

## **SMITHILLS AREA FORUM**

MEETING – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Present – 3 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Douglas Bagnall	-	Smithills Ward
Councillor Roger Hayes	-	Smithills Ward
Councillor Garry Veevers	-	Smithills Ward

### Also in attendance

John Shannon	-	Area Coordinator
Stephen Rowson	-	Chief Executives Department
Dawn Lythgoe	-	Department of Place
Steve Walsh	-	Department of Place
NBO Nick Hill	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Bhav Makwana	-	Greater Manchester Police
Abbie Murphy	-	Bolton At Home

Councillor Doug Bagnall in the Chair

### **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Bagnall welcomed everyone and introduced himself, Councillors and other Officers in attendance.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th October 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **4. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE**

Councillor Bagnall introduced the Neighbourhood Beat Officer Nick Hill and PCSO Bhav Makwana from the Greater Manchester Police who gave a presentation on the

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, also known as Home Watch.  
The main points were:

- The aims of the scheme
- The role of a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
- The role of a Neighbourhood Watch Member
- The coordinator can report information back to the police in the first instance, but the police may still need to speak with the Residents/watch members who witnessed the incident reported.
- All residents were encouraged to keep reporting incidents as it helped build a picture and see patterns to take action later.
- Intelligence was also followed up from reports received by crime stoppers.

A number of questions followed the presentation and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

## **5. BOLTON “FLU BUDDIES” INITIATIVE**

Councillor Bagnall introduced Dawn Lythgoe, Public Health Programme Manager, who gave details about the current vaccination programme and Flu Buddies promotion, she talked about the following points:

- Objectives of the promotion
- What is Flu – a more serious virus to a cold, it's a highly infectious, acute viral infection of the respiratory tract.
- How to differentiate between a cold and the flu
- How the vaccine works and who can get a free vaccine
- Details of who are most at risk and how it is transmitted
- Ways of reducing the risk of catching the virus
- Common side effects to the vaccine
- Common concerns and assumptions
- Our Ask – Be a Bolton Flu Buddy
- 3 Key take home messages:
  - Get the vaccination – Protect yourself and others

- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it – Wash your hands and teach others to do it too
- Tell colleagues, family, friends, others in your community – help to protect them too

A number of questions followed the presentation and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

## **6. UPDATE FROM FUTURE GENERATIONS YOUTH GROUP**

Councillor Bagnall introduced Abbie Murphy from Bolton at Home who gave a presentation on the future generation's youth group. The main points were:

- A consultation (January 2018) had been carried out in Johnson Fold identifying a number of issues following which, actions had been put in place to tackle some of these for residents.
- Environmental issues – A multi-agency walk was carried out on the estate to look at reported issues, following this a number of issues had been addressed.
- Planters and flowers funded by the Area Forum had made improvements to the feel and look of the local shops.
- Increased youth provision was in place addressing the highlighted lack of provision for young people in the area for example:
  - Johnson Fold girls' group held at Johnson Fold UCAN centre.
  - Football sessions by BWCT (Bolton Wanderers Community Trust)
- Future generations overview – a constituted group of local mums, set up in May 2019 with the aim to improve out of school provision in the area.
- Several summer holiday activities set up to support young people and their families.
- Future generations would like to thank the following organisations they had successfully applied to for funding:

- The Area Forum
- Bolton at Home
- CVS (Bolton Community and Voluntary Services)
- Awards for All

A number of questions followed the presentation and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

## **7. UPDATE ON BUDGETS AND PROJECTS**

Area Coordinator John Shannon gave an update on the allocations and current balances for budgets devolved to the Area Forum:

For 2018-19 financial year the budget balances were as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£1,751.00
Allocation	£3,750.00
Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP)	£94,073.00
Allocation	£94,073.00
Community Safety Budget (CSB)	£3,500.00
Allocation	£3,500.00

And there had been an additional allocation for 2019-20 financial year of Highways Capital Funding £600,000 which had now been spent on a number of priority schemes in the ward.

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following amounts had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2018-19 budget:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
<u>Pot</u>		
AFB	Cover cost of supply, installation and initial planting of flowering troughs on railings at shops on Moss Bank Way	£1,499.00
AFB	Support Johnson Fold Future Generations Group Summer Holidays Fun Day 2019	£500.00

## **8. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**

Councillor Bagnall introduced this item on the agenda and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Ward.

The questions were as follows:

- Q1 Further to the question raised at the last meeting regarding the dangers at the roundabout at Captains clough Road and Church Road and given there had been two further accidents since the last meeting, could something be done to relieve the pressure of traffic on this junction? Perhaps bollards to close Captains Clough Road to through traffic to stop the traffic rat run and force them to use the main roads instead.
- A Response from Highways was: "The damaged barrier is noted. Regarding the closure of Captains Clough Road, there is no funding available for this proposal; if a closure was to be considered it would be subject to public consultation as the people who would be affected greatest would be the local residents. It was felt that the closure, as suggested, may lead to increased vehicular speeds on Church Road which would could lead to greater danger, particularly at the nearby zebra crossing. There is only one recorded injury accident at the roundabout in the last 5 years although accidents that have taken place in the last 6 months will not yet be recorded on the database. A chicane, designed to slow down traffic, was planned to be installed on Captains Clough Road. This should also reduce the number of vehicles using Captains Clough Road."

- Q2 Could a right filter be put in at the junction of Captains Clough Road and Moss Bank Way? At peak times (8.15-9am and 3.15-6pm) cars are often backed up to Church Road School while Moss Bank Way is relatively free of congestion.
- A Response from Highways was: "The suggested filter light at the junction of Captains Clough Road and Moss Bank Way would encourage drivers to use Captains Clough Road as a short cut from Chorley Old Road to Moss Bank Way and would increase congestion on Moss Bank Way as the time for the filter would have to come off the green times for the other arms of the junction; it would therefore not be supported. A review of traffic flows in the wider area was planned and it was hoped this would inform any future changes to signals at junctions"
- Q3 When would Johnson Fold be getting extra funding for desperate road and pavement repairs? Shackleton Grove and Johnson Fold Avenue for example, both have multiple issues with road flooding, road and pavement disrepair.
- A Response: Several roads on Johnson Fold had been resurfaced using Area Forum funding in recent years. Decisions on spend on the current year additional capital funding for highways in the ward were guided by priorities established by Highways Services. The full allocation has now been spent. Unfortunately, Shackleton Grove was not included in the priority list, it would however be referred to Highways Services.
- Q4 The area of green open space at Devonshire Road (remainder of land not developed for housing) is subject to flooding and is difficult for walkers to access, it needs a pathway. Also, the gate is in disrepair allowing vehicles to access the area.
- A The ward Councillor's said they would check with Planning Services as it was thought Section 106 funding may be available for improvements.
- Q5 Could something be done about the repeated fly tipping at Devonshire Road/Stanley Road?
- A The ward Councillor's said if they were given details, they would follow up with Neighbourhood Services

- Q6 Following the recent illegal encampment by Travellers on Moss Bank Park details of the route used to get caravans onto the park were passed to Neighbourhood Services. Could this be used to help provide barriers to prevent future illegal encampments?
- A The ward Councillor's said they would take up with the service and ask for barriers to be installed at the location identified.

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

## **9. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Councillor Bagnall thanked everyone for attending and advised that the date of the next forum meeting was still to be confirmed, however, it would not be until the May 2020 to April 2021 municipal year. Notice of the meeting would be made through the Council website and bulletins.

(The meeting started at 7.02pm and finished at 8.15pm)