

SMITHILLS AREA FORUM

MEETING, 27th November 2008

Present – 24 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Swarbrick(Chair)	- Smithills Ward
Councillor Hayes	- Smithills Ward
Councillor Richard Silvester	- Smithills Ward

Also in attendance

Idris Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Andrew Donaldson	- Assistant Director of Policy, Improvement & Area Working
David Spencer	- Area Working Support Officer
Sue Strange	- Chief Officer (Smithills)
John Kelly	- Environmental Services
Paul Round	- Head of Sport Services
Tracey Ashton	- Sports Health Inclusion
Beverley Andrew	- Royal Bolton Hospital
John Taylor	- Royal Bolton Hospital (Governor Smithills)
PC Harry Rigby	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Phil Clough	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Bhav Makwana	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Swarbrick in the Chair.

16 INTRODUCTION

Councillor Swarbrick opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the event and introduced herself fellow Councillors from Smithills, Bolton Council officers and partners.

17 BEVERLEY ANDREW - ROYAL BOLTON HOSPITAL TRUST

Ms Andrew briefed residents on the Hospital Trust and what they did. She stated that they had become a Foundation Trust from 1st October 2008 and had around 40 governors within the trust working alongside the directors. She also informed residents that they would be attending all the future area forums and this would be a chance for the residents to give their views of the Smithills ward. Ms Andrew then introduced the governor for Smithills, Mr John Taylor and stated any resident who was interested in becoming a member of the trust should speak to John regarding this.

18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th September 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

19 SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Head of Sport Services, Paul Round introduced himself and his colleague Tracey Ashton and informed residents that he would be giving a presentation on the services to children and young people.

Paul began the presentation by informing residents of his role as Head of Sport Services and what his intentions were for providing more activities for younger people between the ages of 5-19.

He told residents that he was aware that younger people of Smithills were involved in anti-social behaviour, such as drinking alcohol and causing nuisance mainly on Friday and Saturday nights and said one of the major issues was the lack of facilities available to younger people.

He went on to explain that there was a national target of a minimum of 2 hours per week for P.E at primary schools and he was looking at other clubs in the area to keep the youngsters active.

Tracey then gave a quick update on the issues she was currently working through stating that for the past 4 weeks she had been looking at local clubs in the area and seeing if they met the new criteria and also that a meeting was organized to discuss the development of the current facilities available.

Following this presentation Councillor Swarbrick urged residents to ask any questions or to put any suggestions forward as to what the people of the area wanted to see or happen.

- With regards to facilities, Councillor Hayes commented that there was a lack of suitable venues for the local dance group from Johnson Fold.
- A comment was also made by a resident that he no longer see's children riding bikes to school. Is this something we can encourage children to do more of?

Resolved – That the report be noted

20 BIG ISSUES UPDATE – CHIEF OFFICER SUE STRANGE

The forum Chief Officer, Sue Strange provided residents with an update on the big issues identified at previous forum meetings. She stated that for Harrow Road Garages, a meeting was organized for Friday 5th December 08 to discuss with owners their responsibilities for the garages.

With regards to Kenilworth Square a proposed scheme was currently being looked at. Finally in terms of services for children and young people Ms. Strange referred to the earlier presentation.

Resolved - that the report be noted

21 BUDGET UPDATE

Area Co-ordinator, Idris Jeewa gave an update on the budgets available to the forum.

- Area Based Grant £8,180
- Area Forum Budget £25,000
- Highways Maintenance Budget £10,245
- Voluntary Sector Grant Budget £2,000

He also informed the meeting of the following updates:-

Voluntary Sector Grants for Smithills

Budget Available £110

One application had been received from Nuffield Bowling Club for £500 but as there was only £110 remaining Members agreed to award the balance of £110 to the group.

Balance to spend £0

Resolved - That the report be noted and that a grant of £110 made to Nuffield Bowling Club.

22 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The following questions were submitted in the question and answer session:

1. Is there a reason why the forum can't be held at Johnson Fold as elderly residents were unable to attend meeting at Church Road Primary School due to transport and walking difficulties?
2. The Secretary of Friends of Moss Bank Park asked about their grant application and when it would be approved?
3. Why are some sports provisions for age 13 and over and not younger?

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions that have not been answered at the meeting be directed to the appropriate Council Department or external agency.

23 CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Swarbrick thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting and informed residents that the next meeting was arranged for Thursday 12th March at Church Road Primary School, Captains Clough Road from 6:30 pm.

(The meeting started at 7:00p.m. and finished at 8:10pm.)