

HARPER GREEN AREA FORUM

MEETING 29 June 2010

Present – 23 members of the public attended the meeting.

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| Councillor Mistry (Chair) | - Harper Green Ward |
| Councillor Francis | - Harper Green Ward |

Also in attendance

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| Emily Hewson | - Bolton Council 5-19's |
| James Storey | - Bolton Community Leisure |
| Dawn Hampton | - Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department |
| Simon Conchie | - Bolton Wise |
| John Pye | - Farnworth Neighbourhood Manager, Chief Executive's Department |
| Amina Jeewa | - Great Lever Neighbourhood Manager, Chief Executive's Department |
| Chris Holland | - Building Consultancy Manager |
| Stuart Hall | - Kier Group |
| Phil White | - Kier Group |
| Marie Gallagher | - Bolton Council |
| Sgt Darren Meadows | - Greater Manchester Police |
| PC Gary Howard | - Greater Manchester Police |
| Stephen Young | - Assistant Director, Environmental Services |
| E Steel | - Royal Bolton Hospital |
| Sandy Reid | - Essa Academy |
| Showk Badat | - Essa Academy |

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clare.

Councillor Mistry in the Chair.

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Mistry opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, introducing himself, Councillor Francis and Bolton Council Officers and partners

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd of February, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

3. ESSA ACADEMY UPDATE

Chris Holland and Stuart Hall undertook a presentation on what the new building would look like.

Mr Holland spoke about the widening of Slack Fold Lane to Morris Green Lane and outlined that this part of the project had been added to the design and the plans were resubmitted following the public meeting back in February 2010.

Issues about parking on Lever Edge Lane were addressed.

With regards to security of the grounds, there would be CCTV, mesh fencing and a six metre wide hedgerow.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

4. UPDATE ON 2009-2010 – AREA FORUM PROGRESS

Area Coordinator, Dawn Hampton, gave a presentation on the priorities identified by residents in 2009/10 and the progress made by the Area Forum in relation to these priorities. The following updates were given by Ms Hampton:

Issue raised:

More youth activities:

Council action:-

- Football Fusion (2 sessions per week for 8 weeks over summer holidays).
- Friday evening football at Hayward Sports Centre.
- Friday and Saturday youth provision at The Orchards.
- Funded a youth shelter at The Orchards.
- Paid for equipment and staffing at the Youth Centre.

Issue raised:

Reduce anti-social behaviour, especially arson and fire-related crime.

Council action:

- Fire crimes were being monitored closely through the Local Area Partnership.
- Blazing Squad.
- Fire Awareness visits were available at residents' requests.

Issue raised:

More lighting at Sunnyside Park to deter criminals.
General cleanliness of parks and open spaces.

Council action:

- £23,000 scheme to install lights at the park.
- Worked with Great Lever Neighbourhood Management and Bolton at Home to clean up the park and surrounding areas of litter, fly-tipping and graffiti.
- Grass-cutting and litter-picking co-ordinated better.

Q4

- Introduced new and improved street lighting at Brian Road, Parrs Close and Moisant Street.

Issue raised:

Highways, traffic calming issues and pedestrian safety were important at key locations.

Council action:

- Routes into and around the hospital had been resurfaced and some remedial improvements to footpaths at Windermere Road.
- Investigated additional traffic calming options for Highfield estate.
- Looked at options for parking restrictions on Broadway.

Issue raised:

What could be done about the traffic problems on Lever Edge Lane near the Academy.

Council action:

- Held two Area Forum meetings to focus on this issue.
- Residents concerns over traffic congestion were fed through to the planning committee.

The Forum also supported then following:

- The 2009 Farnworth Arts Festival
- Highfield Community Association to purchase a new cooker.
- Maltby Residents Association to hire a coach for a day trip.
- Sunnyside Residents Association to help pay for TV licence, electrical equipment testing and broadband internet connection.
- Bolton Volleyball Team for the cost of the playing courts.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. LOCAL PRIORITIES FOR 2010/11

Residents identified what their current local priorities were. A range of suggestions were discussed and recorded.

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

6. BUDGET UPDATE

Area Coordinator, Dawn Hampton, confirmed that following recent publicity and discussions, efficiency savings had to be made across the whole of Bolton Council, that the Forum was still awaiting confirmation of its current budget status, and that any funding received would be subject to change throughout the year. An update on this would be reported at the next Area Forum meeting. Ms Hampton confirmed that despite not having any definite figures, the Forum was still able to carry out some of its business and that the grants approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation be noted:

Voluntary Sector Grants awarded to:

- Sunnyside Residents Association (£238.50)
- Maltby Residents Association (£500)

Area Based Grant awarded to:

- Farnworth Arts Festival (£1,500)

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The following questions were put forward during the question and answer session:-

Q6

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| Q1. Where was the money from Essa Academy coming from? | A1. The monies were provided via a central Government grant. |
| Q2. The Bolton News had reported cutbacks of £15m on care which will affect the elderly and disabled. Who makes the decisions? | A2. Councillor Mistry advised that this would be forwarded to the relevant department for comment. |
| Q3. Planning permission had been granted for £48m interchange – why will it cost so much? | A3. Councillor Mistry advised that this would be forwarded to the relevant department for comment. |
| Q4. What effect would the cuts in Area Based Grants have on Neighbourhood Management and Area Forums? | A4. Councillor Francis responded and advised that a true picture of the effect of cuts would not be known until after the Government spending review later in the year. |

Resolved – That the questions be noted.

8. CHAIRS CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Mistry thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and informed that the next Area Forum would be held on Monday, 6 September 2010, venue to be confirmed.

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