

## **BRIGHTMET AREA FORUM**

INFORMAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2017

Present: 11 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Debbie Newall - Brightmet Ward

### Also in attendance

John Shannon	- Area Co-ordinator
Sue Vickers	- Business Support Officer
Vanessa Hamnett	- Bolton at Home
Carol Atkinson	- St James' Action Group
Insp Sarah May	- Greater Manchester Police
Sgt Billy Guffogg	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Julie Farrell	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Sir David Crausby MP, Cllr John Byrne, Cllr Lynda Byrne.

Councillor Debbie Newall in the Chair

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

Councillor Newall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Officers in attendance. Councillor Newall obtained the consent of those present for the meeting to be videoed by a resident.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were submitted.

#### **4. PRESENTATION ON BRIGHTMET UCAN**

Councillor Newall introduced Vanessa Hamnett, Bolton at Home, who gave an interactive presentation on Brightmet UCAN and its theme of “Get Involved”.

The main points were:

- Core Offer – role of the Project Officer
- Community Projects
- Partner Organisations
- Ways to access projects

A number of questions were asked and answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

#### **5. PRESENTATION ON ST JAMES’ ACTION GROUP VOLUNTEERS**

Councillor Newall introduced Carol Atkinson who gave a presentation on the work of the volunteers of St James’ Action Group.

The main points were:

- How volunteers are organised
- Organisation of litter picks
- Support to the group from Councillors

Carol invited all to attend future events and accepted a residents’ offer to promote the Group through social media.

A number of questions were asked and answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **6. VIDEO; VOLUNTEERING IN BOLTON**

Councillor Newall introduced John Shannon who ran a short video on volunteering opportunities in Bolton and the difference it makes to the participants and the town.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **7. BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM**

Councillor Newall introduced John Shannon, Area Coordinator, who gave an update on budgets devolved to the Area Forum as follows;

### **Budgets for 2013/15**

**Highways Maintenance Budget; Allocation - £19,200**  
**Balance - £0**

The following project had been approved under the Council's scheme of delegation since the last meeting.

Project	Amount
Contribution to cost of resurface of Oakenbottom Road	£6,870

**Area Forum Flat Rate Budget; Allocation - £13,750**  
**Balance - £0**

### **Area Forum Budget allocations for 2015/17**

**Highways Maintenance Budget; Allocation – £19,200**  
**Balance - £0**

The following projects had been approved under the Council's scheme of delegation since the last meeting.

Project	Amount
Contribution to cost of resurface of Oakenbottom	£19,200

Road and repairs at Brightmet Fold Lane	
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**Area Forum Flat Rate Budget; Allocation – £9,375**  
**Balance - £1,525**

The following projects had been approved under the Council's scheme of delegation since the last meeting.

Project	Amount
Support cost of play and youth sessions at Waggon Road Centre	£3,000
Award to Brightmet Wanderers AFC	£1,000
Award to St James' Action Group to support cost of replacement benches in Dome Park	£1000
Award to Heartlift Project	£250
Award to Friends of Seven Acres Park	£250
Contribution to TRO at various locations in Brightmet (including junction protection at top of Forton Ave and Redcedar Drive)	£600
Support cost of "cul-de-sac" signs at Lorton Avenue and Skelton Grove	£500
Award to Brighter Brightmet group	£250

Resolved – that the report, together with those projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, be noted.

## **8. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**

Councillor Newall introduced this item on the agenda and invited residents to ask questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Ward.

The questions were as follows:

- Q1 In 1997 Philip Lever, 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount Leverhulme, granted the disposal of land held by the charity "Leverhulme Park". The 125 year lease with Bolton Council allowed the covenant to be circumvented and Premier Fives to be constructed, in which I'm sure we'll all agree is a fantastic facility for the park. For many months, the borough solicitor has been unable to meet with me so that we can obtain all documentation held by the

charity under the governance of Bolton Council.

Councillors John and Lynda Byrne are in a unique position as having been involved in the 1997 disposal of the land for lease. Therefore can I ask for their assistance in ensuring the release of the governing document, the designated minutes of trustees, the letter of release from Viscount Leverhulme and all relevant documentation regarding the annual payments for maintenance of the charity land to the charity?

A A response would be provided by Legal Services

Q2 Brightmet has only two sites of biological importance. One of them, ironically named "Darcy Lever Marches" despite it being in Brightmet. The site is home to an endangered species of Great Crested Newt and we are currently risking the loss of the site to tree growth. After carrying out surveys as a licence holder, I discovered a significant corridor surrounding New House Farm, with local residents keen to develop the land behind their properties on the estate.

Would Bolton Council be willing to allow residents the opportunity to develop a wildlife corridor, which resides behind their properties and surrounds New House Farm? The protection and development of this abandoned land could lead to the formation of a new community group with the possibility of educational tasks for local schools about the site of biological importance.

A From Neighbourhood Services; The Council's Neighbourhood Services section would invite the person asking the question to put forward a detailed written proposal identifying the land in question and the proposals for the involvement of an appropriately constituted community group in the management & maintenance of it. This can then be considered by the relevant departments of the Council. His proposal can be e-mailed to

[neighbourhoodservicesinbox@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodservicesinbox@bolton.gov.uk) in the first instance.

- Q3 As the chair for Bolton North East Wildlife Trail we have carried out extensive litter and fly tipping removal in Breightmet. After three events, we have removed roughly 84 bags of rubbish and an almost insurmountable amount of fly tipping of sofas, fridges, microwaves, chairs. The list is endless.

We plan to focus our efforts in Breightmet and we have a scheduled litter and brook clean-up in Leverhulme Park of the waste caused by Chadwicks. Although we have litter pickers and fluorescent safety jackets provided by Bolton council, we badly require litter hoops that cost roughly £9 each. The hoops allow the bin bag to stay open so you're not fighting against the wind, rain and the bag itself. Would Councillors be willing to use area forum money to purchase ten litter hoops for Bolton NEWTS use in Breightmet, at a rough cost of £90? We would then also be able to provide these hoops for your scheduled annual litter pick on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

- A From Neighbourhood Services; the litter hoops can be provided by the council to litter picking groups, the person asking the question will be contacted.

- Q4 Behind the houses on Hollycroft Avenue is a sports court owned by Bolton Council. It was originally a football/basketball court and the existing infrastructure does not need replacing. However, for the last five years there has been a large section of the flooring of the court that has been vandalised.

As Cllr Byrne is the Cabinet Member for Youth Sports and Culture, can you please consider either repairing the damage, as children are still using the court, or developing the land for the community, thereby preventing any housing development and a loss of our local wildlife corridor?

A From Neighbourhood Services; The Council will inspect the site and carry out any essential repairs to ensure the safety of users.

Q5 I am concerned about the condition of the road bumps along Blenheim Road; one in particular near the start of Brodick Drive is noticeably more damaged and hazardous to vehicles.

What action is Bolton Council taking to repair the road bumps and why do the bumps stop before reaching the primary school SS Osmund and Andrews?

A From Highway Services; we will have the road humps inspected and any actionable defects will be repaired.

The humps were installed as part of a 20mph zone on Blenheim Road and the surrounding roads. The section of Blenheim Rd which was covered by the zone was where accidents had occurred. The section of Brodick Drive where the school is had no recorded accidents (and has none recorded in the last 5 years), the zone therefore stopped at Slaidburn Ave. Highways would be asked to provide an update on any recorded accidents since the introduction of these bumps.

Q6 After the reopening of Moss Primary School which is now SS Osmund and Andrews there has been significant dog fouling and littering along Brodick Drive. Although the Council does not provide any new public bins, they will relocate existing underused bins from anywhere in Bolton to a new location.

Can we be provided with a relocated public bin at the bottom of Glencoe Drive on the Brodick Drive entrance of New House Farm to help tackle this issue?

A From Neighbourhood Services; a bin nearby in the same ward can be considered for relocation with the full agreement of ward members.

The final say on these matters is operational and we will take into account feedback from the bin and street cleaning teams and financial constraints.

Neighbourhood services would be asked to make an assessment of the possible relocation of a bin to this location

- Q7 Can I take the opportunity to invite the public to attend our Leverhulme park litter and brook clean up on Sunday March the 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am till 10.30am. I would also like to invite Councillor Newall, and Councillors John and Lynda Byrne as I'm aware of their dedication and commitment from last year in working with environmental services to clear the 20,000 tons of waste from Chadwicks. We hope this event would provide an opportunity for closure on the negative impact that the site has had on our environment, and a chance for multiple groups and individuals to find out more about the volunteering opportunities that are taking place in Breightmet.

- A Unfortunately Cllr Newall was not able to attend this event, however, if more advanced notice of future events could be given, especially those taking place at the weekend, she would endeavour to attend. Cllr Newall also outlined the extensive operation carried out by the Council to clear the former Chadwick's site at a cost of approximately £1.7Million. The Council was taking steps to recover this cost.

- Q8 The land at the former Top o' th' Brow Primary School has been abandoned for some time and is subject to frequent fly tipping. There is also the land leased by St Catherines Academy in which the public footpath connects from Newby Road to Greenroyd Avenue, which is also subject to frequent fly-tipping.

What action is Bolton Council taking to ensure that these issues are resolved beyond using community payback or neighbourhood services to remove the waste?

- A Response from Neighbourhood Services and



Corporate Property; If possible a clear up will be carried out through the community payback programme. The land is designated for housing in the Council's allocation plan and consideration is being given to how the site can be used to meet current Council housing needs.

- Q9 It is our understanding that your scheduled litter pick by the residents association and councillors is due to take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. As a Bolton North East Wildlife Trail committee member, we are aware of a recent £20,000K Bolton Council funded CEF project by the Wildlife Trust who are here today with the Friends of Seven Acres. The goal of the project is to bring together communities.

On behalf of Bolton NEWT we think this would be another fantastic opportunity for ourselves, councillors, Brighter Brightmet and the residents association to meet with the Friends of Seven Acres and Wildlife Trust to carry out a joint litter pick at both Dome Park, the local area and Seven Acres.

- A Cllr Newall offered to facilitate a meeting for the various groups to discuss how best to co-ordinate this valuable community resource.

- Q10 Why can't we have more regular meetings to keep residents updated on happenings in the area?

- A Unfortunately due to the need to make savings and efficiencies as a result of funding reductions, the Council decided to reduce the number of Area Forums to one per year; residents could, however, contact their ward Councillors or Area Co-ordinator with inquiries. Councillor Newall reminded attendees that councillors hold surgeries and that the Councillors intend to hold other events during the year.

- Q11 Could litter bins be provided at SS Osmund and Andrew School?

A This request would be passed to Neighbourhood Services for further assessment.

Q12 Could we please have signs put up on the New House Farm playing fields to deter the motor bikes? Also is there any way we can block them from coming onto the field?

A This request would be passed to Community Safety Services for response. Neighbourhood Services would be asked to check the existing perimeter fence and gates for damage and any repairs.

Q13 Why are there so few litter bins throughout Bolton?

A John Shannon, Area Co-ordinator replied; Given reductions in service budgets in the past 5 years as a result of reducing Government allocations the number of bins and crews had been reviewed. Cllr Newall stated that £150 million of savings had been made and that, given the Council's commitment to protect services for vulnerable people, reductions in services such as litter bins had to be made.

Q14 Why can't the bin men empty ~~them~~ litter bins on their rounds collecting household bins?

A Given the need to make the collections as efficient as possible it was thought that this would not be feasible. Neighbourhood Services would be asked to respond to the question.

Q15 What's happened to the Blenheim Road Action Group? Would it be possible to create off road parking on Blenheim Road?

A Councillor Newall had attended a meeting of the group some time ago but had not received any minutes or further contact from the group. As the main property owner on Blenheim Road Bolton at Home would be asked to investigate the possibility of off road parking.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and any not answered on the night be referred to the appropriate service for response.

## **9. CLOSING REMARKS**

Councillor Newall concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. She advised that the date of the next meeting had not yet been set, however residents would be notified through the usual channels.

(The meeting began at 7.03pm and ended at 8.30pm.)