

GREAT LEVER AREA FORUM

MEETING – 11th June 2015

Present – 6 members of the public attended the meeting

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| Councillor Madeline Murray | Great Lever Ward |
| Councillor Mohammed Iqbal | Great Lever Ward |
| Councillor Mohammed Ayub | Great Lever Ward |

Also in attendance

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| John Pye | - Area Coordinator and Neighbourhood Manager |
| Marion Griffin | - Chief Executives Department Business Support Officer |
| PCSO Sarah Newman | - Greater Manchester Police |
| PCSO Dave Holden | - Greater Manchester Police |
| PCSO Simon Ratcliffe | - Greater Manchester Police |
| PC Andrew Sharkey | - Greater Manchester Police |
| PC Ella Winters | - Greater Manchester Police |
| Christine O'Reardon | - Environmental Services |
| Jon Tuson | - Environmental Services |

Apologies for absence were submitted by Yasmin Qureshi MP.

Councillor Ayub in the Chair

16. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Ayub welcomed everyone and introduced Councillor Murray; Councillor Iqbal and other Officers in attendance.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

18. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th January 2015 were approved as a correct record.

19. PRESENTATION – KEEPING GREAT LEVER CLEAN

Christine O'Reardon, Environmental Services, Enforcement Officer, gave the presentation on Keeping Great Lever Clean as below:

The main Environmental issues affecting the area were:

- Back Street waste/Fly –tipping
- Litter
- Dog fouling

A campaign had been designed to target the problem of back street waste in some of the boroughs most hard to reach areas. The common expectation is that the Council would clear the waste free of charge.

The impact of loose refuse makes communities look untidy and unkempt and creates public health problems by attracting vermin. Additionally, loose refuse provides potential kindling for deliberate fires, an ever increasing problem in Bolton.

The Impact

The ease of disposing household waste as loose refuse also means that there is low enthusiasm to separate recyclable material from within the waste.

Recycling:

- conserves resources
- saves energy
- helps protect the environment
- reduces landfill

The Environmental Services have addressed the above issues with residents. Doorstep engagement was effective in increasing awareness and change behaviour towards local environmental issues. A team of community engagement workers visited every property in some of the most challenging areas. A Bin Audit was offered to residents to assist in their understanding of the importance of using the correct bin for the specific type of waste.

The campaign highlighted that legal proceedings are available to the Local Authority and the Police to address the problem of back street waste and fly-tipping, where considered necessary, however, co-operation by changing behaviour in the local communities would be far more agreeable in the long term.

Following the engagement process, a series of Zero Tolerance Enforcement Days of Action were implemented to tackle issues of blatant disregard to the Councils efforts to change behaviour.

A resident thanked the Environmental Enforcement team for their recent good work in clearing the back streets of Pennington Road.

A number of questions were raised and answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

20. BUDGET UPDATE

Area Co-ordinator and Neighbourhood Manager, John Pye gave a brief update on what had been approved from budgets available to the Area Forum for the 2013 – 2015 financial years.

Area Forum Budget 2013-15

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| Amount remaining at last meeting | £13,550 |
| Recreation St Lighting | £4,700 |
| Road safety leaflets and banners (Offered to all primary schools in Great Lever) | £2,100 |
| Contribution to Pedestrian crossing Bridgeman St | £7,000 |
| DBS checks for High St and Peabody St Residents Association | £500 |
| Balance to carry forward | £0 |

Since then the £1,633 has been approved to mend the brickwork on Planters at Calder Rd and Nugent Rd.

Area Forum Highways Budget 2013-15

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|---|---------|
| Amount remaining at last meeting | £19,200 |
| Clarendon School back Bridgeman Street & Recreation Street | £15,495 |
| Ward reserve list and repair footway and gully outside 225, Green Lane resurface Westbourne Ave from | £3,705 |

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| Bradford Rd to Lowther Street | |
| Balance to carry forward | £0 |

Resolved – That the update, together with those projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, be noted.

21. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Ayub 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.

Q1. Has the bedroom tax impacted on the number of homeless people?

A1. John Pye would check for information on the above, also with Bolton at Home and Bolton Community Homes.

Q2. Is there anything being done to address homelessness?

A2. PCSO Simon Ratcliffe reported that a man had been sleeping at the back of the William of York school. The Police contacted Urban Outreach who found accommodation for the man. Environmental Services assisted and tidied the area.

Q3. When the football pitch is full the Children are playing football on the bowling green at Heywood Park and causing damage. Can this be stopped?

A3. Councillor Ayub would take forward.

Q4. The hut for the bowling green is broken and it could, eventually, be pulled down altogether by the children. I reported this issue 12 months ago, however, nothing had been done about this.

A4. Councillor Ayub would take forward.

22. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Ayub thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting of the Great Lever Area Forum would be held on 14th January 2016 and residents would be notified in the usual way.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.15pm)