

LITTLE LEVER AND DARCY LEVER AREA FORUM

MEETING, 15th February 2010

Present – 53 members of the public attended the meeting.

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|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor Mrs Woodward
(Chair) | - | Little Lever and Darcy Lever
Ward |
| Councillor Connell | - | Little Lever and Darcy Lever
Ward |
| Councillor Hornby | - | Little Lever and Darcy Lever
Ward |

Also in attendance

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Adrian Wolstenholme | - | Area Co-ordinator |
| Dawn Hampton | - | Area Co-ordinator |
| David Spencer | - | Area Working Support Officer |
| John Rowlands | - | Chief Officer |
| Chris Lloyd | - | Business Systems Manager |
| John Davies | - | Senior Engineering Manager,
Environmental Services |
| Margaret Thornley | - | Community Housing Manager,
Bolton at Home |
| Esther Steel | - | Trust Secretary, Royal Bolton
Hospital |
| Eric Hyde | - | Elected Governor, Royal
Bolton Hospital |
| PC I Roby | - | Greater Manchester Police |
| PCSO M Pennington | - | Greater Manchester Police |
| PCSO A Parkinson | - | Greater Manchester Police |

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Dr B Iddon MP.

Councillor Mrs Woodward in the Chair.

19. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Mrs Woodward welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself, fellow councillors from the Little Lever and Darcy Lever ward, Area Co-ordinator Adrian Wolstenholme and all other Bolton Council officers and partners.

Councillor Woodward informed the meeting that the Area Forum had a new Area Co-ordinator as Adrian Wolstenholme was leaving his current role and would be replaced by Dawn Hampton. Councillor Woodward, on behalf of the elected members and the community thanked Adrian for all his hard work over the years and wished him well within his new role.

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th July were submitted as a correct record with the following comments:

A resident referred to the comments that were made at the previous meeting regarding the compliments, voiced by several attendees at the end of the meeting, regarding the business like, courteous and rational way in which the meeting had been conducted.

A comment was made regarding the consultation exercise undertaken by the council as to the new form of executive arrangements and why such consultation had not included the Area Forums. A response would be provided at the next forum.

21. LANCASTER DRIVE – FEEDBACK AND POSSIBLE TRAFFIC CALMING OPTIONS

Senior Engineering Manager John Davies, informed the meeting that following the initial Area Forum meeting back in July 2009 he was contacted by the Councillors to look at possible traffic calming options for Lancaster Drive.

Mr Davies advised that he had looked at the accident statistics for Lancaster Drive for the past 3 year in which, only 1 accident was recorded and resulted in a slight injury. Therefore traffic

Q3

calming through mainstream funding was not available as it did not meet the necessary criteria. However, if the Area Forum wished to fund a traffic calming measure this was possible.

The first step that was taken following the Area forum in July was a traffic count which was installed on Lancaster Drive in November 2009 but due to vandalism of the machine only 48 hours worth of data was collected.

Mr Davies went on to say that during the 48 hours worth of data which was received a total of 3,667 vehicles were recorded travelling in both directions of Lancaster Drive. Mr Davies showed details of the vehicles speeds and stated that the highest speed recorded was 58.9mph but the overall average speed was 23.6mph. Mr Davies informed that the traffic count figures only showed vehicles that were travelling over the 30mph speed limit and were as follows:

- 57 Vehicles were travelling at speeds of 35mph and over (1.6%)
- 293 vehicles were travelling at speeds of 30mph and over (8.0%)

Mr Davies went on to say that there were three options available to the Area Forum subject to receiving the necessary funding:

The cheapest option available was to introduce road safety markings which involved painting a safety marking at each end of the Lancaster drive Carriageway. However, Mr Davies advised that this would have a limited impact as drivers who were speeding would still more than likely drive the same way. This option would cost around £1,000 to install.

The second option was to introduce a 20mph limit on Lancaster Drive but due to legislation all the roads off Lancaster drive would have to have a 30mph sign at each entrance as these roads would remain at that speed. However, Mr Davies advised that the government were likely to change the legislation and then this would allow the whole estate to become a 20mph

Q4

zone. Therefore, if the change in legislation was approved the whole estate would become a 20mph zone with repeater signs through all the roads to remind drivers. The option would cost between £5,000 and £7,000 to introduce.

The third option was to introduce a 20mph zone; Mr Davies informed the meeting that even though this sounded the same as the 20mph limit they did have a significant difference. He went on to say that when introducing a 20mph zone it had to contain its own self policing measures and the most common way to do this was to insert traffic humps throughout the estate, excluding the cul-de-sacs. This option was the most expensive between £35,000 to £45,000 to introduce.

Mr Davies concluded his presentation and summarised that due to the low number of accidents on Lancaster Drive over the past 5 years a traffic calming measure would not be feasible through mainstream funding. However, the three options that were presented could be funded through the Area Forum if the councillors wished to do so.

Councillor Hornby informed the meeting that he was aware of 1 accident since the last meeting and asked if the residents were aware of any further incidents. None were received.

Following the presentation a number of questions and comments were received which were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

22. BUDGET UPDATE

Councillor Mrs Woodward introduced this item and informed the meeting that every Area Forum throughout Bolton had received a new budget delegated to their respective wards which was called the Positive Contributions Budget the amount allocated to every ward was £10,000 which had to be spent on young people within the ward.

Q5

Councillor Woodward advised that the Area Co-ordinator would provide further details within the full update but the Little Lever Area Forum had decided to delegate the Positive Contributions Budget to the local groups within Little Lever & Darcy Lever.

Area Co-ordinator Adrian Wolstenholme, updated residents at the meeting on the projects that had been funded throughout the current financial year. Mr Wolstenholme provided the following update:

Area Based Grant

Budget Available £5,060

- Hacken Lane – Remedial works £4,000

Balance Remaining £1,060

Area Forum Budget

Budget Available £26,438

- Contribution towards hiring of vehicles for Greater Manchester Police - £1,562
- Ongoing Maintenance of Village CCTV System - £900
- Football Fusion (Summer scheme) - £2,100
- Transport of Mytham Road Park Container - £760
- Ormond Street Yellow Lines - £110
- Community Event Little Lever Cricket Club - £1,000
- Fletcher Street Road Maintenance - £300
- Christmas Lights & Switch on - £1,563
- Traffic Count for Lancaster Drive - £500
- St Stephens Primary School Road safety Armbands - £300
- Access improvements to Moses Gate Country Park - £1,850
- Settle Street Pathway resurfacing - £7,495
- Gorses Road Highway resurfacing - £6,720

Balance remaining £778

Highways Maintenance Budget

Budget Available £10,522

- Slurry improvements to Bowness Road, Ulleswater Close, Ennderdale Close, Derwent Close, Cummock Close & Buttermere Close - £10,522

Balance Remaining - £0

Voluntary Sector Grant Budget

Budget Available £2515.84

- Love Little Lever – To purchase equipment to make environmental improvements to the area - £500
- Kings Church Little Lever – Funding towards community event at the church - £400
- Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal – Jointly funded with Kearsley Area Forum for the group to purchase equipment for clean up on the canal – £250
- Little Lever Tigers – Purchase kit for the under 13's team- £300

Balance Remaining £1,065.84

Positive Contributions Budget

Budget Available £10,000

- 22nd Farnworth Scout Group – To purchase a new PC, Printer and camping trip for the group - £1,000
- Little Lever Sports Club – To purchase football equipment for the youth teams - £1,000
- Kings Church – to purchase equipment for the youth group which is held on a Sundays - £1,000

Balance Remaining £7,000

Councillor Mrs Woodward informed the meeting that the ward councillors were currently speaking with other groups within the ward regarding allocating the remaining budget to them and advised that they would update further at the next Area Forum.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

23. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Woodward introduced the agenda item and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments that they felt necessary.

The following questions and comments were put forward at the meeting:

A number of questions were raised regarding Litter and dog fouling in Little Lever.

- Councillor Woodward responded and advised that the Area Forum would hold an Environmental themed meeting in the future to explore possible ways to improve the situation. Councillor Hornby also stated that in order for the Enforcement officer to carry out their duties they required the following information when trying to prosecute dog owners: Time of Walk, Frequency of Walk, Route Taken, Description of Dog, and Address of dog owner (if known) and location of dog fouling.

Dog fouling signs on Lancaster Drive were fading.

- Councillor Woodward advised that the Area Forum would take this issue back for comment.

Who was paying for the refurbishments of the current Little Lever Health Centre?

- Councillor Hornby commented and advised that the Primary Care Trust were paying for the current repairs that were needed to maintain the building and to keep within Health and Safety regulations until the new Health Centre

- The recycling bins had not been moved from their current location following the discussion at the previous Area Forum to move them near to the Conservative Club.
- Could a crossing not be installed where the current mini roundabout is on Market Street to help with residents crossing the road?
- What were the current plans for Pennine Pet Store site as this was looking very unattractive?
- was built.
- Councillor Hornby advised that the recycling officer was conscious about moving these to the new suggested location. This was due to the officer anticipating that less residents would use them if they were relocated.
 - Councillor Woodward commented by saying that this had been explored previously but due to road safety and the close proximity of the roundabout this would not be possible.
 - Councillor Hornby advised that originally there were plans for housing development. However, the developer had pulled out due to the current economic climate. Councillor Hornby went on to say that Council officers regularly visited the site to ensure that the site remained within Health & Safety regulations.

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

24. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Woodward concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the next Area Forum had not yet been decided and would be after the local elections and residents would be advised in due course.

(The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 8:15pm)