

GREAT LEVER AREA FORUM

MEETING – Thursday 2nd November, 2017

Present – 10 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Mohammed Iqbal - Great Lever Ward
Councillor Madeline Murray - Great Lever Ward

Also in attendance

John Pye	- Neighbourhood Manager
Stephen Rowson	- Business Support Officer
Jon Tuson	- Department of Place
Chris Wood	- Bolton at Home
PC Andrew Sharkey	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Simon Ratcliffe	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO David Holden	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor
Mohammed Ayub and Yasmin Qureshi MP

Councillor Murray in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Murray welcomed everyone and introduced herself, and the other 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 Thursday 30th March, 2017 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. STARTING A COMMUNITY HUB

Councillor Murray introduced Chris Wood from Bolton at Home who gave a presentation on this project. The main points were:

- Great Lever Connected (GLC) Community Centre – based at 98 Calvert Road
- Background to its development
- Current community sessions and support at the centre
 - ESOL and Community English
 - GLC Job club/Drop in
 - It Support
 - Women's groups
 - Community Café/Drop in/arts and crafts session
 - Local History group
 - Support services in the GLC centre
 - Chai Times – Community newspaper
- Environmental Improvements
- Community litter picking
- Successes and Achievements
- 2017/18 plans for GLC centre
- Findings from Great Lever Connected research Summer 2017
 - 346 Surveys returned mainly taken face to face
 - Only 21 respondents had used the centre before
 - Statistics of respondents based on age group and also details based on gender
 - Statistics of likely use frequency across the various facilities/services at the centre

Contact Details:

- ❖ Web site click on this link – [Great Lever connected](http://GreatLeverconnected.co.uk) or go to www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk and search for Great Lever connected.
- ❖ Email - info@greatleverconnected.co.uk
- ❖ Telephone – 01204 654377

The presentation was followed by a round table consultation where attendees had the opportunity of putting forward suggestions for other activities for consideration to be held at the new site.

A number of questions were answered and comments made.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

5. BUDGETS UPDATE

Councillor Murray introduced John Pye, Neighbourhood Manager, who gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum 2017-18 as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£3,750.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£0.00

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 and the following approvals made under the Councils scheme of delegation, be noted;
 - a. That the balance of the Flat Rate Budget for 2015-17 totalling £1,775 had been added to the spend on CCTV Improvements at Heywood Park play centre.
 - b. That the balance of both the 2015-17 and the 2017-18 Highways Maintenance Budget's totalling £28,800 had been put towards the works on Westbourne Avenue.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Murray 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 Could the Area Forum assist in fundraising for Great Lever to have poppies on lamp posts next year as other wards in the borough have?

A Others have raised funds from local businesses and private individuals, the Area Forum would consider funding to assist in raising the money for next year.

Q2 Could something be done about the ongoing issues of prostitution around the back ways of Fletcher Street/ Carrington Drive area? Could gates be installed to limit access to residents only?

A The police stated they were aware of the issues and though not immediately obvious work was going on behind the scenes. The suggestion of gating would be taken back to see if this was a possibility.

Q3 What was happening with 189 Paulhan Street, the property is still empty and deteriorating?

A Bolton at Home were looking at renovating it and bringing it back into community use, the resident would be contacted by Bolton at Home with more details.

Q4 What had happened to the Resource Centre on Leonard St?

A There had been plans to demolish it but there had been a fire and the building had been unsafe so was levelled, it was believed the site was being considered for additional car parking.

Q5 A resident raised concerns that Rishton Lane roundabout was very hazardous with limited visibility.

A The issue would be referred to highways

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 Murray thanked everyone for attending and advised that the date of the next Area Forum had not been decided. Residents on the emailing list would receive invitations and the meeting would also be made available on the Councils website.

(The meeting started at 7.04pm and finished at 8.20pm)