

FARNWORTH AND KEARSLEY AREA FORUM

MEETING, 14TH JANUARY, 2008

Present – 23 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Lord (Chairman)	- Farnworth Ward
Councillor A.N. Spencer	- Farnworth Ward
Councillor Burrows	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor Mrs. Rothwell	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor J. Rothwell	- Kearsley Ward

Also in Attendance:-

Adrian Wolstenholme	- Area Working
Altaf Ahmed	- Area Working
Liz Whitworth	- Area Working
Susan Curran	- Corporate Resources
Steve Arnfield	- Corporate Resources
Dee Luczka	- Children's Services
Jo Pitchford	- Children's Services
Lynne Jones	- Children's Services
Robert Woods	- Environmental Services
Nick Fisher	- Environmental Services
Alison Grundy	- Environmental Services
Tony Kelly	- Environmental Services
John Norris	- Environmental Services
John Martin	- Environmental Services
Andrew McGlone	- Planning Control
Kanta Kerai	- Bolton at Home
Isabel Southern	- Adult Services
James Bridge	- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue
Sue Member	- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue
Shaun Brighty	- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue
Mick Gamdon	- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue
Phil James	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Andy Smith	- Greater Manchester Police

PC Andy Smart	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Darren Bratby	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Neil Wogan	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Claire Lindop	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Dermot Mcway	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Mark Parry	- Greater Manchester Police
B Tither	- Bolton Community College
L Ettridge	- Primary Care Trust
Tim Evans	- Primary Care Trust
Vicky Ridge	- Legal & Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Cottam and Mr. B. Iddon M.P.

Councillor Lord in the Chair.

27. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Lord welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

28. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 5th November, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

29. BUILDING BETTER HEALTH FOR BOLTON

Mr. T. Evans, Chief Executive Bolton Primary Care Trust gave a presentation to the Forum which outlined the proposals which were contained within the Building Better Health for Bolton initiative.

The presentation concentrated on the four reasons to build better health in Bolton which were as follows:-

- Health Inequalities;
- Unequal Services;

- Urgent Care Review; and
- the Primary Care Trust (PCT) manifesto.

Information was also provided in relation to the planned health buildings, one of which was proposed for Farnworth, and planned services.

It was also stated that the consultation period on the proposals ran from December, 2007 to March, 2008 and it was intended that the new health centre in Farnworth would be operational in 2010.

In relation to the proposed site for Farnworth, the following comments were made, viz:-

- (a) the location should be local and not situated near the Royal Bolton Hospital;
- (b) the Centre needed to be accessible by public transport; and
- (c) steps should be taken to ensure that young people were consulted on the proposals.

Resolved - That the presentation be noted.

30. BOLTON COUNCIL BUDGET 2008/2009 - PRESENTATION BY STEVE ARNFIELD, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

Mr. Arnfield, Director of Corporate Resources gave a presentation to the Forum which outlined the overall budget position for 2008/2009, the results of last year's consultation and also sought the views of members of the public on the Budget allocation.

The Forum was advised that for 2008/2009 Central Government funding had increased by 5.3% for general services and 4.4% for schools and the major budget changes were summarised as follows:-

	£m	%
Schools Increase Spend	6.4	4.4 (per pupil)
Other Services		
Inflation	6.3	3.0
Capital Financing	2.4	
Waste Disposal/Transport	1.5	
Town Centre Swimming Pool	0.6	
Less Increase Government Grant	6.1	5.3

As a result of the above, the Council needed to identify £5.1 million from savings and Council Tax.

In terms of the current position, the Council was currently looking at making efficiency savings in all services in the region of £4.7 million and looking to set a Council Tax of up to 4.0%.

The Forum was also advised that at the meeting of the Executive on 9th January, 2008 an agreement had been made to allocate additional funding towards the following areas, viz:-

- Area Forums;
- Youth Services/Educational Attainment;
- Road Improvements;
- Building Schools for the Future; and
- Adult Social Care

Furthermore, they also indicated that they would now be looking to set a Council Tax increase between 2.5% - 3.5%.

In conclusion, the Forum was encouraged to complete and return a questionnaire which had been circulated, principally seeking views on how the Council's budget should be allocated and what level the Council Tax should be.

Following the presentation, Mr. Arnfield invited and responded to question's from the Forum.

Resolve - That Mr. Arnfield be thanked for his informative presentation.

31. OPEN FORUM

Verbal and written questions were received which detailed the following issues:-

- (a) concern was expressed regarding fly tipping and litter in the Campbell Street and Cawdor Street areas and also whether certain small back streets in this area could be adopted;

It was stated that officers from the enforcement team had been in contact and they would be attending a resident's meeting to discuss the issues raised. In terms of the back streets, these were currently not included in the programme for adoption but the request would be investigated further.

- (b) why had no action been taken regarding the dilapidated property at 87 Cawdor Street.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- (c) it was stated that since repair works had been undertaken on Harper Green Road, subsidence had now occurred.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- (d) when would the solar traffic speed signs be installed on Campbell Street.

It was stated that the signs would be rotated on an eight week basis and erected at various sites in Farnworth and Kearsley. Currently the signs were to be placed on Harper Green Road, Stoneclough and Campbell Street.

- (e) what was the current situation with the redevelopment of Farnworth precinct.

It was stated that the planning application was approved on 30th August, 2007 and Councillors had recently met with estates to discuss the situation regarding the leaseholders and the need to amend the current leases. It was hoped that this should be completed within the next few weeks. Information was also provided on the progress which was being made regarding Farnworth Park.

- (f) concern was expressed that the bollards on Brackley Street were still not working.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- (g) concern was expressed regarding the fact that a charge of £20 was made for the replacement of grey wheelie bins if they had been stolen. It was also felt that vandalism to wheelie bins was on the increase within the Kearsley area.

It was agreed these issues would be referred to the Environmental Services Department.

- (h) concern was expressed regarding the double yellow lines which had been introduced on Longcauseway, as in certain parts they had not fully been completed which resulted in cars parking on the road.

It was stated that the problems had been acknowledged and the contractor was due to go back on site to complete the works.

- (i) there had been an increase in litter at Park View, Kearsley which was mainly as a result of spillages from refuse vehicles.

It was stated that the Council policy was that any spillages should be cleaned up by the refuse crews, however, the issue would be investigated further.

- (j) could wheelie bins be bar-coded.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- (k) what was happening with the Baptise Church.

It was stated that planning permission had been approved for apartments and the developer had five years from the date of approval to commence the works.

- (l) there was a problem with taxi drivers blocking the pavements on Brackley Street on Friday/Saturday evenings.

It was agreed that this would be referred to the Licensing Unit.

- (m) concern was expressed that advertising signs were being erected on lampposts and roundabouts.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- (n) cars were being parked on double yellow lines in Market Street and no action was being taken.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- (o) disapproval was expressed at the new site of the Royal Mail Parcel Collection Office, especially, as there was no direct bus service.

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

32. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Lord closed the meeting and thanked Council Members, Officers and members of the public for their attendance.

33. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved - That the next meeting of the Forum be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 3rd March, 2008 at Trinity Church.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.15 p.m.)