

WESTHOUGHTON WITH CHEW MOOR AREA FORUM

MEETING, WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY 2014

Present – 18 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor David Chadwick	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Martyn Cox	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor Chris Peacock	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor

Also in attendance

PC Burrows	GMP
PCSO Hardy	GMP
PCSO Moore	GMP
Mark Grundy	Bolton CVS
Wendy Stephens	Bolton Community Transport
Lucy Heaton	Environmental Services
John Shannon	Area Co-ordinator
Sue Vickers	Business Support Officer
	Chief Executives

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Julie Hilling MP, Councillor Kevan Jones and Councillor Anna-Maria Watters.

Councillor David Chadwick in the Chair.

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME.

Councillor Chadwick welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced fellow Councillors, Westhoughton Town Councillors and Bolton Council Officers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None declared

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2014 were agreed and approved as a correct record subject to minute 13 'Budgets' being amended so as to read:-

Highways Maintenance Budget:
Allocation - £38,400 (£19,200 per ward)
Balance - £38,400
Area Forum Flat Rate Budget:
Allocation - £27,500 (per ward)
Balance - £27,500.

4. Volunteering Opportunities

Councillor Chadwick introduced Mark Grundy, Bolton CVS, who gave a presentation of volunteering opportunities, covering:

- The purpose of Bolton CVS
- The benefits of volunteering
- How the CVS support groups and organisations
- Key achievements and activities at the Volunteer Centre
- Funding and Development
- The Small Grants Programme

CVS contact details:

Bolton CVS – www.boltoncvs.org.uk
Tel: 01204 546026
Address: The Bolton Hub
Bolt Street
Bolton
BL1 1LS
Email: admin@boltoncvs.org.uk
Grants: mark@boltoncvs.org.uk
Volunteering: heather@boltoncvs.org.uk
www.do-it.org.uk

Questions were then invited from residents and responses given on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. Update on Budgets

Councillor Chadwick introduced John Shannon, Area Co-ordinator, who gave a brief update on Forum funding allocation for 2013/14 and 2014/15:

Highways Maintenance Budget;

Area Forum Allocation – £38,400 (£19,200 per ward) Balance - £25,551

(Westhoughton North & Chew Moor balance - £6,351,
Westhoughton South balance – £19,200)

Schemes approved since last meeting;

Westhoughton North & Chew Moor - Resurface the footway at 552 to 556 Bolton Road and patch and overlay with slurry seal the footway at 525 to 573 Bolton Road - £12,849

It was explained that the budget is to be used for maintenance of the highways asset only including; reconstruction, refurbishment, patching and slurry seal works.

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget;

Area Forum Allocation – £27,500 (£13,750 per ward) Balance - £27,187

Schemes approved since last meeting; - Dispose of old nameplate and replace with new one showing roadways off Waters Nook Road - £313

Westhoughton North & Chew Moor balance - £13,437,
(Westhoughton South Balance – £13,750)

It was explained that budgets are to be used on projects which benefit residents of Westhoughton with Chew Moor.

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

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Councillor Chadwick 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 Westhoughton with Chew Moor Forum area;

Q1 A written question had been received highlighting concern about the collection of all three bin types. The burgundy bin had not been emptied because a pane of greenhouse glass had been put in it. The bin men had also removed a plastic watering can and put it in the road. The grey bin had been left unemptied as shredded garden waste had been placed in it. If two bins are left outside one house, only one was emptied.

A Guidance was given on what is permitted in each type of bin and on cross-contamination. The question regarding the grey bin not being emptied due to garden waste would be referred to the appropriate Department.

Q2 Bin men were tipping the contents of partially filled beige bins into burgundy bins?

A This will be referred to the appropriate Department.

Q3 A written question was asked, were speed bumps legal if there was no speed limit sign displayed? There was particular concern over their presence in Chew Moor, in Armadale Rd and St John's Rd, and in their deteriorating condition in other locations.

A As long as a Traffic Regulation Order is in place a speed limit is legal, with or without humps. There was no budget to remove humps however the deteriorating humps will be referred for inspection to the appropriate Department.

Q4 Can the times for concessions be reviewed for Horwich and Westhoughton Leisure Centres? The facilities were now underutilised before 9.30am and there was congestion in the evenings.

A This will be referred to the appropriate Department.

Q5 Dog fouling on pavements and footpaths is again a problem in Chew Moor. What can be done?

A This will be referred to the appropriate Department

Q6 When fly tipping on Lostock Lane was recently reported residents were informed due to cutbacks it would take up to three weeks to remove.

A The target for removal was within three weeks due to reductions in this service required as a result of the need to make savings. This tipping had been removed within 7 days.

Q7 Local health facilities seem to have moved out of Westhoughton, people have to go to Blackrod Clinic to have stitches removed.

A Due to increased regulation regarding the provision of treatment room services a number of services were removed from Westhoughton Clinic as the building could not be adapted to meet these new standards. These services would be provided in Winifred Kettle and would include a full treatment room service allowing the management of leg ulcers and other clinical interventions such as injections, dressings, taking stitches out, post-surgical wound care and dressings for minor burns and lacerations to take place in addition to physiotherapy and

podiatry. This would return a service to the west of Bolton previously lost due to the lack of appropriate clinical space, it was hoped this new facility would in place by mid-2015.

Q8 Why did the Council close the Council Depot Yard in Westhoughton?

A The yard was no longer required due to the reorganisation of refuse collection services on a boroughwide basis.

Q9 Why do Councillors not discuss issues which are important to local people with the press?

A Recent reports in the press about Councillors not speaking to the press applied to Town Councils. Bolton Ward Councillors do have discussions with the press; however there was no control over what was published.

Q10 Why was the contact phone number for Cllr Sean Harkin a Town Hall number?

A Councillors can opt to use their own number or a Town Hall number.

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

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Chadwick thanked everyone for attending and informed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th March 2015, 6.30pm drop-in, 7.00pm main meeting.

(Meeting commenced at 7pm and ended at 7.58pm)