

FARNWORTH AREA FORUM

WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2015

Present – 43 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Jean Gillies	- Farnworth Ward
Councillor Asif Ibrahim	- Farnworth Ward
Councillor Noel Spencer	- Farnworth Ward

Also in attendance

John Pye	- Neighbourhood Manager
Stephen Rowson	- Chief Executive's Department
Janet Pollard	- Environmental Services
Kathryn Carr	- Development & Regeneration
Steven Knowles	- St Modwen
David Nuttall	- St Modwen
Simon Ho	- Transport for Greater Manchester
Sandra Robinson	- Transport for Greater Manchester
PC Dawn Halliday	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Neil Wogan	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies were received from Yasmin Qureshi MP

Councillor Gillies in the Chair.

8. INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Gillies welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the other Councillors and Officers in attendance.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

11. PRESENTATION – FARNWORTH TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Gillies introduced Kathryn Carr from Bolton Council's Development and Regeneration Department who outlined the Town Centre Development and introduced the following two presenters and their presentations:

David Nuttall from St Modwen Properties Plc who gave a presentation about the Town Centre Development in relation to their companies proposed developments

The main points were:

- Planning application
 - Submitted 23rd December
 - Officer recommendation for approval
 - Anticipated decision by the end of February following planning committee
- New marketing phase now 'live'
- Retail specialists Brady's instructed to find occupiers
- Conversations ongoing with several retail occupiers
- Also in negotiations with a gym/leisure operator for the first floor
- If all continues on target, an opening could occur in autumn 2016
- The plan was for five retail units plus the upper floor
- As per the planning application all units were to be classified for A1 use

Simon Ho from Transport for Greater Manchester gave a presentation about the Town Centre Development in relation to the Bolton – Salford corridor Transport Strategy

The main points were:

- Growth Deal overview
- The area the corridor covers
- What the aims were
- How proposals were developing
- The three areas being looked at and what the issues, potential solutions and potential benefits were for each:
 - Area 1 – Manchester Road B6536 (Bolton)
 - Area 2 – Farnworth Town Centre (Bolton)
 - Area 3 – A666 Farnworth – Kearsley (Bolton)
- What next?

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

Resolved – That the presentations be noted

12. AREA FORUM BUDGET UPDATE

Councillor Gillies introduced John Pye, Neighbourhood Manager who gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum for 2013-15 as follows:

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£0.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£19,200.00

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following schemes had been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2013-15 budget:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
<u>Pot</u>		
AFB	Bin - 84a Rawson Street Farnworth	£500.00
AFB	Highfield Hall Activity Programme	£1,250.00

AFB	Quid a Kid Scheme	£1,250.00
AFB	Farnworth Parents' Group - resurface path	£500.00
AFB	Bin - Harper Green Road	£500.00
AFB	Buckley Lane	£750.00
AFB	Ashworth St	£1,000.00
AFB	Francis St Traffic count	£561.00
AFB	Gladstone Rd parking signs	£120.00

13. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Gillies 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 number of questions were raised regarding Litter, fly tipping and dog fouling in general across Farnworth and especially litter around Kildare Street and fly tipping around the train station. It was asked if young offenders could help with clear ups. One resident noted she had passed specific information on to the council with no results.
- A Residents were advised that with the issues of fly tipping, litter and dog fouling the more information on culprits passed on the more chance of them being caught. Particular days or times it was occurring, registration numbers or even names all could be useful. Regarding community payback it was possible but there was a long waiting list of areas they were tackling. The resident who had passed information on and it had not been actioned was asked to pass on details to John Pye the Neighbourhood manager who would investigate.
- Q2 What was happening with the spare land at the top of Market Street?
- A The planning permission for dwellings was still active but given the current housing market the developer had not started to build as yet.

- Q3 What was happening with the 106 money from Tesco?
- A The funds were currently in the bank, it was waiting for the planning application so that it could be used in and around the town centre development.
- Q4 A resident stated that there were 38 vulnerable people with various problems at Maxton House who were in danger from speeding cars using the many openings around Maxton House as a rat run. Could something be done before a resident was killed?
- A Members would raise this issue with the police to get it looked into and to take whatever action was possible.

A resident offered thanks to John Pye, local businesses and councillors for the Christmas tree and lights that had been a great success.

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

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Gillies thanked everyone for attending and stated that the date, time and venue of the next Area Forum Meeting was still to be set. As and when it was people would be informed through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 7.04pm and finished at 8.12pm)