

TWO TOWNS AREA FORUM

MEETING, 4TH DECEMBER, 2007

Present – Members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Rock (Chairman)	- Horwich North East
Councillor Hamilton (Vice-Chairman)	- Horwich and Blackrod
Councillor Barrow	- Horwich and Blackrod
Councillor Hollick	- Horwich and Blackrod
Councillor R. Ronson	- Horwich North East

Also in attendance

Val Cloynes	- Area Working
Jennifer Roe	- Area Working
Vicky Ridge	- Legal and Democratic Services
Donna Cooper	- Legal and Democratic Services
Carla Seabury	- Legal and Democratic Services
Myra Fuller	- Legal and Democratic Services
Marie Moore	- Adult Services
Ellen Miller	- Adult Services
Kath Smith	- Children's Services
John Sharrock	- Environmental Services
Karl Bircher	- Environmental Services
Michael Lee	- Environmental Services
Trevor McKean	- Bolton at Home
Tony Lomax	- Development and Regeneration
Nicola Farrell	- Development and Regeneration
Andy Lancashire	- Development and Regeneration
Graeme Mitchell	- Development and Regeneration
Mary Serjeant	- Development and Regeneration
Glyn McGann	-

	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Mark Appleton	- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Lisa Whitehead	- Greater Manchester Police
Richard Amis	- Greater Manchester Police
Sandra Furnival	- Greater Manchester Police

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Ronson.

Councillor Rock in the Chair.

25. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Rock welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

26. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Area Forum held on 10th September, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

27. FEEDBACK SESSION OF ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs. V. Cloynes, Area Co-ordinator circulated an information leaflet which updated members on events since the last meeting and feedback on issues raised previously.

Resolved – That the feedback be noted.

28. YOUR FUTURE YOUR TOWN, A PLAN FOR BOLTON

Ms D. Cooper, Marketing and Communications Agency Consultation Team, gave a brief introduction on how the Spatial Planning Section within the Development and Regeneration Team were seeking views on how the land in

Bolton should be used and how they should plan for the year 2021.

Members of the Forum split into workshop sessions to discuss what they felt were the main priorities in relation to how land in Bolton should be used and developed and areas that should be protected and not built on.

Resolved - That the views of the Forum be noted.

29. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP BUDGET 2007 - 2008

Councillor Rock declared an interest in relation to the proposed project at Ainsworth Avenue and took no part in the debate or vote.

The Area Co-ordinator advised that the Forum had received an allocation from the Council's Highways Maintenance budget of £29,600 for the current financial year.

Consequently, the following schemes were put forward for consideration, viz:-

(1) Half Acre Lane/Ridgeway

The Grass verges were currently being churned up in these two locations when vehicles drove over them to park. The scheme would resurface the grass verges at the New Street end of Half Acre Lane and at the top of Ridgeway and reinstate the kerbs where necessary. Work would also include re-setting a manhole cover, relocation of the street nameplate and the replacement or re-laying of flags. The cost would be £5,995 in total.

(2) Claypool Road

The pavement on the left-hand side of Claypool Road had deteriorated because of the high levels of usage. Some repair work had already been undertaken and this scheme would continue on from there, at a cost of £15,000.

(3) Poplar Avenue

The scheme would provide a parking lay-by with spaces for 9 cars to relieve on-road congestion and improve access for emergency vehicles. The scheme totalled £11,194.40, however, the Neighbourhood Panel had agreed to contribute £5,597.40 therefore, the Forum was asked to approve £5,597 as match funding.

(4) Ainsworth Avenue

The scheme would repair and make safe the edge of the road in the vicinity of No 62 Ainsworth Avenue, where it was currently crumbling. The cost of this work was £3,008.

If the above schemes were approved, then the whole of the Highways Maintenance Partnership Budget 2007/2008 would have been allocated.

Resolved - That the schemes, as now detailed, be approved.

30. HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP - COMMUNITY SAFETY 2006/2008

The Area Co-ordinator advised that the Forum had received an allocation of £10,000 from the Highways Partnership (Community Safety) 2006/2008 budget for the period 1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2008.

Consequently, a scheme was put forward to use the remaining balance of £1,150 to purchase up to 732 sets of reflective armbands to distribute to primary schools in the Two Towns Forum area, with the aim of helping to keep children safer in poorer visibility.

If the project was approved then this would represent the whole of the remaining balance of the Highways Partnership Community Safety budget 2006/2008.

Resolved - That the proposed scheme, as now detailed, be approved.

31. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND 2006/2008

Councillor Rock declared an interest in the Scheme in relation to Brazley Community Garden and took no part in the debate or vote.

The Area Coordinator advised that the Forum had received an allocation from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund budget of £35,000 for the period 1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2008, of which the remaining balance was £2,471.50. However, the work on the Brazley Wood Scheme had resulted in being less than estimated which left an unspent balance of £409.34 and, therefore, the remaining revised balance stood at £2,880.84.

Consequently, the following schemes were put forward for consideration, viz:-

(1) Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Youth Engagement Project

The scheme was run by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Services with selected groups of young people aged 12 - 16. The aim was to reduce malicious false alarms, deliberate fire setting, injuries from fires and hostility towards fire service personnel.

Participants would engage in training and receive education for 2 hours each week for 6 weeks. The cost of the project totalled £1,500.

(2) Brazley Community Garden

The scheme had been proposed by the Brazley Residents Association, in an attempt to create a welcoming entrance to the Brazley estate. It would enhance existing green space by providing a sign to identify the estate and some low-maintenance planting and landscaping. The residents had agreed to maintain the new area themselves. The cost of this scheme was £1,380.84.

If the above schemes were approved that this would represent the whole of the remaining balance of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund 2006/2008.

Mr. J. Smith on behalf of Brazley and Claypool Residents Association thanked the Forum for the funding which had been allocated towards the regeneration of the Brazley Culvert and, as result, the scheme had been put forward for two awards, in one of which the scheme took first prize and in the second one the scheme was highly commended.

Resolved - That the schemes, as now detailed, be approved.

32. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS SCHEME 2007/2008

Ms J. Roe, Area Working Support Officer advised the Forum that one deferred application needed to be considered for a Voluntary Sector Grant.

Members were advised that, at the Area Forum meeting on 10th September, 2007, the consideration of the grant application from the Blackrod Art Group for £500 was deferred.

As a result, the Group was requested to liaise with the Blackrod Village Association to discuss the hire of a hands free microphone that the Association intended to purchase. Since this, no further information had been received from the Group and it was therefore recommended that the application be refused.

The Forum was also informed that in relation to the grant awarded to the Horwich Resource Management Committee, due to various circumstances, the legal agreement was not signed until after the event had taken place and, therefore, the Group had requested an amendment to enable them to claim the grant. Consequently, the Forum Members were consulted on this and amendment was approved on 6th November 2007.

Resolved - (i) That the amendment to the terms and conditions of the grant awarded to the Horwich Resource Management Committee be noted.

(ii) That the application submitted by the Blackrod Art Group be refused.

33. OPEN FORUM

Verbal and written questions were received, which detailed the following issues:-

- (a) problems with traffic congestion at the junction off Stocks Park Drive and Chorley Old Road.

The response from Highways Management was that the accident record indicated that whilst there had been a small number of accidents, there was no recent record of any which involved turning right out of Stocks Park Drive. Furthermore, Stocks Park Drive had been traffic calmed a few years ago to discourage unnecessary non-resident usage and any measures which reduced delays at

this junction could encourage motorists who presently used Victoria Road to rat run along Stocks Park Drive.

- (b) concern was expressed regarding the fact that Horwich Town Centre had been bypassed in relation to the planning application for the Bolton Wanderers Academy. Originally the planning application was considered by the Town Council in November, 2007 and was subsequently deferred for further information. However, the full application was now being considered by the Planning and Highways Committee on 13th December, 2007 despite the fact that the next meeting of Horwich Town Council was not until 20th December, 2007.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- (c) concern was expressed regarding St. John's Church being the venue for the next meeting of the Forum, as previously, this had proved to be unsuitable premises for such a meeting. In addition consideration should also be given to the current microphone system.

In response, it was stated that St. John's Church had given assurances that no other activities were due to be held on the day of the meeting. However this would be checked again.

- (d) a query was raised regarding the date of the next meeting of the Forum.

It was agreed that the date would be confirmed and members informed accordingly.

- (e) concerns were reiterated regarding the operational activities of Dicconsions and also the fact that 7½ tonne vehicles were travelling along Crown Lane, Horwich.

It was stated that a response had already been provided regarding Dicconsions which was detailed in the feedback leaflets, however, the situation would continue to be monitored. In response to vehicles travelling along Crown Lane, it was stated that this was a highway issue and would be passed onto the relevant department for investigation.

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

34. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved - That the next meeting of the Two Towns Area Forum be held on Monday, 28th January, 2008 at 3.00 p.m. with a drop-in-session at 2.00 p.m.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.45 p.m.)