

TONGE WITH THE HAULGH AREA FORUM

MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH, 2015

Present – 11 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Peel	- Tonge with The Haulgh Ward
Councillor Sherrington	- Tonge with The Haulgh Ward

Also in attendance

Idris Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Jane Bickerstaffe	- Business Support Officer
Mark Hoban	- Environmental Services
Sam Higham	- Bolton at Home
Paula Rowson	- Bolton at Home
Eileen Gaffney	- Fusion Centre
Sharon Matthews	- Fusion Centre
Insp Wayne Readfern	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Tom Burton	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by David Crausby MP and Councillor Martin Donaghy.

Councillor Sherrington in the Chair

8. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Sherrington welcomed everyone and introduced herself, Councillor Peel and other Officers in attendance.

Councillor Sherrington then invited Inspector Wayne Readfern to address the meeting regarding an arson attack on Eldon Street earlier that day. This followed another incident on 2nd March on the same street. Inspector Readfern informed residents that a man had been arrested and he assured them that the investigation into the incidents would be on going.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

10. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th July, 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

11. PRESENTATION – FUSION CENTRE AND MEADOWSIDE CENTRE

Councillor Sherrington introduced Paula Rowson, Community Development Officer, Bolton at Home and Eileen Gaffney and Sharon Matthews, volunteers from the Fusion Centre, who gave a presentation on the Fusion Centre and the Meadowside Community Centre. The main points were as follows;

Fusion Centre:

Background;

Initial discussions were held with a variety of community groups and Resident Associations in 2012.

Since February 2014 Fusion Group have organised a variety of community events such as;

- Fusion Opening Event
- Christmas Party for Children
- Big Local Recycling Event
- Community First Celebration Event
- Christmas Party for Adults
- University of Bolton
- CVS Over 50's

What's on at Fusion Centre?

- Christine's Crafts (adult craft sessions)
- Art Workshops (adult art class)
- Little Tiptoes (baby and toddler group)
- Scrapbooking Sessions
- Monthly Games Nights (adults only)
- Craft a Story (story-telling and crafts for 5-13 year olds)
- On Your Own Club (fortnightly coffee morning)
- Fusion Café
- Cinema Club

Future Plans;

- Continue to support residents needs
- Internet Youth Café
- Afterschool Club

- Breastfeeding Support Group
- Adult Internet Classes/Dry Bar
- Room Hire i.e. Foster Carers Support Group
- Offer rooms for events etc.
- Recruit more volunteers

Fusion Centre has been supported by;

- Local Councillors
- Bolton at Home Neighbourhood Management
- Forrest
- Mojo Trust
- CVS
- Co-op
- Community First
- Adboards

The Council has allocated £500,000 to the Community Empowerment Fund. All community groups and organisations are able to apply for assistance from this fund.

Meadowside Community Centre:

Background;

- Located at 1 Meadowside Avenue, the property had been used for a number of years as Eastfield Community Centre.
- In April 2014 the local Residents Association, whose committee managed the property, dissolved as a result of ill health and lack of volunteers.
- A group of elderly residents from the Association meet as an informal social group 2-3 times a week.
- Bolton at Home and the local Councillors continue to support the centre.

What happened next?

- Spruce up the centre. Help was received from the following;
 - Raise the Youth
 - Bolton at Home Employee Volunteering Scheme
 - The Golden Oldies
 - Donations from B&Q
 - Paint donations from Redfords
- Continue to support activities and develop the informal group
- Make more links with other services in the area

- Promote the centre
- Broaden its use in response to local need

Golden Oldies;

- Bolton at Home officers work closely with the group to support them in delivering sessions and to attract new members.
- The group constituted as “The Golden Oldies” in February and are now actively looking to source funding, (such as Awards for All) in order to deliver activities for elderly residents from the building, including Bingo, Coffee Mornings and chair based exercises. Also monthly talks on topics such as dementia awareness, keep warm for less, healthy eating, history, Mountain Rescue and trips out.

Open Event – Over 80 people attended including children and families who enjoyed all the activities on offer.

Christmas Event – This event focused on the young people in the area and had lots of fun activities for them to participate in.

Youth Provision – With lots of young people living in the area, and a lack of youth provision locally, Bolton at Home and the local Councillors have commissioned Zacs Youth Bar to deliver weekly sessions from the centre.

Police Links;

- Issues have been reported in the area around Anti-Social Behaviour. Local PCSO's have therefore been very supportive of any developments from the centre
- A commitment has been made to hold monthly police surgeries the last Thursday of every month
- Local PCSO Paul Lally has been heavily involved in promoting youth activity from the centre

More information;

If you would like any more information about the centre or would like to get involved please contact Sarah Taylor on 01204 329653 or email sarah.taylor@boltonathome.org.uk

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

Resolved – That the presentations be noted

12. UPDATE ON AREA FORUM BUDGETS

Councillor Sherrington introduced Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, who gave a brief overview on budgets available to the Area Forum for 2013-15.

The Flat Rate Budget has all been allocated.

With regard to the Highways Maintenance Budget of £19,200, Members have allocated all of the funds to the following project:

- Resurfacing and two new gully pots for Edditch Grove at a cost of £29,000. A financial contribution was also received from the Highways Department.

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

Resolved – That the update, together with the projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, be noted.

13. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Sherrington 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.

- Q1 A resident said that although road repairs had been carried out quite recently on Ainsworth Lane, cracks were already present as the surface material was of poor quality. He asked why the whole of the road was not repaired instead of just patching certain areas.
- A Councillor Sherrington explained that Highways would have assessed the whole road before carrying out the most needed repairs. However, these comments would be passed onto the Highways Department for a response. Councillor Sherrington also suggested that someone from the Highways Department could be invited to a Forum meeting in the future.

Q2 Another resident was concerned about the condition of the road surface on Crompton Way approaching Thicketford Road from Bury Road. He said it was very uneven with a lot of potholes that need urgent repair.

A This would be referred to Highways for their attention/action.

Q3 Issues were brought up by a resident re the land at the back of Le Mans Crescent (Cheadle Square) in Bolton Town Centre being used as student accommodation.

A Councillor Sherrington suggested that the resident writes to the Planning Department with their objections/comments.

Q4 A resident commented about an aroma from the scrap metal yard on Oakenbottom Road and asked if the owner had got the legal right to dispose of food waste.

A Councillor Sherrington explained that although the application was first rejected by the Planning Committee, the owner had appealed, won and been given a licence to recycle waste. All recycling on the site is managed/monitored by the Environment Agency and anyone wishing to make a complaint or share their concerns should contact them.

Q5 When Greater Manchester holds the Mayoral Elections in 2017, will issues that are usually controlled by central government, be dealt with locally? If so, what extra powers will local government have?

A Councillor Sherrington said she couldn't comment on this at the moment, but there would be a period of consultation nearer the time when members of the public could have their say.

Q6 A resident said he had noticed a Parking Attendant was often parked outside the UCAN Centre on Tonge Moor Road in a Smart car and he asked why it was necessary for them to issue a fine when he was only parked for 51 seconds with his front wheels in a restricted area.

A Councillor Sherrington explained that the Parking Attendant would have to follow the law and if it was broken they would issue a fine.

Q7 Another resident asked how many people had been fined in The Haulgh area for dropping litter?

A Environmental Services would be asked for a response.

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

14. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Sherrington thanked everyone for attending and stated that the date and venue of the next Area Forum Meeting was yet to be confirmed. As and when it was people would be informed through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 6.40pm and finished at 7.56pm)