

SOUTH TURTON AREA FORUM

MEETING, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2007

Present – 45 Members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor P. Brierley (Chairman)	- Bradshaw Ward
Councillor Mrs. D. Brierley	- Bradshaw Ward
Councillor N. Critchley	- Bromley Cross Ward
Councillor A. Wilkinson	- Bromley Cross Ward

Also in attendance

Mr. A. Donaldson	- Chief Executive's Department
Mr. I.D. Mulholland	- Legal and Democratic Services Department
Mr. I. Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Ms. S. Sameja	- Area Co-ordinator
Mr. S. Arnfield	- Corporate Resources Department
Mr. A. McCreesh	- Environmental Services Department
Mrs. B. Newman	- Legal and Democratic Services Department
Ms. H. Longworth	- Chief Executive's Department
Mr. K. Durkin	- Adult Services Department
Mr. J. Evans	- Environmental Services Department
Ms A. Kaye	Positive Contributions Division
Mr C. McIver	Positive Contributions Division
Mr W. Waring	Environmental Services Department

Mr A. McGlone

Development and
Regeneration Department

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Mayor, Councillor Greenhalgh and Mr. D. Crausby, MP.

Councillor P. Brierley in the Chair.

22. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor P. Brierley welcomed Members, Officers and the public to the meeting.

23. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the South Turton Area Forum held on 6th December, 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record.

24. NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Mr. Kevin Durkin from the Adult Services Department informed the Forum of the recent formation of the Neighbourhood Network for Older People as a pilot in Bolton. It was explained that the Network had worked well to date and during the pilot had looked at particular issues affecting older people.

Mr. Durkin went on to explain that partly due to the success of the Older Peoples Network and with the support of Age Concern, it was now planned to develop a Befriending Scheme covering the South Turton area. Mr Durkin stated that this scheme would be run by volunteers and invited members of the Forum to get involved.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

25. COUNCIL BUDGET

Mr. Steve Arnfield of the Corporate Resources Department, gave a presentation to the Forum which outlined the overall budget

position for 2007/08, the impact of Council Tax and also sought the views of Members of the Public on the budget allocation.

The Forum was advised that for 2007/08 central Government Funding had increased by 3.2% for general services and 6% for schools. The funding for schools was by way of a direct grant. The Government had also indicated a wish for Council Tax rises to be below 5%.

Mr. Arnfield also mentioned that as per last year the Council was losing Government grants monies to protect other Council's in England.

Mr. Arnfield went onto explain that the budget for 2007/08 would be about £352 million.

The increase in the direct grant for schools would be approximately £10 million, Capital Projects including road schemes would receive an extra £1 million, inflation would result in an increase of £12 million, waste collection and recycling would increase by £1.5 million and other charges including the Passenger Transport Authority and Waste Disposal Authority would require an extra £2 million.

The Forum was advised that if Council Tax was set at 4% then there would be a budget shortfall of £10.8 million.

Mr. Arnfield explained that Departments of the Council had been asked to identify savings of 7% which amounted to £11.3 million, compared to the £10.8 million pounds required to balance the budget.

The Forum was advised that Council Tax was likely to be around 4% or below, but the Council now needed to consider its options including the level of Council Tax for 2007/08.

In conclusion, the public were encouraged to complete and return a questionnaire which had been circulated, principally seeking views on how the Council's budget should be allocated and what level the Council tax should be.

Various comments and questions were responded to which related to the following:-

- year on year Council Tax rises which were difficult for some residents to afford;
- the Bridgeman Street/Trinity Street traffic scheme being a waste of public funding;
- the amount the Council was paying in interest on its borrowings; and
- planning financially for the next generation.

Resolved - That the position be noted.

26. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND, 2006-2008

The Area Co-ordinator advised Members of two projects for Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF), 2006-2008.

By way of background information, the Forum was advised that the South Turton Area Forum had received an allocation from the Council's NRF of £33,000 for the period September, 2006 to March, 2008. This money was to be used to fund projects which aimed to reduce deprivation in the Forum area.

The Forum was advised that the schemes for consideration were:-

- (a) Crucial Crew - A scheme designed to send local pupils to attend a half day session attended by representatives from various agencies, at which advice was given on looking after themselves. This ranged from fires in

the kitchen to preventing
binge drinking.

The scheme sought funding amounting to £1,400.

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| (b) | GMFS
Youth
Initiative | - A six week initiative for
young people at which
identified youths attend
one evening a week. |
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The scheme sought funding amounting to £1,215.35.

In conclusion, it was explained that if the above schemes were approved, then this would leave the Forum with £32,385.65 for allocation during 2006-2008.

Resolved – That approval be given to both of the schemes, as now indicated to be funded, from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, 2006-2008.

27. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE BUDGET

The Area Co-ordinator advised Members of two schemes for funding from the Highways Maintenance Budget, 2006/07.

By way of background information, the Forum was advised that the South Turton Area Forum had received an allocation from the Council's Highways Maintenance Partnership Budget of £19,600 for the period up to March, 2007.

The Forum was advised that the schemes for consideration were:-

- (a) Bradshaw Ward

The reconstruction of a footway from
Tottington Road to Recreation Street.
Cost, £9,800.

- (b) Bromley Cross Ward

The resurfacing of footway on Hillside Avenue.
Cost, £9,800.

It was explained that if both schemes were approved, then the Forum's funding allocation for 2006/07 would be fully spent.

Resolved – That approval be given to both of the schemes for funding from the Highways Maintenance Budget, 2006/07.

28. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS

The Forum was advised of the receipt of four applications for Voluntary Sector Funding, viz:-

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| (a) | Eagley Garden Club | - | A request for £500 to purchase garden equipment and the funding of artist design works. |
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The total cost of the scheme was £700.

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| (b) | 35th Bolton East Scout Group | - | A request for £500 towards the cost of replacement storage heaters. |
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The total cost was £1,200.

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| (c) | Egerton Cricket Club | - | A request for £500 towards the cost of purchase of a street storage container to prevent the loss of equipment. |
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The total cost was £900.

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| (d) | 5th Bolton (1st Eagley) | - | A request for £479.96 for the purchase of new tents. |
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Scout
Group

Resolved – That approval be given for the grant of the following Voluntary Sector Funding:-

- Eagley Garden Club. £100 for the purchase of garden equipment only;
- 35th Bolton East Scout Group. £500 as requested;
- Egerton Cricket Club. £500 as requested; and
- 5th Bolton (1st Eagley) Scout Group. £479.96 as requested.

29. OPEN FORUM QUESTION TIME

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

- (a) A comment from a representative of the Bolton Homewatch Scheme that residents should delay putting out bottles the night before collection owing to youths using them to cause damage.
- (b) A question regarding the position relating to the status of two trees at the, Daysprings Shady Lane.

It was indicated that this would be explored and a response would follow.

- (c) A question regarding a possible academy/housing development adjacent to Stitch -Mi-Lane, Harwood. This would create traffic problems and loss of open farm land.

It was explained that this matter was currently at the pre-application stage and so the Council had not received any formal proposals.

- (d) A question regarding the possible health implications from the erection of mobile telephone masts.

The problem of such matters going to appeal and an inspector overturning the decision of the Planning Committee was also mentioned.

The Forum was advised that various checks were carried out relating to safety matters prior to erection. It was explained that Councillors had tried to have meetings with the various companies to identify appropriate sites for the erection of such masts.

- (e) A question relating to what Councillors' views were on the erection of wind turbines.

It was indicated that a Policy Guidance Note on the issue was being prepared.

- (f) A question regarding parking problems on Belmont View in the vicinity of Hardy Mill School.

The Forum was advised that the Car Parking Enforcement Team had visited the location. A response from the Police was currently awaited.

- (g) A question regarding pavement flags on Bradshaw Hall Drive, in that some replacements did not visibly match properly.

The Forum was advised that the laying of the correct thickness of flagstone was essential to comply with regulations. Unfortunately, there were currently no flagstones available in the

correct colour and thickness.

- (h) A question regarding the poor condition of the pavement between the Seven Stars Public House and the Post Office in Bradshaw.

The poor condition of railings in the area was also highlighted.

It was explained that this stretch of pavement was owned by the shops and, therefore, the responsibility for maintenance lay collectively with the shop owners.

- (i) A question regarding whether the building work being undertaken on Top o'th' Notts was in accordance with agreed plans.

It was indicated that this matter would be explored in terms of the original planning consent.

- (j) A question regarding the possible breaking of a covenant agreement in relation to properties at Bradshaw Hall.

It was explained that the issue of enforcement action would be explored.

- (k) A question regarding the status of the car park on Longsight Lane, in that it was currently in poor condition and badly illuminated. Furthermore, the car park was not used by the park users and this caused parking difficulties in other areas in the vicinity.

The Forum was advised that possible resolutions to these problems would be explored.

- (l)

A comment that the 30mph speed warning sign on Hardy Mill Road was still not working.

It was indicated that this would be looked at again.

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

30. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor P. Brierley then closed the meeting and thanked Council Members, Officers and the public for their attendance.

31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 28th March, 2007 at T:Mac College.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.40 p.m.)

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