

HARPER GREEN AREA FORUM

MEETING Tuesday 15 February 2011

Present – 24 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Francis - Harper Green Ward
Councillor Mistry - Harper Green Ward

Also in attendance

Jeff Smethurst - Chief Officer
Dawn Hampton - Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department
Phil Bailey - Environmental Services
Amina Jeewa - Neighbourhood Manager Great Lever
Gaynor Jones - Neighbourhood Management Support Officer
Vany Boto-Labarre - Neighbourhood Management Support Officer
Denise Kehoe - Community Housing Manager, Bolton at Home
Ann Schenk - Royal Bolton Hospital
Wendy Pickard - NHS Bolton
Rob Webb - Priority Estates Project
D Swift - Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Margaret Clare, Yasmin Qureshi, MP and Christopher de Sa from Office of National Statistics

Councillor Francis in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Francis welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, fellow Councillor from the Harper Green Ward, Dawn Hampton, Area Co-ordinator and Bolton Council officers and partners.

Councillor Francis requested all attendees with an email address to register so that information regarding Area Forums could be sent electronically.

Councillor Francis informed attendees that Councillor Clare was unable to attend the meeting as she was still recovering from a fall, but that she was in good spirits. He also confirmed that Christopher de Sa from Office of National Statistics was unable to make the meeting to deliver his presentation on the Census 2011, but that Dawn Hampton, Area Co-ordinator would share some information in his absence.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Ann Schenk from the Royal Bolton Hospital gave a presentation which provided details regarding the integration of the Royal Bolton Hospital with NHS Bolton provider services. The main points of the presentation were:

- Significant national change programme for community services.
- Programme aimed to transfer services and achieve benefits to the local community.
- The PCT providers services included health visits, walk-in centre at Lever Chambers, school nursing, GP out-of-hours, podiatry and nutrition services.

- Preferred way forward was to transfer all PCT provider services to the Royal Bolton Hospital.
- Community Services would still be delivered in the community as would more hospital services.

A number of comments and questions were raised and answered on the night.

One question regarding how complaints could be made to the hospital in writing would be further investigated and a response given to the resident and shared at the next forum.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and the question that had not been answered on the night be directed to the appropriate officer.

4. CENSUS 2011

Dawn Hampton, Area Coordinator , introduced the Census 2011 to the Area Forum on behalf of Christopher de Sa and went on to explain that the census was very important to every village, town, city and community in England and Wales and stressed that support and assistance from residents was needed to deliver a successful census.

The main points made were:

- The 2011 census in England and Wales was on 27th March 2011 and had full Government support.
- The census was compulsory and not optional.
- The census provided information on the number of people who lived in the area and what their needs were.
- Every person counted was worth thousands of pounds to local authorities over the ten year census period in the allocation of central Government funding.
- With reduced central Government funding it was important that the local authority got their fair share.
- All census information was confidential and personal data was protected by law.

- Personal census information was kept confidential for 100 years and not shared with any Government departments, local councils or marketing agencies.

A number of comments and questions were raised and answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. STOCK TRANSFER UPDATE

Rob Webb of the Priority Estates Project gave a presentation which provided an update on the transfer of housing stock from the Council to Bolton at Home. The main points made were:

- There would be a new tenancy agreement for all transferring and new tenants.
- A new tenants handbook would be available to all Bolton at Home tenants.
- There would be a transfer agreement between the Council and Bolton at Home.
- Bolton at Home would have Charitable Status.
- £124 million would be invested in homes in the first five years including £10 million investment in environmental improvements and new and upgraded kitchens and bathrooms for 8,300 homes.
- Transfer of all homes to Bolton at Home was on 28th March 2011.

A number of other comments and questions were raised and answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

6. YOU SAID, WE DID

Councillor Francis introduced this item following comments from residents at previous meetings about wanting to receive feedback on the concerns they have brought to the forum.

Dawn Hampton, Area Co-ordinator gave the presentation. The main points made were:

- Community Payback had carried out a whole scale clean-up and cut back of the Greenland Road area and the forum had paid for improved lighting, a permanent power supply and 'No fly-tipping' signs. CCTV would also be installed.
- The footpath from Rishton Avenue to the hospital had bushes cut back and weeds removed. Litter, fly-tipping and graffiti had been removed. This was an ongoing project.
- The forum had funded a range of activities for young people including summer holidays and February half-term activities, a Saturday Homework Club, Crucial Crew and equipment at Upper Orchards.
- Worked with residents and Essa Academy to set up a community liaison group with regular meetings between residents and academy staff and students.
- Supported Sunnyside, Maltby, Highfield and Roseneath Residents' Associations, Highfield AFC and Sunnyside Community Centre Development Group through Voluntary Sector Grants.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

7. COMMUNITY INTEREST UPDATE

Margaret Platt gave an update on the Essa Academy Community Liaison Group. The main points made were:

- First meeting held in December established aims and objectives.
- Keen to change local perceptions.
- Second meeting last week included a site visit.

A number of other comments and questions were raised and answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

8. BUDGET UPDATE

Dawn Hampton, Area Co-ordinator gave an update on the schemes and projects that had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation since the last meeting of the Area Forum:

Area Based Grant:

- Lighting/lamp improvements £1,000
- CCTV power chamber £500
- 'Slow - School' signs £1,066
- Sunnyside direction signage £600
- IT equipment – Maltby Residents' Assoc £500
- Slack Fold Lane 'Slow' road markings £206

Area Forum Budget:

- Minerva Road resurfacing £472
- Highfield Road bollards £1,000

Highways Maintenance:

- Minerva Road resurfacing £7,702

Positive Contributions Budget

- February half term activities £225
- Sunnyside Homework Club £3,000
- Crucial Crew £500

Voluntary Sector Grants:

- No new applications received
- Applications welcome
- Balance remaining = £440

Resolved - That the report be noted.

9. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Francis invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Harper Green ward.

The following questions and comments were put forward

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| <p>Why was the matter regarding the lease of Sunnyside Community Centre taking so long and was it possible to have sight of the lease?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Francis confirmed that this had been quite a complicated matter and the Council had needed to carry out lengthy investigations. Anyone could apply to the Land Registry for a copy of the lease. |
| <p>Could the Council sublet Sunnyside Community Centre if it wanted to?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Francis advised that the Council had a degree of discretion over sub-letting and any requests would be looked at on a case-by-case basis. |
| <p>Why did Sunnyside Community Centre Development Group have a copy of a draft lease?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amina Jeewa confirmed that this was from 2007 and that things had changed since then. Cllr Francis advised that a public meeting was not the appropriate place to discuss individual situations and that any issues should be passed back to Andrew Donaldson, Assistant Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships. |
| <p>Regarding the withdrawal of the 570 Sunday bus service – could we have the support from the</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawn Hampton confirmed that officers from GMPTE had reviewed the main journey |

area forum and local Councillors to get the service reinstated?

patterns and that alternative services were available in most circumstances. After testing the market, Maytree Travel deemed this service to be commercially unviable. On this basis, Ms Hampton confirmed that the area forum would not be taking this matter further and provided the contact details for GMPTE and Maytree Travel should residents wish to take up individual concerns or complaints.

What was the Council doing about the number of potholes in the ward?

- Cllr Francis asked residents to report potholes to the Council or at fixmystreet.com

Why was the pavement at Westcourt Road not gritted during winter period?

- Cllr Francis advised that pavements were never gritted and that a grit bin was provided for residents' use. Mainly bus routes and main roads were gritted.

Resolved – That the questions and comments be noted.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillor Francis concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and their contributions and announced that the next Harper Green Forum would be after the May elections, date and venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 9.15pm)