

LITTLE LEVER AND DARCY LEVER AREA FORUM

MEETING, 13th December 2011

Present, 30 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Anthony Connell	-	Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Maureen Connell	-	Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Mary Woodward		Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward

Also in attendance

Dawn Hampton	-	Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department
John Rowlands	-	Assistant Director Customer Services, Corporate Resources
Simon Godley	-	Development Manager, Development and Regeneration
Ian Morgan	-	Development Officer, Development and Regeneration
Chris Lloyd	-	Assistant Head of Service, Environmental Services
Janett Sheddon	-	Community Safety Officer, Bolton Council
Inspector Phil Spurgeon	-	Greater Manchester Police
Sgt Darren Meadows	-	Greater Manchester Police
PC Ian Roby	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Claire Lindop	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Maurice Pennington	-	Greater Manchester Police
Eric Hyde	-	Royal Bolton Hospital

Apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Yasmin Qureshi MP.

Councillor Mary Woodward in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Mary Woodward welcomed everyone and introduced the other Councillors and officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND FEEDBACK

The minutes of the meeting held on 25TH October 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. ALLOCATIONS PLAN

Simon Godley, Development Manager at Bolton Council, introduced the Allocations Plan and explained that the plan:

- is a comprehensive proposals map
- identifies sites for development for different uses
- identifies sites for protection from development
- includes a written statement of about 30 pages
- is in line with Bolton's Core Strategy
- is in draft form for consultation

Mr Godley confirmed that any comments and feedback received at the meeting would be noted and fed into the consultation process. He then outlined the implications of the plan for Little Lever and Darcy Lever as:

- Green Belt and Protected Open Land boundaries are unaltered
- Pressure for housing development
- Some sites allocated for housing
- Town centre boundary changes
- Proposed Local Nature Reserve at Moses Gate

He then concluded by advising that the consultation on the plan would close on 27th January 2012; comments forms were available to take away from the meeting and all documents were available on the Council website, in libraries including Little Lever Library and at Bolton Town Hall.

A number of comments were made and questions raised which were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that the comments and feedback on the plan be fed into the consultation process.

5. POLICING UPDATE

Inspector Phil Spurgeon introduced himself and gave a presentation on local policing issues and seasonal security advice. The main points of the presentation were:

Crime across Bolton and Greater Manchester

Total crime had fallen across Greater Manchester with 10,000 fewer victims in first six months of this year. There had been 9,000 fewer victims of Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

In Bolton this year so far (compared to last year)

- 520 fewer victims crime (4% down)
- 163 fewer victims burglary (16% down)
- 437 fewer victims vehicle crime (24% down)
- 1291 fewer victims anti-social behaviour (10% down)
- 297 fewer victims damage (10% down)
- 39 fewer victims serious violent crime (30% down)

Little Lever and Darcy Lever update

- Burglaries had increased from 29 to 36 victims
- Theft from vehicles had increased from 34 to 56 victims
- Damage up from 85 to 125

Q4

- ASB up from 348 to 624 incidents - biggest increases were in hoax and malicious calls, vehicle nuisance, firework-related and rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour

Neighbourhood Policing update

- Re-organisation of shifts so no longer all on or all off
- Explored local deployment base options
- Dedicated operations tackling crime (Operation Arundel) with support from other units such as Neighbourhood Task Force
- Dedicated operations tackling ASB, e.g. Operation Treacle over Halloween, half-term and Bonfire night period. Worked with partners on alcohol and firework availability.
- Worked with partners such as Bolton at Home on tenancy management and youth support services

Seasonal Safety issues

- Be Safe & Party – have fun but be responsible
- Burglars love dark nights – leave a light on and consider fitting timer switches
- If residents have got, or are giving/given, a smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc, for Christmas, apps could be downloaded that allow the Police to track it if it gets lost or stolen - see GMP website for details.

Resolved – That the updates and presentation be noted.

6. UPDATE ON AREA FORUM BUDGETS

Area Co-ordinator, Dawn Hampton, gave an update on current balances for budgets devolved to the Area Forum for 2011-12 financial year as follows:

Area Forum Budget (AFB)	£17,697
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Q5

Ms Hampton confirmed that the AFB included an additional allocation of £10,000 from the airport dividend and the Neighbourhood Management allocation for the area.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That it be noted that following schemes have been awarded funding under the Council's Scheme of Delegation:

<u>Grant pot</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
AFB	Bench refurb and relocation to High St	£385
AFB	Traffic Regulation Order at Park Road	£3,000
AFB	Support to Christmas light switch-on	£77
AFB	Support costs to litter picking event	£34
AFB	Active aging project at Crompton Court	£300

14. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Mary Woodward introduced this item and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward.

Q1 Would it be cost effective to put a speed camera now and again on Redcar Road and near to the horse traffic lights?

A Inspector Spurgeon would refer this to the traffic section

Q2 Could we have more dog waste and litter bins?

A Councillors agreed that if residents wanted to report specific locations where there are issues with dog waste and litter that the forum would refer these to the relevant department for education and enforcement.

Q3 How often do wardens patrol the canal as there are problems with littering?

A This would be reported to Environmental Enforcement for investigation.

Q6

Q4 What do Members think of 20mph zones?

A The Chair confirmed that these are useful in built-up estates.

Q5 If Tesco get planning permission, there is concern that Aintree and Redcar Roads will become a cut-through. Can anything be done?

A The Chair confirmed that this concern would be raised with the relevant department.

Q6 Could Community Payback do something with the public right of way at the back of St Matthews as it was very overgrown?

A This had already been referred to Community Payback and would be chased up. An update on all Community Payback schemes would be given at the next meeting.

Q7 Does the Council have a Gritting Strategy and which roads are identified as a priority for gritting?

A Yes, a plan does exist. The Council has been stockpiling grit and will treat main roads and bus routes as a priority. Unclassified roads are not gritted.

Q8 A number of questions were raised in relation to planning, including a specific question relating to the mast in Little Lever.

A The Chair answered the questions on the night.

Q9 Could something be done about the roundabout at the top of Mytham Road as this is a dangerous place to cross?

A Residents were advised to use the official crossing point set back from the roundabout. Councillors agreed that the Highways Dept would be asked to see if this would benefit from a crossing refuge.

Q10 Would Royal Bank of Scotland put markings on the entrance to their car park to stop people using it as a road?

A This request will be passed to the Royal Bank of Scotland for a response.

Q11 There are issues with people parking on double yellow lines outside the hairdressers on Tonge Road, junction with Victory Road. Cars also park on the pavement and block the junction so that buses cannot get round. Could something be done?

Q7

A A site visit with Councillors and the Highways Department would be arranged to monitor the issue.

Q12 What is the latest on the Bridge project?

A A full update would be brought to the next forum meeting in March.

Q13 What's the latest on the street lights at Whittington close and Williams Street/Lord Street?

A Street lighting department would be contacted and an update will be given at the next meeting.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and that any not answered on the night be brought back to the next meeting.

15. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Mary Woodward concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the date of the next Area Forum meeting would be on Tuesday 6th March, 2012 starting with a drop-in at 6.30pm and a main meeting at 7pm to be held at St Teresa's Primary School.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.40pm)