

HALLIWELL AREA FORUM

MEETING, 6th May, 2009

Present – 40 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Zaman (Chair)	- Halliwell Ward
Councillor Morris	- Halliwell Ward
Councillor Thomas	- Halliwell Ward

Also in attendance

Jon Lord	- Chief Officer for Halliwell
John Shannon	- Area Working Manager
Stephen Rowson	- Area Working Support Officer
Shaheen Sameja	- Halliwell Neighbourhood Manager
Malcolm Russell	- Environmental Services
Ian Platt	- Bolton At Home
Julianne Scarlett	- Bolton Community Homes
PC Sanjay Bisnauthsing	- Greater Manchester Police
Julie Swift	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Zaman in the Chair.

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Zaman introduced himself and asked Councillors and officers in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. BUDGET UPDATE

Mr Shannon gave a short update regarding budgets and grants in the Halliwell Ward. He explained that, as the new financial year had just begun, the full annual allocation was available.

He stated that the Voluntary Sector Grant was made up of an annual allocation of £2,000 plus the balance carried over from last year of £886, also that a new “Positive Contributions budget” was an addition this year to help fund activities and projects for young people in Halliwell. He asked if residents could provide suggestions for projects or actions this budget could be used for. The allocated amount for the period April 2009 – March 2010 was as follows:

Highways Maintenance Budget	-	£10, 245
Area Forum Budget	-	£15,000
Area Based Grant	-	£26, 340
Voluntary Sector Grants	-	£ 2,886
Positive Contributions Budget	-	£10,000

Resolved – That the report be noted

4. UPDATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR DWELLINGS IN HALLIWELL

Julianne Scarlett from Bolton Community Homes gave a presentation about private sector rented housing.

She noted that nationally the average percentage of private rented property was 10-12% and at the last census Bolton had 8% of the housing stock rented privately. This was not evenly distributed as, for example, in areas of pre 1918 terraced properties the ratio could be as high as 20%.

There were 510 landlords registered under the scheme B.A.R.L.O (Bolton Accredited & Residential Landlords Organisation) with 1331 accredited properties. The aim was to encourage landlords to operate in a responsible way, for the benefit of tenants and the community and for their own benefit

as well. This was done by offering guidance, support and advice. Several seminars and training events had taken place and given landlords the opportunity to share experiences and learn more about good practice in the management of rented housing.

Mrs Scarlet provided details on agencies and service providers who would be contacted if any issues arose from poorly managed dwellings. BARLO worked closely with these organisations to help resolve any reports of misuse of properties and disruptive behaviour. The contact numbers were;

ASB Complaints

Emergency	- Dial 999
Non emergency	- 0161 872 5050 (Police)
Neighbourhood Policing Team	- 0161 856 5619 / 26 (Halliwell)
Its Your Call	- 01204 336500 (Bolton Council)

Reporting ASB & Nuisance

Rubbish / Fly Tipping	- 01204 336632
Graffiti Removal	- 01204 336831
Noise Pollution	- 01204 336500
Noisy Neighbours	- 01204 335258 (Bolton Mediation)
Vehicle repairs on street	- 01204 334444
Empty / Property disrepair	- 01204 336538

Following the report discussion groups were facilitated by the various officers and councillors present.

Resolved – That the report be noted

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Shaheen Sameja the Neighbourhood Manager for Halliwell gave an update on her role and what was being done in the Halliwell area.

She was working closely with Council departments, ward councillors and key agencies to improve conditions in Halliwell, this covered many areas including education, crime, health, economic opportunities and the environment. She advised that she was keen to work with faith organisations, voluntary sector groups, residents, schools, children and parents to improve Halliwell. She advised residents that she had an office at the Halliwell UCAN centre on Hatfield Road where she could be contacted and a flyer was handed out giving full contact details.

She advised residents that an environment day was being planned for July 2009; details to be confirmed. She then asked for any comments and questions on the work of neighbourhood management:

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| Could a green initiative be set up to do up gardens? | - The idea was welcomed and a further suggestion was made as to how this could be progressed together with local residents. |
| Were there any new initiatives to deal with street litter? | - This was an ongoing issue. The Council's approach was to use a balance of education and enforcement as appropriate depending upon the individual case. |
| Were fines being used and if so how many on the spot fines had been issued? | - Fines were being issued, though no figures were to hand details could be brought back to the next forum meeting. |

Councillor Morris informed those present that the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service had highlighted the hazard due to wheelie bins being left out on streets on non collection days and that a number of serious fires had resulted from this practice. He advised that people leaving bins on the street would initially receive warnings but that fines would be imposed on those continuing to cause a hazard.

Resolved – That the report be noted

5. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Zaman concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. He announced that the next Halliwell Area Forum would be on Wednesday 8th of July 2009 with a drop-in at 6pm and the main meeting starting at 6.30pm, the venue was still to be confirmed.

Mr Shannon informed the meeting that a "Get Active" event would be taking place in Queens Park on Sunday 24th May from 12.00noon to 4.00pm. The event was being organised by the Park Rangers and would promote the use of the park and its facilities for exercise and a more healthy lifestyle. Further details were available from Karen Whitham on 334068

(The meeting started at 6.35pm and finished at 7.35pm)