

HULTON AREA FORUM

MEETING – 19th October 2017

Present – 55 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Diane Parkinson	-	Hulton Ward
Councillor Shafaqat Shaikh	-	Hulton Ward
Councillor Darren Whitehead	-	Hulton Ward

Also in attendance

Vivienne Morris	-	Neighbourhood Development Manager
Marion Griffin	-	Chief Executives Department
Joe Fox	-	Department of Place
PCSO Katherine Gray	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Keith Jackson	-	Greater Manchester Police
PC Matthew Blakeley	-	Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Shafaqat Shaikh in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Shaikh welcomed everyone and introduced himself, the other ward Councillors and officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th October 2016 were approved as a correct record.

4. VOLUNTEERING IN THE COMMUNITY VIDEO

Councillor Shaikh introduced The Volunteering in the Community Video which had been made by Bolton Council and which

demonstrated a lot of the good volunteering work that had been done in Bolton.

Resolved – That the video be noted

5. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICING FOR THE AREA – PRESENTATION BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM.

Councillor Shaikh introduced The Neighbourhood Policing Team that provided an update presentation on policing and community safety for the area as follows:

- The Treacle Campaign which aimed to prevent bonfire and firework injuries, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage during the Halloween and Bonfire period.
- The Trick or Treat posters which were available at the area forum, and which residents could display in their window to indicate whether they would or would not welcome trick or treat visitors.
- Officers from the local team would be working over the Halloween period and would be conducting high visibility patrols in the local area.
- The Dark Nights campaign which gave advice for residents which could help deter burglars, by utilising alarms; locks and lights in and around the home.
- Good news stories on recent burglary charges

The PCSO's would be holding regular surgeries, on the dates below, across the area for residents to discuss any issues:

- 4th November Salvation Army, 13:00- 14:00
- 7th November St Andrew Church, 10:00-11:00
- 2nd December Salvation Army, 13:00 - 14:00
- 5th December St Andrew Church, 10:00 -11:00

A number of questions were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and police would obtain information on undetected burglaries in the Hulton area, as figures were not available on the night.

6. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

Vivienne Morris, Neighbourhood Development Manager gave a brief update on budgets devolved to the area forum;

The Area Forum Flat Rate 2015/17 Allocation was £9,375 - Balance £0

Ward Councillors had agreed the following schemes:

- Give way sign at Plodder Lane/St Helens Road Junction £1,400
- Contribution towards Footway Improvements – At Cornwall Avenue and Morris Green Rd £7,975

As these footways cost more than the allocation, the shortfall would be made up by Highways.

**The Area Forum Flat Rate 2017/18 Allocation was £3,750
The balance remaining is £3,750**

The Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB) 2017/18 Allocation was £9600 - Balance £0

Ward Councillors had agreed the following scheme:

Patching on Newbrook Road between Thirlmere Road and Firs Road – £9,600.

A question was asked about why the give way sign at Plodder Lane cost £1400? Could a full breakdown of the costs be provided.

The Council Highways Officer explained that the sign needed to be illuminated and costs included mains connections, legalities and notices and installation.

Resolved – That the update, together with those projects approved under the council's Scheme of Delegation be noted and that a breakdown of the costs of the give way sign would be fed back at the next meeting.

7. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Q1. Can it be recognised that St Helen's Road Bolton, between Smethurst Lane junction and Hulton Lane junction, is simply not wide enough to sustain both a bus lane and on street parking? Consequently even when the bus lane is not in operation, traffic in the Hulton Lane direction has to straddle the white centre road line, contrary to the Highway Code. This becomes worse during bus lane hours. This is potentially dangerous as motorists are at times directly facing on coming traffic. Indeed there is also a bus stop in this area to be negotiated around. The solution would be to eliminate the bus lane at this point and re-draw the white centre road line.

A1. Bolton Council Highways Officer reported that there had been no accidents reported to date.

Q2. The resident agreed, however stated that as there was potential for an accident the bus lane needs to be lit up and widened; moving the lines to accommodate would help.

A2. Councillor Whitehead would take up the residents' concern with Transport for Greater Manchester.

Q3. A number of residents raised concerns relating to travellers that had set up camp on Hulton playing fields several times over the summer before they had been moved on.

A3. The police reported that they had attended a residents' meeting on 4th September to try to address the issues. Police responded with reference to the powers they have when dealing with the specific issues and the constraints of dealing with a transient community.

Councillor Whitehead also reported that timber trip rail fencing would be installed around the open frontages of the fields, 3m long with a 1m gap between each to deter future traveller encampments and other road going vehicles. The work would be completed by April 2018 and the funds had been identified from other budgets to cover this.

Q4. The Watergate roundabout close to the Logistics North development, at the cross section of Watergate; Bridgewater Lane and Salford Road is so busy that it is extremely difficult and time consuming for pedestrians to cross. Can a pedestrian crossing be installed on each of the 4 sections?

A4. Bolton Council's Highways Officer would take the request forward and feedback to the resident.

Q5. Can the traffic on Salford Road be policed?

A5. The police would find out whether video footage could be submitted to the police as evidence. The police would feedback to the resident.

Q6. A number of residents raised concerns about activities at Ummah Welfare Trust and the possibility of increased activity as a result of a recent planning approval for a change of use of part of the building. This included a request for further information on a traffic management plan.

A6. Councillor Whitehead reported that the change of use of part of the building had been approved through the Council's planning process and Councillor Parkinson confirmed that the Planning Department had followed the correct legal processes.

Councillor Shaikh agreed to visit the nearby residents to assist with issues and to talk to the organisation.

It was agreed to forward the request for details of the parking management plan referred to the planning application to the planning department and feedback.

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

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Shaikh thanked everyone for their attendance. The date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course and advertised on the Bolton Council website.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.20pm)