

RUMWORTH AREA FORUM

MEETING, 21st March 2009

Present – 15 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Kay (Chair)	- Rumworth Ward
Councillor Adia	- Rumworth Ward

Also in attendance

John Shannon	- Area Working Manager
Stephen Rowson	- Area Working Support Officer
Shabir Fazal	- Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion
Kevan Roberts	- Environmental Services
Pauline Dixon	- Neighbourhood Manager
Anna Basford	- NHS Bolton
Veronica Swinburn	- NHS Bolton
Beverly Andrew	- Royal Bolton Hospital
Sergeant Rob Knight	- Greater Manchester Police
Charlotte Derby	- Greater Manchester Police
Alan Kay	- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Mick Rothwell	- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Paul Goodauru	- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

Councillor Kay in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Ibrahim.

25. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Kay opened the meeting and introduced Councillor Adia and the various officers.

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

27. ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR

Shabir Fazal, Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion, gave feedback regarding the Big Issues affecting Rumworth and the achievements over the year covering the following points:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Forum Budgets | - | |
| Healthier Lifestyles | - | |
| Open Spaces for young people | - | |
| Educational Attainment | - | |
| Making Roads Safer | - | |
| Prevention and tackling crime and anti-social Behaviour | - | On this item Sgt Rob Knight was invited to feedback. |
| Improving cleanliness of streets | - | |
| Helping to Strengthen the community | - | |

Following the feedback the Neighbourhood Manager invited residents to attend an event at which local people could help prioritise how £40,000 would be used to tackle issues in the Rumworth area. The event was to be held on Saturday 28th of March 2009 at Quebec Hall at 11.30am, it would be well publicised in the area prior to the meeting.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

29. BIG BOLTON HEALTH DEBATE

Anna Basford from NHS Bolton gave a presentation on healthy lifestyles and the impact on life expectancy.

This would revolve around four “big ideas”

- | | |
|--|--|
| Bolton people on average died two years earlier than the average for England | - Propose to increase average life expectancy to 80 years |
| Unfair distribution of life expectancy within Bolton communities | - The gap was 15 years between the highest and lowest areas, propose to close that gap |
| Improve health and services | - Bring services nearer to communities providing better access and take up |
| Improve individuals own health and life chances | - Proposed support for residents to do that |

A number of questions were raised from this and answered by Anna Basford.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

30. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The Area Working Manager then gave a brief update on the meeting regarding parking issues that had been held on the 22nd of February 2009 including some short and long term proposals.

Short term - the problem of staff parking was still being addressed and employees had been made aware of alternate options. A number of streets and corners had been put forward for consideration for waiting restrictions. The proposal to open Canon Street onto Deane Road as a left turn only junction was also being considered.

Longer term – The suggestion of a residents parking scheme would be revisited if residents wanted one and a one way system on longer streets could be considered.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

31. BUDGETS

The Area Working Manager gave a presentation on the subject of budgets and grants. He explained that there was no change to the grant balance since the last meeting with the exception of the voluntary sector grant pot where awards of £500 had been made to Deane FC and the New Bolton Somali Association under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. Grant balances were as follows:

Area Based Grant -	-	
Balance	£23,780	
Area Forum Budget -	-	
Balance	£13,390	
Voluntary Sector Grant	-	£500 each had been awarded to:
- Balance	£669.70	Deane Football Club
		New Bolton Somali Association
Highways Maintenance	-	
Budget - Balance	£0	

He reported that balances from the current year 2008-9 would be carried over into the coming year 2009-10, and that there was a new budget available through the area forum that had been provided from children's services budgets, the new budgets were as follows:

£29,780 Area Based Grant	-
£15,000 Area Forum Budget	-
£2,000 Voluntary Sector Grant	-
£10,245 Highways Maintenance	-
£10,000 Positive Contributions Grant	-

Resolved – That the report be noted.

32. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

The Chair invited attendees to ask questions and express any concerns they may have regarding the Rumworth area. The following were asked:

- How do you make a request to have lighting installed in a back street? -
- Would young people be involved in the decision making process for the new Positive contributions budget? -
- Written Question – Can anything be done to help pedestrians crossing High Street near its junction with Derby Street? -
- Could anything be done with grassed areas to provide facilities such as a City farm or benches? -
- Could the horseshoe area at the back of Croston Street be cleaned up and shrubs removed as the area was full of rubbish that had been dumped? -

Resolved – That the questions be noted and any not answered be reported back to the next meeting.

33. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Kay closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and informed residents that the next Rumworth Area Forum would take place on Wednesday 21st May 2009 at 6.00pm, Venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 6.50pm and finished at 8.00pm)