

RUMWORTH AREA FORUM

MEETING, 22nd July 2009

Present – 77 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Kay (Chair)	- Rumworth Ward
Councillor Adia	- Rumworth Ward
Councillor Ibrahim	- Rumworth Ward

Also in attendance

John Shannon	- Area Working Manager
Stephen Rowson	- Area Working Support Officer
Shabir Fazal	- Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion
Kevan Roberts	- Environmental Services
Pauline Dixon	- Rumworth Neighbourhood Manager
Sue Devlin	- Corporate Resources, Web Services Manager
Daniel Bainbridge	- Corporate Resources, Web Services Team
David Kilgallon	- Children's Services, Building Schools for the Future
Des Grogan	- Assistant Director Children's Services, Building Schools for the Future
Shauna Morton	- Bolton At Home, Neighbourhood Manager
Esther Steel	- Royal Bolton Hospital
Sergeant Rob Knight	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Kay in the Chair.

8. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Kay opened the meeting and introduced the other Councillors and Officers in attendance.

9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

10. UPDATE ON BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

David Kilgallon and Des Grogan both from Children's Services gave a presentation on Bolton's plans for Building Schools for the Future.

This was a national programme and Bolton had been allocated £100 million to refurbish and rebuild schools and develop services. The aim was not just to build new schools but to develop more varied and better learning environments.

There was also a need to develop learning resources which would equip Bolton's young people for the rapidly changing job market and the global economy. The impact of advances in technology and information based economies also had to be catered for. The first phase would cover six schools:

Westhoughton (West campus centre)	-
Little Lever	-
Bolton Muslim Girls School	-
Smithills	-
Sharples (North campus centre)	-
Ladybridge and Rumworth (counted as one)	-

These would be community hubs, not just schools encompassing community access, libraries etc. If that phase was successful further funding would be accessible. Following this a number of questions and comments were raised:

A representative from Pikes Lane Community Club stated that they supported the proposed developments but felt uninformed over plans, resulting in their activities being suspended; where would groups move to?

- Councillors would support groups if any disruption occurred, an initial £20,000 had been set aside for this purpose.

The community club would like to build closer links to Pike Lane School and make more use of facilities when not being used by the school.

- The management of the school's facilities was the responsibility of the head teacher and the board of governors, it was hoped that links could be developed to achieve this.

If the playing fields off Quebec Street are earmarked for a school what consultation would take place?

- There would be consultation with stakeholders in the area as part of the development of proposals.

Is it intended to re-turf the multi-use games area at the back of Pikes Lane School?

- The Council are keen to get it replaced but it must be sustainable, with actions in place to prevent vandalism and as part of the wider investment in the area.

How will the consultation on proposals be organised?

- Key stakeholders in the area would be contacted and a working group would meet to discuss the current position. It was hoped that this group would meet in mid-August.

A representative from Bolton Muslim Girls School asked that it be noted that the

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school support the community groups objectives.

Following on from the presentation Sgt Knight (Greater Manchester Police) gave an update on policing in the Rumworth Area. It had been highlighted that there were two main peaks in anti social behaviour around the summer school break and Halloween. The "Safe 4 Summer" initiative had been put in place to help address this issue and would involve Police Officers working across beat boundaries to provide better co-ordination. Eight main hot spots had been identified and contacts in those areas developed so that reports could be called in direct as they happen rather than go through the normal call system.

Another recent problem which had been highlighted by community representatives was the hiring of high performance cars for special occasions such as weddings. This involved people sharing the cost of car hire but not recognising that only one driver would be insured. Those hiring cars were then taking turns speeding down the highway, the Police would be monitoring this closely and were about to launch a poster and leaflet campaign to raise awareness on this issue. Other issues being targeted were drug dealing, anti social behaviour and car crime.

A resident asked if local shops could have something similar to "careline" where they could summon help directly by pressing a button? There was already an initiative called "town safe partnership" where shops could communicate via radio and alert each other of potential trouble. It was attempted to expand this along the arterial routes out of the centre but that had been unsuccessful.

A member of the public stated that there were fears of racial tension in the area and there had been a number of incidents of fighting breaking out. The police were aware of the incidents and were following up on enquiries but were unable to comment on specifics. Residents were assured that every officer had been sent a bulletin with detailed background information on recent incidents and would be aware of the

issues and ready to respond if further incidents took place. The Rumworth area had a lower incidence of this kind of incident and Sgt Knight thanked all who were involved in creating positive opportunities for young people.

Resolved – That both reports be noted.

11. MAKING BEST USE OF THE COUNCIL'S NEW WEBSITE

This item was deferred due to a technical fault accessing the link to the website.

Resolved – That the report be brought back to a future meeting.

12. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

The Area Working Manager gave a short update on the budgets and grants devolved to the Rumworth Area Forum. The current budget balances were unchanged from the last meeting and were as follows:

Area Based Grant	-	£53,560
Area Forum Budget	-	£28,390
Highways Maintenance	-	£10,245
Voluntary Sector Grant	-	£2,669.70
Positive Contributions Grant	-	£10,000

Resolved – That the report be noted.

13. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

The Chair invited attendees to ask questions and express any concerns they may have regarding the Rumworth area.

Concerns were raised about the potential for the proposed Mela at Haslam Park to lead to disruption and anti-social behaviour. All three Councillors expressed concern about the siting of the Mela in Haslam Park, stating that there seemed to have been a lack of consultation on behalf of the organisers who had not taken account of the closeness to local residents and the cemetery.

Sgt Knight commented that plans were already in place and that a group of officers would be on standby near the site along with a number of officers patrolling the event. Councillor Ibrahim stated that he was still concerned about the use of Haslam Park for this event. Residents then indicated unanimously by a show of hands to request that an alternate site be found if possible.

Councillor Kay noted that issues of anti-social behaviour and possible drug dealing had been raised around the Langthorne area and these had been passed to Sergeant Knight. No further points or questions were raised.

Resolved – That the points be noted.

14. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Kay closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and informed residents that the next Rumworth Area Forum would take place on Wednesday 18th November 2009 at 5.30pm for the Drop in with the main meeting at 6pm; at Brandwood Primary School, Brandwood Street, BL3 4BG

(The meeting started at 6.15pm and finished at 8pm)