

SMITHILLS AREA FORUM

MEETING, Monday 7th July, 2014

Present, 23 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Hayes	- Smithills Ward
Councillor Swarbrick	- Smithills Ward

Also in attendance

John Shannon	- Area Co-ordinator
Jane Bickerstaffe	- Business Support Officer
John Kelly	- Environmental Services
Lisa Bradley	- Bolton at Home
Margaret Openshaw	- Johnson Fold Community Action Group
Marion Jackson	- Johnson Fold Community Action Group
PC John Gregory	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Bav Jhala	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Julie Hilling MP and Councillor Andrew Martin.

Councillor Hayes in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Hayes welcomed everyone and introduced Councillor Swarbrick and other Council and partner officers present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February, 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON JOHNSON FOLD GARDEN ESTATE

Councillor Hayes introduced Lisa Bradley, Community Development Officer, Bolton at Home and Margaret Openshaw and Marion Jackson from Johnson Fold Community Action Group, who gave an update on the food growing and garden project which is being rolled out across the Johnson Fold estate. The main points were as follows:

Johnson Fold – Garden Estates

A range of projects, developing skills and raising awareness which will:

- Tackle food poverty
- Improve the environment, locally and globally
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Enhance sense of community

Focus will be on:

- Patchwork gardens
- Edible Estates
- The Bee Trail

Patchwork Gardens

A new community food growing project on Sabden Road, where local residents can:

- Have their own raised bed on site where they can grow their own and socialise with local people with similar interests
- Learn from others and pass on tips at regular gardening club surgeries
- Attend one off courses and workshops
- Bring the family to a social event at the site and have some fun

Edible Estates – Johnson Fold Community Action Group

- Idea grew from a community visit to Incredible Edible – Todmorden
- To get people growing their own food in their own gardens
- Approx. 30 families already supported to grow their own

Q3

- Uses recycled materials/donations
- Works with people, not for people
- Membership – materials, support, advice, plant swaps
- Going forward – Mapping, Local Produce Swapshop, Trail

The Bee Trail

Working with Living Streets to establish a local walking trail which will raise the profile of Garden Estate projects and promote links with Moss Bank Park and The Hive

- Route developed
- Wildflower planting
- Artwork planned with local school
- Launch/inaugural walk to take place in September

Going Forward

- Reaching out to local community
- Developing sustainability – skills, enterprise
- Development of Food Co-operative
- Cookery/healthy eating project

There were no questions following the presentation.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. UPDATE ON BUDGETS

Councillor Hayes introduced John Shannon who gave an update on budgets devolved to the Area Forum.

Area Forum Budgets for 2013/14 and 2014/15

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

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget; Allocation - £13,750 Balance - £1,603

There were no questions following the update.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Hayes introduced this item on the agenda and he invited the attendees to ask any questions they had regarding issues in the Smithills Ward.

Q1 A resident reported that Barrow Bridge Road was in a poor condition and he asked if anything could be done about it

A This issue would be passed to Environmental Services for inspection

Resolved –That the question be noted.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillor Hayes concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and he advised that the next Smithills Area Forum Meeting would be on Thursday 26th February, 2015 with the drop-in at 6.30pm and main meeting at 7.00pm, the venue was yet to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 7.01pm and finished at 7.35pm)