

KEARSLEY AREA FORUM

MEETING, 16th November 2009

Present – 42 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor M Rothwell (Chair)	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor Burrows	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor J Rothwell	- Kearsley Ward

Also in attendance

Dr Brian Iddon	- MP
Adrian Wolstenholme	- Area Co-ordinator
Lynne Ridsdale	- Forum Chief Officer
David Spencer	- Area Working Support Officer
Mark Hoban	- Environmental Services
Sean Wheeler	- Environmental Services
Heather Edwards	Royal Bolton Hospital
PC Andy Smart	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Amie Abram	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor M Rothwell in the Chair.

15. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Margaret Rothwell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the event and introduced herself, fellow Councillors from the Kearsley ward, Bolton Council officers and partners.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

17. TACKLING UNDERAGE DRINKING – GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

PC Andy Smart gave a presentation on the underage drinking issues within the Kearsley ward. PC Smart advised that the policing team were going to undertake a new method in tackling underage drinking and advised that they had launched Alcohol Watch, which was an operation that was conducted in the North East of England and delivered positive results.

PC Smart informed the meeting that the first steps of the operation were to put labels on the most popular drinks purchased by or on behalf of the youths. He advised that each label had a specification identification number which related back to the shop where it was purchased. PC Smart advised that they had 20,000 labels which were to be distributed between off licences in Kearsley, Prestolee, Stoneclough and some in the Farnworth Area.

PC Smart went on to say that the idea was when they confiscated alcohol from the youths or found empty cans and bottles in places such as parks they would be able to identify where the alcohol was purchased using the identification number on the label. They would then be able to monitor the shop to see who was purchasing alcohol for the youths and prosecute those responsible and if it was the shop themselves selling to underage youths prosecute the shop for breaking licensing laws.

PC Smart concluded his presentation by advising that shops did not have to comply as this was voluntary but for the shops who agreed to participate in the scheme they would receive regular spot check to see if they were putting the stickers on as required.

Following the presentation 12 questions were asked, which were all answered on the night by PC Smart and PC Abram.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

18. UPDATE ON YOUTH PROVISION

Area Co-ordinator Adrian Wolstenholme, gave an update on the youth provisions within the Kearsley ward. Mr Wolstenholme reminded residents of a presentation that Stuart Barnes from Zac's had delivered at the Area Forum meeting in May, which Stuart fed back consultation results from the young people at George Tomlinson School to see what facilities they would like to be introduced in and around Kearsley.

Mr Wolstenholme went on to say that Zac's were not yet in a position to give a further update on youth provision at this stage but did advise that funding was also an issue in providing more youth provisions in the area. Mr Wolstenholme went on to say that Children's Services had delegated a sum of £10,000 to the Kearsley Forum which had to be spent on young people within the Kearsley ward but some criteria had to be met when allocating this funding. Mr Wolstenholme did advise that commissioning Zac's would be the preferred option but nothing had been decided at this stage.

Mr Wolstenholme then advised that Zac's would prefer locating into the Prestolee area as there was very limited provision and informed that they were currently trying to locate a building for the club to run from. The two possible locations in Prestolee were the community centre adjacent to Prestolee Primary School and the old SATAB building on Crompton Road.

Stuart Barnes from Zac's concluded the presentation by informing that Zac's were also seeking funding from other sources outside the Council, and that they would prefer their own building as they felt a shared building would be too small and would have a limited jurisdiction on how the building space was used.

Following the presentation 3 questions were asked, which were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

19. UPDATE ON COLLECTION SERVICE

Assistant head of Environmental Services Mark Hoban, updated residents at the meeting on the current situation regarding the waste collection service. Mr Hoban advised that the reorganisation took place on 21st September this year and was aware of the problems most residents were currently receiving.

Mr Hoban went on to say that this reorganisation was the biggest change to the service in the last 25 years and that the Department was working hard to rectify the situation and thanked residents for remaining patient whilst this was taking place.

Mr Hoban informed the meeting that the major reason for this reorganisation was to reduce the annual fuel bill by £400,000 and one way to do this was to split the Bolton Borough into 5 zones for waste collections. This would mean all waste collection vehicles in the same zone on the same day.

Mr Hoban also advised that there was a separate service which was working over the weekends to clear the back log of collections and hoped that the service would be back to normal within the next few weeks.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

20. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Margaret Rothwell invited residents to ask any question or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Kearsley ward.

The following questions and comments were put forward:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. What was the update on the planning application to convert the barns on Seddon Fold Farm? | - Councillor Margaret Rothwell informed the meeting that an application was currently with the planning department but had not been submitted to the planning |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

committee.

2. A number of issues were raised regarding gaining access and who was in charge of Stoneclough Community Centre.
 - MP Dr Brian Iddon informed the meeting that he was currently liaising with the Chief Executive's department. Forum Chief Officer Lynne Ridsdale gave her commitment to work with colleagues and update residents at the next Area Forum.
3. What was the update on Kearsley Town Hall?
 - A number of applications had been submitted and there was currently one preferred option being discussed with the council's leadership.
4. Following the development of Fletchers Paper Mill in 2004/05 the gate posts were to be returned as part of the planning permission but had apparently been destroyed. What was the Council doing about this?
 - Councillor Margaret Rothwell advised she would look into this matter further and report back to a future meeting.
5. There was fly posting on Manchester Road and the roundabout for St Peters Way. Could this be removed?
 - Mark Hoban advised he would take the issue back and arrange for the fly posting to be removed.
6. The driver feedback sign on Stoneclough Road had been destroyed and thrown in the bushes. Could this be removed and reinserted?
 - Mark Hoban advised he would arrange for the sign to be removed from the hedge. However, Councillor Rothwell advised that the signs were designed to be alternated throughout the Kearsley Ward

Q6

and unlikely to be reinstalled at this point and would therefore move on to its new location.

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

21. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Margaret Rothwell concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the next Kearsley Area Forum would be held on 8th March 2010 from 6.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 8:50pm)