

SMITHILLS AREA FORUM

MEETING – 28th September 2017

Present – 5 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Martin - Smithills Ward
Councillor Mrs Swarbrick - Smithills Ward

Also in attendance

John Shannon - Area Coordinator
Stephen Rowson - Chief Executives Department
Steve Walsh - Department of Place
Adrian Crook - Department of People
Heather Swift - Woodland Trust

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Roger Hayes

Councillor Andrew Martin in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Martin welcomed everyone and introduced himself, Councillors and other Officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There was one declaration of interest from Councillor Martin relating to the grant award (Item 5 on the agenda Budgets and Projects) to the Triangle Church, he did not take part in this decision.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. THE SMITHILLS ESTATE PROJECT

Councillor Martin introduced Heather Swift from the Woodland Trust, who gave a presentation on the Smithills Estate Project. The main points were:

- Details of the size and makeup of the estate
- The history of the estate so far
- The estate team
- Why Smithills and the vision for the future
- Project objectives and strategy
- The project management plan
- Identify habitats and confirm land designations
- Developing access and maintenance
- Some of the completed works, before and after pictures
- Events, volunteering and fundraising
- What next?
- Management of public access on the estate
- Walker Fold car park
- Growing public participation

A number of questions followed the presentation and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

5. UPDATE ON BUDGETS AND PROJECTS

Area Coordinator John Shannon gave an update on current balances for budgets devolved to the Area Forum:

For 2015-17 financial year's the budget balances were as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£1,191.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£3,050.00

And the allocation for 2017-18 financial year, the budget balances were as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£3,750.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£9,600.00

The following points were noted:-

- The Area Forum Budget was available to fund activities which provided a benefit to the ward
- The Highways Maintenance Budget was available to fund asset improvement work covering any of the following activities; Reconstruction, Refurbishment, Patching and Slurry seal works.

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following amounts had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2015-17 budget:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
<u>Pot</u>		
AFB	To cover cost of TRO to amend restrictions at Capitol Close, Forrest Road and Boot Lane, etc	£3,500.00
AFB	Contribution to reduction in speed limit on a number of roads including Walker Fold Road and Chorley Old Road (TRO and signage)	£4,000.00
AFB	To Triangle Church to support cost of additional signage for overflow car park	£200.00
HMB	To cover cost of slurry seal treatment on footway at Keighley Street (eastside, Bk Church Rd to Sunnyside Rd)	£1,350.00

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Martin 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 Ward.

The questions were as follows:

Q1 A resident asked if the two Zebra crossings at the junction of Chorley Old Road with both Captains Clough and New Hall Lane could be repainted? Also could the road junction markings be repainted at Captains Clough/Moss Bank Way facing the park?

A The lines on the crossing and junction will be looked at and renewed as necessary.

Q2 A resident noted that part of Captain's Clough was not resurfaced with the rest, could this be resurfaced as well?

A This part was not done at the same time as the other section as it is in too poor condition for this treatment. It needs full resurfacing which will be carried out when funds are available. In the meantime any potholes and defects will be filled as necessary.

Q3 A resident reported that Moorside Avenue roadway and footpaths, needed resurfacing.

A These issues would be passed to Highways for assessment.

Q4 A resident reported that the removal of the 519/520 bus service and replacement with the new 520 service was not working, there were long delays and queues.

A This issue would be passed to Transport for Greater Manchester for a response as the Council did not control changes to bus services.

Q5 A resident asked if something be done about the pot holes on Wythburn Avenue especially where it meets Moorside Avenue as one of them is over 2½ inches deep and regularly fills with water?

A This would be passed to Highways for assessment.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

7. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Martin thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next forum was still to be confirmed however would not be until the 2018/19 municipal year, residents would be informed through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 7.10pm and finished at 8.04pm)