

TONGE WITH THE HAULGH AREA FORUM

MEETING, 25TH March 2009

Present, 40 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Peel(Chair) - Tonge with the Haulgh Ward

Also in attendance

Idris Jeewa	-	Area Co-ordinator
Nicole Buhagiar	-	Area Working Support Officer
Peter Marsh	-	Assistant Director, Corporate Property Services
Nick Maher	-	Head of Policy, Improvement and Area Working
John Sharrock	-	Manager, Environmental Services
Colin Whitehead	-	Environmental Services
Neil Marten	-	Environmental Services
Sam Dowey	-	Neighbourhood Manager
Daniela Wesenberg	-	Environmental Services
Esther Steel	-	Royal Bolton Hospital
Susan Long	-	Assistant Chief Executive, NHS Bolton
Veronica Swinburne	-	Communications Manager, NHS Bolton
Jamie Winrow	-	Greater Manchester Police
PC 13346 Jennings	-	Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Sherrington and White

Councillor Peel in the Chair.

18. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Peel welcomed everyone and introduced Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, Peter Marsh, Assistant Director,

Corporate Property Services, and all other Council Officers present. He explained that the main themes of the meeting would be The Big Bolton Health Debate and environmental services in Tonge with the Haulgh.

19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January, 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20. THE BIG BOLTON HEALTH DEBATE

Susan Long, Assistant Chief Executive, NHS Bolton, gave a presentation on the Big Bolton Health Debate and the changes that were taking place in Bolton regarding health centres and facilities. She explained the “Triple Aim” of NHS Bolton that would lead to better health:

- Best Care
- Patient Centred Care
- Value For Money

Ms. Long explained that they had “Four Big Ideas” which would lead to improving the health of Bolton residents:

- Increasing life expectancy
- Increasing the life expectancy in certain areas of Bolton as some communities lived 15 years less than others
- Providing support and services that were easily accessible and, increasing the availability of early screening
- Encouraging residents to improve their own health

Ms. Long informed the Forum that NHS Bolton were focusing on certain priorities which would help to achieve the “Four Big Ideas”.

Health Outcomes for More Years of Life

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Disease (Stroke and Heart Attack)

- Diabetes
- Alcohol Related Disorders
- Respiratory Disease

Health Outcomes for Better Quality of Life

- Mental Health

Health Outcomes for the Next Generation

- Maternal and Child Health

The Assistant Chief Executive, NHS Bolton, explained that they needed to engage with the people of Bolton to find out what they wanted and needed. She invited Forum attendees to fill in a questionnaire concerning the future of the health service in Bolton. She explained that Bolton residents already felt their health was improving and premature deaths from heart attacks, cancers and strokes were preventable. She informed the Forum that NHS Bolton knew the health conditions that caused premature deaths in Bolton and the Big Bolton Health Check was already identifying people in the community at higher risk. The health centre plans would deliver new buildings for new services and, combined with the community improving their own health, their aims were achievable.

Ms. Long also informed the Forum that the average life expectancy in the Tonge with the Haulgh area was 72, and progress had been made regarding health in the area. An example of this was the fact that there had been a 35% reduction regarding smoking in Tonge with the Haulgh.

Following the presentation, Ms. Long invited Forum attendees to ask her any questions regarding the changes. A number of questions and comments were put forward:

- How were NHS Bolton dealing with stress related illnesses, as factors such as a rise in fuel bills were contributing to an increase in mental health disorders?
- Why did residents need to take two buses in order to gain access to the new health centres?

Q4

- Could a health centre be built in Bolton Town Centre?
- Could a physiotherapist be made available to the Tonge with the Haulgh area as was the case in Harwood?
- Why were residents from more affluent areas healthier in general?
- What was the situation regarding Dunscar Medical Centre?

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

21. BIG ISSUES UPDATE

Peter Marsh, Assistant Director, Corporate Property Services, gave a presentation regarding the progression of the Big Issues for the Tonge with the Haulgh area. He explained that the Big Issues for the area were:

- To reduce anti social behaviour in Tonge Moor, particularly regarding residents drinking on the streets.
- Tonge with the Haulgh had one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies in the Borough.
- There was a lack of suitable and appropriate play areas in the Haulgh.

Mr. Marsh explained that as it was the final Area Forum of the financial year, it was important to inform residents how available funding had been used to benefit their area. As an example of this he informed the Forum that the D.P.P.O. signs were in the process of being installed in the designated area of Tonge Moor. Also, regarding the play areas, he explained that the consultation would begin in April and Bolton Council would be working with children and young people in the area to ensure that the appropriate equipment was installed.

Following the presentation a number of questions and comments were put to Mr. Marsh and Councillor Peel:

- What age group would the play area be aimed at?

- Why had a substantial amount of money been spent on contamination tests for the area of land near Gloucester Street?
- Who would be policing the on street drinking ban as P.C. Winrow would be relocated in the near future?
- Could an on street drinking ban be introduced across the Borough?

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

22. BUDGET UPDATE

Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, gave a presentation on the subject of budgets and grants available to the Tonge with the Haulgh area. He explained that there were four areas to consider:

- Highways Maintenance Budget - £10,245
- Area Forum Budget - £25,000
- Area Based Grant - £19,060
- Voluntary Sector Grant - £2,000

Mr. Jeewa informed the Forum that these budgets and grants were allocated to support projects identified in the Forum area. The grants and budgets had been allocated as follows:

Highways Maintenance Budget:

Eldon Street resurfacing - £6,000
Back of Bury Road resurfacing - £4,245

Area Forum Budget:

Skipton Street barriers - £1,612

Balance remaining - £23,388
(To be carried forward to next year's Area Forum Budget)

Area Based Grant:

D.P.P.O. – On Street Drinking Ban - £1,000

Tonge Cemetary fencing - £16,060

Tree clearance on the Parish School site - £2000

Balance to spend - £0

Voluntary Sector Grants for Tonge with the Haulgh
Budget 2008/9

Less grants awarded to date this year under delegated
arrangements detailed in the Council's Scheme of Delegation

Firwood and Moorfield Estate Residents Association - £500

Haulgh Community Partnership - £500

Moorgate Court Residents Association - £140

Eldon Street Residents Association - £500

Firwood House Friendship Group - £360

Balance to spend - £0

Resolved – That the report be noted

23. THEME – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

John Sharrock, Business Performance and Planning Manager, Environmental Services, gave a presentation on environmental cleanliness and cleaner and greener issues, and the options available for dealing with this. He explained that the main aim was to change the attitudes of the public towards littering so they would stop causing unnecessary work. Mr. Sharrock also informed the Forum that good service delivery could be counter productive as it was assumed by the public that any litter would be cleared up after them. If an area was clear of litter, the health of the residents would improve and Mr. Sharrock explained that Bolton Council were working with the emergency services and the Voluntary Sector to try and achieve this.

The Business Performance and Planning Manager informed the Forum that there were four areas they were developing in

order to reach their target:

- Education and Community Development
- Enforcement
- Improve Service Delivery
- Physical Improvements

Following the presentation Mr. Sharrock asked Forum attendees to split into three groups and work with the three Environmental Services Officers present to discuss how improvements could be made in the Tonge with the Haulgh Ward. A discussion took place within the groups and the ideas put forward were:

- Educational advice could be printed in different languages
- The service could be improved by increasing the amount of wheelie bins and litter bins
- Owners of fast food outlets should be responsible for litter outside their establishment that was dropped by customers
- The media could be used to name and shame local businesses that act irresponsibly

Mr. Sharrock thanked the residents for their co-operation and explained that they would be taking away the information received to create action plans.

Resolved – That the report be noted

24. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Peel 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 Tonge with the Haulgh area. A number of questions were asked and comments made:

- Although there were signs up disallowing ball games, these were being ignored – what could be done about this?

- Could football be played on Moorgate School playing fields instead of on the street?
- Money had been spent on block paving on Tonge Moor Road so why were HGVs parking on the paving?
- Could children be paid a few pence to take bottles back to shops for recycling purposes?

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

25. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Peel concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the next Tonge with the Haulgh Area Forum would be held on Tuesday 26th May at the Ukranian Centre.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.10pm)