HULTON AREA FORUM

MEETING – Thursday 17th July, 2014

Present – 33 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Phil Ashcroft	-	Hulton Ward
Councillor Diane Parkinson	-	Hulton Ward
Councillor Alan Walsh	-	Hulton Ward

Also in attendance

Pauline Dixon	-	Neighbourhood Manager Rumworth/Area Working Lead
Jane Bickerstaffe	-	Business Support Officer
John Davies	-	Environmental Services
Chris Davidson	-	Harworth Estates
PCSO Chris Knott	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Katherine Gray	-	Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by Yasmin Qureshi MP.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Walsh welcomed everyone and introduced the other Councillors and officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th February 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON CUTACRE/LOGISTICS NORTH

Councillor Walsh introduced Chris Davidson from Harworth Estates, who provided an update on the proposals for the Cutacre/Logistics North project. The main points were:

- Aldi have commenced ground works on their plot (Plot D) for a 450,000 distribution facility
- Aldi's building work will commence around September 2014 with occupation early 2016
- MBDA commence works on Plot B1 at the end of this month with completion targeted for the end of 2015
- The Phase 1 Infrastructure (main spine road, drainage and utilities) to open up the West of the site will commence around the end of July 2014
- Harworth Estates intend to continue with the Phase 2 Infrastructure (link road) to open up the Eastern Development land
- The J4 works are set to commence later this year, as do the offsite S278 highway works
- The design of the Country Park and associated management strategies will be submitted to the three authorities for approval in the next week
- Upon receipt of approval, Harworth Estates will commence the construction of the Phase 1 (West of the site) Country Park and complete within 21 months of receipt of approval
- The Phase 2 Country Park will be delivered within 33 months if not sooner to meet occupational demand on the eastern parcel
- Harworth Estates intend installing a marketing suite to the front of the site in the next 6 months

A number of questions were asked and answered on the night and those that were not answered would be investigated by Mr Davidson.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. UPDATE ON BUDGETS AND PROJECTS

Councillor Walsh introduced Pauline Dixon, Neighbourhood Manager Rumworth/Area Working Lead, who gave an update on budgets and projects devolved to the Area Forum for 2013-15 financial years as follows:

Budgets carried forward from 2012/13 – £3814
Since the last meeting the following priorities have been awarded:

- Repair to the carriageway at Longfield Road, total cost £11,295

Area Forum Flat Rate Balance £0

Budgets for 2013/14 and 2014/15 are as follows:

Budgets devolved to the Area Forum

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget – Allocation £13,750

Highways Maintenance Budget – Allocation £19,200

- Repairs to the carriageway at Longfield Road – total cost £11,295 (breakdown; £3,814 contribution from 2011-13 Flat Rate Budget, £5,000 contribution from Highways and £2,481 from the 2013-15 Highways Maintenance Budget).

Highways Maintenance Budget Balance is £16,719

A number of questions were asked and answered at the meeting.

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

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Walsh 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 Hulton Ward.

A resident submitted a question in advance of the forum and this was read out first, a response was provided as follows:

Q1 The resident said he was concerned about the Cutacre Site's visual impact from the A6 looking south over the site. He was concerned about the height of the planned buildings and how imposing they will be. For example the recent Refuse Centre included a domestic development which incorporated a huge shed that now dominates the skyline. Could this be taken into account in the Cutacre development and soften the impact of the buildings as much as possible?

A Response from Tim Hill, Chief Planning Officer: Outline planning permission has been granted for the Logistics North Bolton site and this contains overall height limits which vary across the site, as well as general details of landscaping. The impact of individual buildings, within the overall height parameters, will be assessed when the reserved matters planning applications for detailed layout and design for each are submitted, and the impact from the A6 can and will be taken into account then. Nevertheless, it would inevitably be the case that these could be large scale industrial buildings so will inevitably have some effect on views across the site. Two detailed planning consents have now been granted, to Aldi for a regional distribution centre and to MBDA for industrial and office uses. Both of these are on the western half of the site, but are set back from the A6.

Q2 A resident said she was concerned about the remaining part of the playing fields on Hulton Lane that have not been turned into football pitches, as people were walking their dogs and not cleaning up after them, making it an unsuitable area for children to play on.

A This would be referred to the Dog Warden for investigation.

Q3 A resident reported that some of the hedges on the A6 needed to be cut back as they were causing an obstruction. He also commented that litter between the island and Viridor building along the A6 was a problem and cycle lanes were also overgrown.

A These issues would be referred to Environmental Services for their attention.

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

7. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Walsh thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting of the Hulton Area Forum would be on Thursday 5th February, 2015, but the venue is yet to be confirmed. However, residents on the e-mailing list will receive invites and the meeting will also be advertised on the Councils website and in the Bolton News.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.06pm)