
FARNWORTH & KEARSLEY AREA FORUM

12 JUNE 2006

Councillors Lord (Chairman), Burrows (Vice-Chairman),
Mrs Rothwell, J.
Rothwell and A.N Spencer

Councillor Lord in the Chair

1 INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Lord introduced himself and other Ward Councillors to the meeting. He also thanked Councillor Mrs Rothwell for her work in her role as Vice-Chairman of the Forum for the previous two years.

Councillor Lord also introduced the new Vice-Chairman, Councillor Burrows, to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Stones

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 12th June, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the Previous Meeting](#)

4 FEEDBACK BY AREA COORDINATOR

Mr. A. Wolstenholme tabled a schedule which provided updated responses to the questions which were raised at the last meeting of the Forum.

Resolved - That the position be noted.

5 PRESENTATIONS - GMPTE

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; - pedestrainised 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 individuals 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 responded to.

A number of issues were raised:-

(a) there were two estates in Stoneclough where there was no bus route for disabled people after 6.00 p.m. or on a Sunday;

(b) bus drivers were using mobile phones and smoking whilst driving;

Mr Partington explained that a European Directive was being introduced soon where bus operators and drivers would have to adhere to a set of standards;

(c) there was a need to upgrade bus stops and prevent people parking at bus stops; and

(d) some bus stops were missing and some not placed in convenient positions.

Resolved - That Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Partington be thanked for their presentations.

6 VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mr. A. Wolstenholme reported that £3,000 had been awarded to the Farnworth and Kearsley Forum which would be split equally between the Farnworth and Kearsley areas.

Three applications had been received for funding from the Kearsley areas, as follows:-

(1) Kearsley Mount; - £500 (2) Kearsley Social Bingo Club; - £500 (3) Stoneclough Striders - £500

Resolved - That £500 be awarded to each of the groups, as detailed.

7 OPEN FORUM

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

(a) Problems associated with gangs in the Kearsley area. Sergeant O'Neil from Bolton Police explained that much work had been undertaken by the Police to address the issues of anti-social behaviour in the Kearsley area over the last few months.

Extra police had been placed in the area and the Police shop had been introduced there with staff on duty up until 11.00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays until the Police took over. There were more police officers allocated to the Kearsley area at the moment than any other area in the Borough.

A Community Beat Manager had been appointed to work in the Kearsley area and there was the possibility of another being recruited.

Work was also ongoing with Farnworth outreach workers and volunteers to try and organise some events for Friday evenings.

There were currently 19 anti-social behaviour contracts in place in Kearsley, which was more than anywhere else in the Borough. George Tomlinson's School and the Head Teacher had played a big part in assisting the Police.

Trading Standards had carried out three operations in the Kearsley area since January, 2006 to target off licences that were selling alcohol to persons under the age of 18.

There had been 16 incidents of anti-social behaviour last weekend directly after the World Cup football match.

There had been significant improvements in relation to anti-social behaviour since the police initiatives had been put in place.

(b) When will the weekly bin collection be reinstated?

It was a big task and reintroduction would be staggered.

It would probably be October, 2006 before the whole Borough would have collections reinstated.

(c) Could there be a discussion topic regarding refugees at a future Forum meeting?

The Area Coordinator agreed to establish whether an officer dealing with refugees could attend a future meeting of the Forum.

(d) Frederick Street - there were still serious ongoing problems associated with traffic and dangerous driving in the area despite the slow signs that had been painted on the road. Could something further be done to address the problems?

The Area Co-ordinator acknowledged that people were still concerned at the traffic problems on Frederick Street despite previous attempts to resolve them.

He agreed to visit the site with the Safety Officer to meet residents and investigate the situation again.

(e) Spindle Croft - the "no through road" sign had been taken from Spindle Croft and had not been replaced.

There were problems with a variety of vehicles using the road.

The Area Co-ordinator agreed to investigate the matter and to try to reinstate the sign.

(f) Recycling - were schools being trained to recycle waste? If so, there appeared to be many schools not recycling. Plastic bottles were being discarded in ordinary bins and with so many schools in the Borough, there was a lot of potential for recycling.

The Area Coordinator agreed to investigate the matter and report back to a future meeting.

(g) Why has the Youth Club in Kearsley closed down?

It was thought there had been some staffing issues at the

Club and there was no mainstream funding available. However, it was hoped that the Club would reopen and work was ongoing with the Police.

(h) the trees planted in St John's playing fields on Grosvenor Street were growing too tall. Could anything be done about them?

The Area Co-ordinator agreed to consult the Authority's tree officers and request them to visit the site.

(i) Street names were missing off many streets in the Borough. Could anything be done about this?

The Area Coordinator agreed to pass the concerns on to the Highways Section.

(j) Concerns about the delays in replacing damaged street lamps and the holes left when repairs were being undertaken. Were there any penalties for these?

The Area Coordinator agreed to investigate the matter.

(k) problems with traffic being diverted onto Piggott Street from Longcauseway during works when Piggott Street was now being worked on.

The situation was noted.

(l) Do the Police have access to Asian interpreters for the interpretation of statements given in Asian languages?

The Police Force have a number of Asian Police Officers who can assist in the translation of statements.

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

7 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Lord reported on the following issues:-

(a) the mosaic at Brackley Street was now in place;

(b) the second phase of the precinct development was due to commence shortly. There was a meeting with the developers this week. It was hoped that the issue of toilets would be raised; and

(c) the bollards on Brackley Street had been installed but were not yet working. It was hoped that they would be in operation within the next two weeks. Post Office delivery vehicles would be the only exception for access.

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