

WESTHOUGHTON WITH CHEW MOOR AREA FORUM

MEETING, THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2018

Present – 19 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor David Chadwick	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Martyn Cox	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor Zoe Kirk-Robinson	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor Anna-Marie Watters	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Christine Wild	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor David Wilkinson	- Westhoughton South

Also in attendance

John Shannon	- Area Co-ordinator
Marion Griffin	- Business Support Officer
Malcolm Fairhurst	- Department of Place
Sergeant Gary Howard	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Phil Burrows	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Keith Atherton	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Michelle Moore	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Victoria Hardy	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor David Chadwick in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME.

Councillor David Chadwick welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced fellow Councillors and Council Officers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors Chadwick, Kirk-Robinson, Watters and Wild declared an interest in item 5 (award to Howfen Radio) the approval was made under the Council's scheme of delegation.

Councillors Chadwick, Watters and Wild declared an interest in item 5 (award to Westhoughton Community Hub), the approval was made under the Council's scheme of delegation.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2017 were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION – WESTHOUGHTON POLICING UPDATE

Councillor David Chadwick introduced Sergeant Gary Howard who gave an update on policing in the Ward. The update was followed by any questions.

Sergeant Howard introduced the Neighbourhood Policing team:

- Neighbourhood Inspector Bev Anderson – Responsibility for Westhoughton, Horwich & Blackrod
- Sergeant Gary Howard
- PC Phil Burrows
- PCSO Keith Atherton
- PCSO Michelle Moore
- PCSO Victoria Hardy

Contact details for the team:

Westhoughton North: 0161 856 5687
13401@gmp.police.uk

Westhoughton South: 0161 856 5130
15537@gmp.police.uk

Sergeant Howard explained that PC Paul Griffiths would be retiring in early 2019. He was posted as a neighbourhood Officer in 2006 and had dedicated the last 12 years of his professional career to the town and the residents. His experience and knowledge would be sorely missed.

Update on crime reports

Sergeant Howard reported that when the total crime reports from 1st January to 31st October 2018 were compared with the same period in 2017 they appeared to be somewhat stable. In total 1426 in 2017 to 1489 in 2018.

- Domestic Burglary - Stayed the same (104 in 2017; 104 in 2018)
- Burglary Other - Reduced by 22 (53 in 2017 to 41 in 2018)
- Theft of Motor Vehicle - Increased by 27% (37 in 2017 to 47 in 2018)
- Theft from Motor Vehicle - Reduced by 11% - (110 in 2017 to 98 in 2018)
- Criminal Damage - Reduced by 10% - (150 in 2017 to 135 in 2018)

Sgt Howard provided advice to residents dealing with the following issues;

Neighbourhood Surgeries:

The neighbourhood surgeries scheduled for the Westhoughton area:

20/11/2018: 09:30 to 11.30 at John Holt Community Centre
29/11/2018: 12:00 to 13:00 at Westhoughton Market
04/12/2018: 09:30 to 11:30 at John Holt Community Centre
18/04/2018: 09:30 to 11:30 at John Holt Community Centre
27/12/2018: 12:00 to 13:00 at Westhoughton Market

Citizen's Charter:

Greater Manchester Police had spent 18 months listening to people across the city region as part of work to better understand and manage people's expectations of policing from this the Citizens' Charter evolved. The seven points of the Charter were:

1. The Police would provide easy access to services in the most appropriate way and we need you to make the right contact to the right agency at the right time.
2. The Police would share information with our partners to achieve better outcome and we need you to provide information to help tackle crime and make communities safer
3. The Police would use the resources we have responsibly, and we need you to understand and trust Police decision making on use of resources.
4. The Police would listen and help build strong communities and we need you to come together to actively keep communities safe.
5. The Police would make crime prevention advice available for all and we need you to protect yourself, your property, your family and communities
6. The Police would keep you informed and updated about policing and we need you to give the police your views and have your say on community safety.
7. We would provide opportunities to be part of policing to keep communities safe and we need you to be part of your community and consider being a part of policing.

A number of questions were asked and answered on the night following the presentation.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. UPDATE ON AREA FORUM BUDGETS

Councillor Chadwick introduced John Shannon who gave an update on budgets devolved to the Area Forum. The following approvals had been made since the last meeting:

Area Forum Budgets 2015/16 and 2016/17

Westhoughton North with Chew Moor

Area Forum Flat Rate; Allocation - £9,375 Balance £3,431

£250 award to Westhoughton Community Hub;

£150 award to Howfen Radio;
£2,038 to cover cost of replacement kissing gates on footpath connecting Bolton Road and Manchester Road;
£348 to cover cost of lawnmower and compressor at Lostock Sports Club;
£250 to support cost of Friends of Eatock Lodge Family Fun Day 2018;
£825 to cover cost of dropped kerb at Mossland Grove;
£150 to cover cost of Wellington Street "not through road" signage; and
£50 to cover cost of hire of hall at Westhoughton HS for community meeting.

Highways Maintenance Budget; Allocation - £19,200 Balance - £0

£1,750 resurface footpath at Hollin Acre; and
£10,350 to cover cost of resurfacing Snydale Close carriageway.

Westhoughton South

Area Forum Flat Rate; Allocation - £9,375 Balance - £3,403

£250 award to Westhoughton Community Hub;
£150 award to Howfen Radio;
£150 to cover cost of Wellington Street "not through road" signage;
£50 to cover cost of hire of hall at Westhoughton HS for community meeting;
£570 to cover cost of replacement railings at Hunts Bank, Daisy Hill; and
£250 to support cost of Friends of Eatock Lodge Family Fun Day 2018

Highways Maintenance Budget; Allocation - £19,200 Balance - £0

£3,000 to cover cost of tarmac footpath linking Hindley Road to New Drake Green;
£15,400 to cover cost of resurface of part of Hindley Road; and
£800 contribution to cost of traffic calming measures on Wearish Lane

Area Forum Budgets 2017/18

Westhoughton North with Chew Moor Ward

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget; Allocation - £3,750 Balance - £3,750

Highways Maintenance Budget - £9,600 Balance - £0

£9,600 to cover cost of resurfacing Snyderdale Close carriageway

Westhoughton South Ward

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget; Allocation - £3,750 Balance - £3,750

Highways Maintenance Budget - £9,600 Balance - £0

£9,600 to cover cost of resurface of part of Hindley Road

Resolved – That the update, together with the projects 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 area.

Q1. A resident raised concerns about a current planning application for a new industrial site on the west side of Wingates. They did not see the need for this development on green belt land.

A1. Those Councillors not on Planning Committee voiced their opposition to this proposal. Councillors Chadwick Kirk-Robinson and Wilkinson explained that as they were members of the Planning Committee they were restricted in what they could say, they would however take on board the concerns of Westhoughton residents. Councillor Kirk-

Robinson reported that she would declare an interest to voice concerns.

Q2. A resident asked when will Bolton Council produce its 5 year planning figure for new housing?

A2. Councillor Chadwick explained that a figure had been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate in 2012, however, this figure was challenged by the approval of housing developments following planning appeals to the Inspectorate in 2016. Public consultation on the target for future housing would commence in late 2018 or early 2019 as part of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework review.

Q3. A resident asked what was the role of Councillors in determining planning applications?

A3. Councillors sitting on Planning Committee vote on whether to approve or refuse more significant applications. Those Councillors not on Planning Committee can make representations to the Committee on behalf of residents. The Councillors had raised concerns about over development and increasing traffic congestion in Westhoughton as a result of proposed developments. Some applications had been refused permission at Planning Committee but were then approved on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, which was the Government agency which dealt with planning appeals.

Q4. A resident asked what was happening with the old farm building at Wingates?

A4. There is currently a live planning application for 6 to 7 dwellings to be built at this location.

Q5. A resident reported that they had viewed a recent planning application notice posted on King Street, the only option for comment or objection was by email, should residents not be able to send comments or objections in writing to a Town Hall address?

A5. Councillor Chadwick explained that the number of

staff in Planning Services had been reduced since 2010 due to savings required as a result of budget reductions. As a result the Council were trying to streamline their processes. The issue would be passed to Planning Services for response

Q6. A resident had reported flooding outside their dwelling on St James Road to the Council. The flooding was resolved after three weeks, however, two vehicles had attended and the resident thought one vehicle would have been sufficient.

A6. The issue would be passed to Highways Services for response.

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

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Chadwick thanked everyone for attending the meeting and advised that the date of the next meeting had yet to be confirmed, it would, however, be in the 2019/20 municipal year.

(Meeting commenced at 7.00pm and ended at 8.25pm)