

LITTLE LEVER AND DARCY LEVER AREA FORUM

MEETING, 8th June 2009

Present – 53 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Hornby (Chair)	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Connell	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Woodward	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward

Also in attendance

Adrian Wolstenholme	- Area Co-ordinator
David Spencer	- Area Working Support Officer
Sarah Schofield	- Environmental Services
John Sharrock	- Environmental Services
Chris Lloyd	- Environmental Services
Brian Johnson	- Development & Regeneration
Tim Evans	- NHS Bolton
John Green	- NHS Bolton
Mark Welsh	- NHS Bolton
Beverley Andrew	- Royal Bolton Hospital
Eric Hyde	- Royal Bolton Hospital
PC Westwell	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Roby	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Dr B Iddon MP, and -
John Rowlands Chief Officer.

Councillor Hornby in the Chair.

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Hornby welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, fellow Councillors from the Little Lever and Darcy Lever ward, Bolton Council officers and partners.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2009 were accepted as a correct record, with the following amendment:

Further to page Q3 minute 26 question 7:

‘was it necessary to have double yellow lines down both sides of Market Street? This has removed on street parking’

To read:

‘was it necessary to have double yellow lines down both sides of Foundary Street? This has removed on street parking’

3. NHS BOLTON – HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE

The NHS Bolton’s Chief Executive, Tim Evans, gave an update on the current proceedings of the new health centre. He advised that NHS Bolton were still committed to delivering all of the new health centres as promised, with one of those being a new health centre within the Little Lever ward.

However, Mr. Evans advised that following the budget in April, 2009 the funding they were expecting in order to build the health centres was not as much as they initially anticipated. Therefore, the timescale in which they were going to be delivered had changed following the economic crisis.

Mr. Evans concluded his presentation by informing the meeting that he was due to produce a report that he could present to the board of directors in the autumn to renegotiate the remaining health centres.

Q3

Following this presentation the following questions and comments were put forward:

1. The state of the current building is poor. Staff had approached Councillors, in confidence, complaining about the current condition.
2. What work was needed to make the current building safe?
3. When was the last safety check made on the premises?
4. The roof on the current building was leaking.
5. Where was the new health centre going to be built?
6. Hamilton Court could be a possible location for the health centre. Currently owned by The Council and was ready to build on.
7. Spending money on the health centre was a drain on the NHS resources.
8. Would the funding change if there was a change in the government?

Mr Evans responded to all the questions that were asked.

Following the questions Councillor Hornby asked Mr. Evans if he would be prepared to attend a future meeting after meeting with his board of directors to update residents of the outcome. Mr Evans agreed to attend a future meeting.

Resolved – That the report be noted

4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Head of Streetscene Services, John Sharrock, gave a presentation on the environmental issues within the Little Lever and Darcy Lever ward.

Mr Sharrock advised that they were trying to come up with better ways to deal with environmental issues instead of just cleaning up the immediate issue in question on a repeated basis.

Mr Sharrock informed the meeting of the Council's approach to tackling environmental issues and the effect on Little Lever and

Darcy Lever and the Bolton Borough as a whole. He advised residents that there were four main ways to deal with problems that arose:

- Education and Community Development
- Enforcement
- Improve Service Delivery
- Physical Improvements

Mr Sharrock went on to explain both the advantage and disadvantages of each type of approach the Council could take.

Mr Sharrock then asked the residents to make up two groups in order to discuss an environmental issue that they thought affected the Little Lever and Darcy Lever area. Residents then discussed these with officers. Following the group discussions each Group gave feedback on their ideas to tackle the local environmental issues.

Following this presentation the following questions and comments were put forward:

1. Environmental Education was given to the wrong people.
2. Could the community payback scheme come to Little Lever?
3. There was graffiti all over the precinct.
4. There were no bins in the ginnel around the cricket club.

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.

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Hornby introduced the agenda item and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments that they felt necessary.

The following questions and comments were put forward at the meeting.

1. There was speeding traffic on Aintree Road. This was reported 12 months ago.
2. Senior council officers given pay rise, what were councillors doing about this?
3. What pressure was put on the Executive to make sure senior officers were doing their jobs correctly?
4. Tonge Road was a disgrace cars parking either side which was narrowing the road.
5. Could a 20mph zone be put on Windermere Road?
6. What procedures were in place for emergency services to access Gorses Road, Darcy Lever given that the bridge from Bembridge Drive had a weight restriction on it?

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.

27. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Hornby concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the next Little Lever and Darcy Lever Area Forum would be held on 14th July 2009 at Masefield Primary School from 6:30pm

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 9.00pm)