

12th JULY, 2006

NOTES OF THE MEETING

Present – 38 Members of the public attended.

Councillor Brierley	- Bradshaw Ward
Councillor Mrs. Brierley	- Bradshaw Ward
Councillor Greenhalgh	- Bromley Cross Ward
Councillor A. Wilkinson	- Bromley Cross Ward

Also in attendance

C. Parker	- Adult Services Department
Andrew Donaldson	- Chief Executive's Department
John Shannon	- Chief Executive's Department
Idris Jeewa	- Chief Executive's Department
Shaheen Sameja	- Chief Executive's Department
Tracy Egan	- Chief Executive's Department
Chris McCann	- Children's Services Department
Jodie Turton	- Development and Regeneration Department
Darren Hurst	- Environmental Services Department
Kevin Wright	- Environmental Services Department
John Evans	- Environmental Services Department
Colin Jenkins	- Environmental Services Department
Mike Williamson	- Legal and Democratic Services Department
G Luczka	- Youth Services Department
Dave Partington	- GMPTE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Critchley, Hall and David Crausby MP.

Councillor P. Brierley in the Chair.

Councillor Brierley welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of the South Turton Area Forum held on 8th March, 2006, were approved and signed as a correct record.

Mr. Colin Jenkins, Highways and Engineering Division, and Mr. Dave Partington from GMPTE gave a presentation on the issue of disability awareness in terms of ease of movement in urban areas, together with access to public transport.

Mr. Jenkins explained that some initial work had been undertaken in consultation with the Partnership Boards of Adults and Older People.

The key issues to aid disabled individuals included:-

- bus stops;
- shop mobility;
- pedestrianised areas;
- drop crossings;
- tactile pavements; and
- car parks.

The Forum was advised that a few pilot routes had been created in the town which had been made compliant with the latest disability legislation. It was also mentioned that the aim was to create 9 audit teams based on the area forums in order to monitor progress in this regard throughout the Borough.

Mr. Partington went on to explain the background to the work of GMPTE and referred to the Travel Training Programme being promoted. This was a programme of one to one support, based on an individual's needs. He highlighted the issues which included:-

- many take it for granted that individuals can travel;
- language barriers;
- exclusion;
- could limit social and educational work; and
- cost of taxis or Social Services transport.

The Forum was advised that the outcomes of Travel Training included:-

- increased independence;
- empowerment;
- social opportunities;
- employment and educational benefits;
- helped to meet HM Government Targets; and
- reduced transport demand on Council and assisted in lower budgets.

Mr. Partington went on to indicate other reasons for the promotion of the Travel Training Programme, viz:-

- the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995 and its amendments in 2005;
- to aid independent travel;
- evidence from elsewhere indicated that the training worked; and

- a scheme in New York had aided 10,000 people since 1970.

In conclusion, the Forum was advised that appropriate funding would need to be identified for such a Travel Training scheme to operate within Bolton.

Various comments and questions were raised on the following issues:-

- an extension of the local link service from Bolton Royal Hospital to the Bromley Cross area;
- the removal of the bus service from Bromley Cross to Blackburn Road;
- the introduction of a circular bus route on Bradshaw Meadows and the fact the area was being used by buses to turn around; and
- could the GMPTE attend the local Older Peoples Partnership Forum to discuss residents issues

Resolved – That Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Partington be thanked for their presentation.

Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, advised Members that there had been no applications for Voluntary Sector Grants.

Members were informed that the Area Forum had £3,062.58 available to spend for this municipal year.

The Forum was advised that the next deadline for any group or organisation who wanted to submit a request for a grant was 18th August, 2006.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

Verbal and written questions were received which detailed the following issues:-

- (a) What could be done about excessive speeding on South Drive, especially by buses?

The Forum was advised that further information was required about the issue. The matter would be investigated and reported back to the next meeting of the Forum.

- (b) Could the footpath from Chale Green to Sandown Road be resurfaced and could Longsight park be refurbished and more facilities be installed?

The issues would be passed on to the relevant department for investigation and reported back at the next meeting.

- (c) What plans were there for the future use of the land which was to be vacated by Longsight School?

The Forum was advised that the land had not been put up for sale yet and no decision had been taken about what to do with the land. Ward Members would be consulted on any potential developments.

- (d) What could the Council do about broken flags on Bradshaw Hall Drive. The original grey coloured flags were now being replaced by non matching flags?

The issue would be passed on to the relevant department for investigation and reported back at the next meeting.

- (e) What could the Council do about vandalised bus shelters in the Bromley Cross area?

The issue would be passed on to the relevant department for investigation and reported back at the next meeting.

- (f) Could the Council do anything about car parking on Kershaw Street as it was blocking residents access to Dean Bank?

The issue would be passed on to the relevant department for investigation and reported back at the next meeting.

- (g) Could the Council do anything about car parking on Shady Lane as it was becoming a traffic hazard for other road users?

The issue would be passed on to the relevant department for investigation and reported back at the next meeting.

- (h) Could the Council do anything to stop children playing football in the streets?

The Forum was advised that Ward Members had asked the Council's Legal Department to investigate the matter. An update would be provided at the next meeting of the Forum.

- (i) Could the Council erect signs in Council car parks to advise members of the public of the need to park within the white lines of the bays?

The issue would be passed on to the relevant department for investigation and reported back at the next meeting.

- (j) Could the Council do anything to stop older children using a children's play area in the Bramwell Brows area for playing football, riding bikes and underage drinking?

The Forum was advised that the matter would be passed on to the Police to investigate the problem.

- (k) Could the Council increase the number of dog fouling bins in Longsight Park and the frequency that they are emptied?

The issue would be passed on to the relevant department for investigation and reported back at the next meeting.

- (l) Could the Forum be updated on current situation of the application for double yellow lines along Darwen Road?

The Forum was advised that the application had been advertised and received some objections. The application had been amended in view of the objections, and would be going to the next meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee on the 27th July to seek approval.

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

Councillor Brierley then closed the meeting and thanked Council Members, Officers and Members of the public for their attendance.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and
finished at 8:45p.m.)