

TWO TOWNS AREA FORUM

MEETING, 22nd February 2011

Present – 33 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Pat Barrow (Chair)	- Horwich and Blackrod Ward
Councillor Ray Barrow	- Horwich and Blackrod Ward
Councillor Barbara Ronson	- Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Robert Ronson	- Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Kevin McKeon	- Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Stephen Pickup	- Horwich and Blackrod Ward

Also in attendance

Julie Hilling	- MP
Val Cloynes	- Area Co-ordinator
Claire Atkinson/ Carol Bond	- Business Support Business Support
Stephanie Crossley	- Forum Chief Officer
Sharon Pendlebury	- Community Safety
Chief Inspector Alan Wood	- Greater Manchester Police
Inspector Razaq	- Greater Manchester Police
Chris Knott	- Greater Manchester Police
L Whitehead	- Greater Manchester Police
Raj Gohil	- Greater Manchester Police
David Lawrence	- H. M. Courts Service
Bob Cadwallader	- Manchester Probation Service
Stanley Wilson	- Magistrate
Esther Steel	- NHS
Lesley Doherty	- NHS
Helen Clarke	- NHS
John McCarthy	- Environment Agency
Councillor K Thomson	- Horwich Town Council
Councillor P J Baxendale	- Horwich Town Council
Councillor Mike Hollick	- Blackrod Town Council

Councillor Pat Barrow in the Chair

Apologies were received from Ellen Miller (Forum Chief Officer) and Councillor Isabel Seddon (Blackrod Town Council)

36. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Pat Barrow welcomed everyone to the meeting, led the introductions and then explained the format for the meeting.

37. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/FEEDBACK

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9TH November 2010 were submitted and accepted as a correct record.

38. THE FUTURE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING -

Chief Inspector Alan Wood gave a brief overview of the format for the future of Neighbourhood Policing. He addressed the issue of savings to be made over the next four years and gave examples of centralising support services and the possibility of sharing personnel/human resources functions with GM Fire Service. He stressed that the aim was not to disrupt core front line policing, including PCSOs. Improvements in Bolton West included the addition of 10 extra constables and one extra sergeant, working within a neighbourhood investigation unit. There had been a reduction in antisocial behaviour of 27% and cross-boundary policing, working with partners and working with the victims of crime, would continue to be an effective way of working.

Following the presentation a series of questions were asked and answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

39. THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Lesley Doherty, Chief Executive, Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, presented information about the integration of Royal Bolton Hospital with Bolton Primary Care Trust. Information was provided in relation to the following issues:

- Why things were changing
- What were PCT provider services
- How it had been decided
- What it meant for the people of Bolton
- The new style organisation
- Best care for better health

Following the presentation a series of questions were asked and answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

40. JUSTICE SEEN, JUSTICE DONE

Bob Cadwallader from Manchester Probation Service introduced the subject of community payback. The main points covered were:

- What is a community order
- What is community payback
- What is an offender
- Core principles
- Types of work undertaken
- Neighbourhood services completed locally

David Lawrence from the Magistrates' Court then gave a brief explanation of the working procedures of the Courts and some factual information, for example:

- 180 Magistrates were currently serving in Bolton; all were unpaid volunteers aged between 18 and 70.
- Magistrates were not professional lawyers but were trained; there were formal sentencing guidelines which had to be followed.
- About two years ago a Community Engagement Team was set up with approximately 50 of the 180 magistrates. Each magistrate was allocated to an Area Forum and they attended the Forum meetings to hear about local problems and identify opportunities for unpaid work projects, feeding back relevant information into the system.

Stan Wilson, JP, then added that people had a perception that punishments were not fitting crimes, but magistrates had to keep within strict sentencing guidelines laid down by Government.

David Lawrence and Stan Wilson then presented a case study, detailing the crimes, the mitigating circumstances and the background history, and asked the area forum to discuss sentencing options.

Following the presentation a series of questions were asked and answered on the night.

Residents were encouraged to fill in a form recommending community payback schemes and these would be passed back into the system for consideration.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

41. ARMSTRONGS UPDATE

The Chair then introduced an urgent item onto the Forum agenda, following high levels of concern from local residents. John McCarthy from the Environment Agency was introduced.

Mr McCarthy stated that a two-day trial in January had resulted in Armstrongs being found in breach of their Environmental Permit and failing to comply with an enforcement notice, for which they were fined £20,000 plus costs.

Since the verdict, unannounced visits had taken place and Armstrongs were now complying with the conditions of their permit. The Environment Agency would continue to work with the company. Mr McCarthy requested that residents inform the Environment Agency on the Freefone number (0800 807060) if they experienced any further problems so that swift action could be taken.

Following the update, a series of questions and comments were made which were answered on the night.

One issue which would be further investigated prior to the next area forum meeting related to the height of the soil pile facing onto Chorley New Road

Resolved – That the report be noted.

42. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

Councillors Stephen Pickup, Ray Barrow and Pat Barrow declared a personal interest in the pothole schemes in Horwich and Blackrod ward. Councillor Robert Ronson declared a personal interest in the Bolton Scouts Cycle Cross scheme.

Val Cloynes, Area Co-ordinator, gave a brief update on the decisions made under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, and confirmed that all Forum budgets were now spent.

Roads and footpaths Horwich and Blackrod ward (HOBL):

- Whitehall Lane: £4,000
- Hollowell Lane: £395
- Travers Street: 1,245
- Essex Street: £5,745
- Footpath 122, Crown Lane: £625.15 to repair sleepers on the steps

Roads and footpaths Horwich North East ward (HONE):

- Wood Street area: £4,995
- Factory Hill: £3,342.62
- Old Lane: £1,616.11

Pothole schemes HOBL:

- Chorley New Rd, junction of Winter Hey Lane - £800
- Chorley New Rd at Paragon Business Park - £800
- Manchester Road near Greenbarn Way - £800
- Chorley Road - £2,400
- Winter hey Lane - £800
- Chorley Brow)
- Robinson Street) £800
- Newlands Drive)
- and other appropriate pothole schemes for just under 10 days - £7,874.85

Pothole schemes HONE:

- Gloucester Avenue - £400
- Claypool Road - £800

- Brunswick Avenue)
- New Chapel Lane) £4,100
- New Chapel Lane drainage work)
- and other appropriate pothole schemes for just over 10 days - £8,304.05

Positive projects for young people:

- Smart Cards - £1,100 per ward
- Horwich Hunters Cheerleading squad - £490 (HONE); £681 (HOBL)
- Crucial Crew - £500 per ward
- Eden Bus - £500 per ward
- Horwich RMI Cricket Club - £200 per ward
- Get Hooked on Fishing - £250 per ward
- Bolton Scouts Cycle Cross - £250 per ward
- Bolton Wanderers Community Trust - £250
- Range of small schemes involving young people, which were only partially funded by the Town Councils, + additional funding onto Smart cards, + contribution to uniformed groups - £3,420

Voluntary Sector Grant

- Blackrod Old People's Welfare: £200 (missed from last Forum report)
- Balance £0

Resolved – That the report be noted.

43. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions were asked on the night.

As the population of Horwich was growing daily and would continue to do so for many years, concern was expressed that there were no proposed increases in health services, more doctors, health centres, nurses etc.	Response from Development and Regeneration Department: "Policy 0A1.12 of the draft Core Strategy does already refer to 'developing new or expanded medical and health facilities at both Horwich and Blackrod'. The Council will also need to consult the
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	<p>Primary Care Trust about the Supplementary Planning Document on any specific needs for the additional housing in light of their latest position, but they have not raised it as an issue at the Core Strategy stage."</p> <p>An officer from the PCT added: "A joint strategic needs assessment drives the commissioning of population-based health services eg the number of health visitors and school nurses is matched to the birth rate."</p>
Could a by-law be put in place to control the misuse of the ubiquitous supermarket shopping trolley, making all supermarkets have a coin or token release mechanism fitted to their equipment?	A response would be sought for the next meeting
How far advanced were the plans to close the Urology Department at the Royal Bolton Hospital and transfer Urology to Salford (Hope Hospital)? Also what was the anticipated date that this would happen?	There were no current plans to close the Urology Department. Clinical practice in urology has changed. Fewer patients now required in-patient stays, therefore there was less need for special wards. Care was provided seven days a week, with consultants in Bolton and Salford working on how to improve 7-day services
Could the road markings and layout of the road around the Beehive roundabout be looked at in order to manage and aid the smooth throughput of traffic	A response would be sought for the next meeting

at busy times, rather than have standing traffic emitting harmful fumes for long periods.	
In order to save money in the future could the Highways Team look at all road markings in the borough, ensuring that road layouts and markings did not contradict one another.	A response would be sought for the next meeting
Would the Highway Management Team consider placing double yellow lines on both sides of Harrison Street, Horwich, from the junction of Winter Hey Lane and for the length of the gable ends of the buildings fronting Winter Hey Lane. This was because on most days vehicles park on both kerbs causing obstruction to both the footpaths and roadway access.	A response would be sought for the next meeting
Could the potholes in the car park at the Blackrod Community Centre be repaired?	A response would be sought for the next meeting
Concern was raised over the heavy lorries continuing to use Crown Lane, Horwich, other than to gain access to the work place.	A response would be sought for the next meeting
The car park at the rear of the Blackrod Post Office on New Street was very untidy and when cars parked at the front they were often booked by a traffic warden.	A response would be sought for the next meeting

Resolved - That the questions that could not be answered on the night be noted, passed on to the relevant department to respond and the information fed back to the next Area Forum meeting.

44. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Pat Barrow concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and participation and announced that the next meeting of the Two Towns Area Forum would take place after the May elections.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 9.00pm)