would not be private dentists.
- The old Frederick Street site would be sold It was reiterated that the list of services that would be carried out on the new site would not be finite.
- No new posts would be created and the same staff would be working in different locations.
- The rooms within the building would be designed to fit a range of different services.
- A design panel would be set up to decide how the new Farnworth Centre would look. Two community members had been invited to sit on the panel.
- The design would be brought to a future forum for discussion

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

4. AREA FORUM PROGRESS AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

Residents were invited to identify what their current local priorities were and a range of suggestions were discussed and recorded.

Resolved – That feedback on the issues identified be given at the next Area Forum meeting.

5. COMMUNITY INTEREST UPDATE

Councillor Clare asked the meeting if representatives from groups in the area would be willing to present any updates on their activities.

Resolved – That future Area Forum meetings include the item Community Interest Update on the agenda.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

Area Co-ordinator, Dawn Hampton, gave an update on the budgets and grants that were available to the Harper Green Forum for the municipal year 2010-11, and confirmed that the following schemes and projects had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation since the last meeting of the Area Forum:

• Area Based Grant allocated	£11,789
Boscobel Road Prohibition of Driving	£2,000
Balance	£8,289
• Area Forum Budget allocated	£15,000
Promotion of Area Forum	£50
Balance	£14,060
• Highways Maintenance allocated	£10,000
Construction of steps on public footpath	£879
Balance	£9,121
• A Positive Contributions Budget	£2,500
Summer Activities Programme	£1,000

Balance £1,500

- Voluntary Sector Grants £1,942.07

A discussion followed on the allocation of monies from the Highways Maintenance Budget for the construction of steps:

A footpath identified as the old railway line running from Bishop Bridgeman School, Great Lever to Highfield Road, Farnworth, was in need of improvement and it was suggested that the issue be put forward to the Community Payback Scheme.

Ms Hampton introduced Dave Colbourn and Emily Hewson to the meeting to discuss the allocation of £7,000 from the 2009/10 Area Forum budget.

The original plan was to build a youth shelter on the Upper Orchards site.

Dave Colburn gave a presentation on an alternative option to focus activity on:

- Healthy
- Positive
- Outdoor
- Unsupervised
- What the young people want

A discussion followed:

- The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was currently open and was primarily for five to 11-year-olds during the early evening, and for 12 to 17-year-olds during the late evening.
- CCTV had been updated for the site and the team there were working alongside the police to deal with anti-social behaviour

issues.

- Alternative sports equipment could include – basketball nets, basket balls, goal ends, footballs, Kwik cricket, Badminton, Sports marker cones, bibs and some additional youth work to encourage and support more young people to get involved.

Resolved: - (i) That the comments relating to the footpath running from Bishop Bridgeman School to Highfield Road be referred to the relevant Department

(ii) That approval now be given to the 5-19s Service using the grant for the alternative option as now outlined, instead of a youth shelter.

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Clare invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Harper Green ward.

The following questions and comments were put forward

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| When will Bolton Council staff let the public know what cutbacks are being made within Bolton Council? | - Cllr Clare advised that staff and Members were currently unsure about what will happen, and that they were waiting for the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review later in the year. |
| Fly-posting at the end of Greenland Road and Minerva Road | - Cllr Clare confirmed that investigations into these issues were underway. Police were aware and would be prioritising the area. |
| Lights on the old railway line near Freshfield Road had still not been repaired. | - Ms Hampton would contact the relevant department and report back at the next Area Forum meeting. |

How do community groups get representation from council officers at their meetings?

- Ms Hampton would contact the relevant department and report back at the next Area Forum meeting.

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

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Clare concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and their contributions and announced that the next Harper Green Forum would be on the 1st November from 6:30pm, venue to be advised

(The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 8:30pm)