HULTON AREA FORUM

MEETING – 8th OCTOBER 2015

Present – 29 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Shafaqat Shaikh	-	Hulton Ward
Councillor Diane Parkinson	-	Hulton Ward
Councillor Alan Walsh	-	Hulton Ward

Also in attendance

Pauline Dixon	-	Neighbourhood Manager/Area Working Lead
Vicky Ridge	-	Chief Executives Department
Joe Fox	-	Environmental Services
Claire Whittle and Carol Evans	-	Citizens Advice Service (CAB)
PCSO Chris Knott	-	Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by Yasmin Qureshi MP

Councillor Diane Parkinson in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Parkinson welcomed everyone and introduced herself, Councillors and other 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 5th February 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. PENSION WISE SERVICE UPDATE

Councillor Parkinson introduced Clare Whittle and Carol Evans from Wigan CAB who gave an update on the Pension Wise Service, the help available from CAB and what this meant for pensions. The main points were as follows:

- Pension Wise was a new Government service launched at the end of March 2015 designed to help people understand their options and make the right choices for them
- Who is Involved -
    - HM Treasury - website and overall service
    - Citizens Advice – face-to-face appointments
    - The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) – telephone appointments
    - Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) – standards
- Wigan and Leigh CAB were delivering Pension Wise appointments across Bolton.
- Access to pension advise was Free and impartial
- Following pension reforms on April 6th 2015, people approaching retirement had greater freedom over how they use their pension pot
- Appointments were 45 minutes long and tailored to the individual
- Appointments may help if:
    - You are approaching retirement or are 55 or over
    - Have a defined contribution pension
    - Are thinking of accessing your pension in the next 6 Months
- Guidance appointments are also available, these are by telephone
- Information could be accessed at:
    - www.pensionwise.gov.uk – online guidance
    - 0300 330 1001 - telephone appointments
    - Your local Citizens Advice Bureau
    - Leigh Delivery Centre: 01942 267965
- Specialists available to speak at Community events in the area or hold “drop in sessions”.

A number of questions followed the presentation and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the update be noted

5. UPDATE FROM A LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP

Resolved - This it be noted that this item was withdrawn due to unforeseen circumstances.

6. BUDGETS UPDATE

Neighbourhood Manager, Pauline Dixon gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum as follows;

For 2015-17 financial years

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£9,175.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£19,200.00

The following points were noted:-

- The Area Forum Budget was available to fund activities which provided a benefit to the ward.
- The remaining budget from 2013-15 would be available to spend in the current financial year.
- 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 be noted;

(ii) That it be noted that the following scheme had been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2015-17 budget:

Grant Pot	**Scheme**	**Award**
AFB	Contribution to Dropped Kerb	£200.00

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Parkinson 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.

Five written questions had been submitted and it was agreed that responses to these would be provided direct to the resident. Furthermore, a number of written questions had been submitted which were read out and agreed that the answers would be provided on the feedback sheet. The questions were as follows:-

Q1. What is the Councillors view on the clearway on the A6 and Watergate Lane and also on the shared cycle land from the recycling centre to the Little Hulton Boundary on the south side of the A6?

Q2 When is work to commence on the Country Park, car park and the combined cycle footway between Rosemary Lane and the Four Lane Ends and will it be completed before the opening/use of the first building on the Logistics North site?

Q3 On the central traffic island approximately 100 metres before the Watergate roundabout (west side) there used to be an illuminated pole between the two traffic bollards. The pole was knocked down during the resurfacing of the road. Will it be replaced? If not then can we have the electrical cable that used to supply this light removed and disconnected from a live electric source?

Q4 When are the repairs to be carried out to rectify the water running onto the new cycle/footway on Watergate Lane, south side approximately 50 metres after the bend towards Plodder Lane and also on the eastern side cycle/footway between the two roundabouts?

Q5 On the footway (north west side) before the Watergate roundabout there are weeds growing through the cycle/footpath can these be treated before they break up the tarmac. There is also weeds growing all around the lamppost on the central island east side of the Watergate roundabout and on the central island north side there are weeds and unfinished tarmac

Q6 What is the purpose of the newly erected CCTV poles either side of the M61 on the roundabout at junction 4 and who will be monitoring these cameras. Also what is the purpose of the solar electric panel and black box on a post between the two roundabouts on Watergate Lane?

Q7 When is Chris Davidson of Haworth estates going to arrange a site visit?

Q8 On the fence to the east bound slip road there is an electric cable exposed could this be removed on health and safety grounds?

Q9 Why are two housing schemes to be built when residents were informed at the start that no houses were to be built under the Cutacre development scheme

Q10 Will the trees which were removed to build the temporary bund (adjacent to Unit 6A/6B running parallel with Salford Road) which has now been removed be replaced?

The following questions were also asked on the night as follows:

Q1 How do members of the public access the planning portal site on the Council's planning website?

A1 The process for doing this will be provided in the feedback sheet

Q2 Have any further planning applications been submitted for the Hulton Estate

A2 Officers would investigate this and report back

Q3 Were there any plans for a golf course to be developed on the Hulton Estate

A3 Officers will investigate this with the planning department and report back

Q4 Could confirmation be sought as to whether Hulton Park was listed

A4 Officers would seek confirmation on this and report back

A resident also expressed thanks to the Ward Councillors, Pauline Dixon and Malcolm Fairhurst for their contributions towards ensuring that work on the pavements on Broadway/Hilltop/Low Green was undertaken. A further resident also thanked the Over Hulton Committee and volunteers for the flower planting display at the shopping precinct and also the litter pickers for their fantastic effort in trying to keep the Over Hulton area litter free.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Prior to closing the meeting Councillor Parkinson invited PCSO Chris Knott to provide a brief update on the current situation with regard to crime and disorder in the Hulton Ward.

Councillor Parkinson then thanked everyone for attending and stated that the next Area Forum Meeting was to be held on Thursday 17th March 2016 the venue was yet to be confirmed, residents would be informed in the usual way, a drop-in would be held at 6.30pm and the main meeting would be at 7pm.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 7.56pm)