

RUMWORTH AREA FORUM

MEETING – Thursday 21st January 2016

Present - 11 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Rosa Kay	- Rumworth Ward
Councillor Ebrahim Adia	- Rumworth Ward
Councillor Ismail Ibrahim	- Rumworth Ward

Also in attendance:

Pauline Dixon	- Neighbourhood Manager
Andy Bolan	- Environmental Enforcement and Education Officer, Environmental Services
PC Beaver	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Sumner	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Michael Farrell	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Mark Harrison	- Greater Manchester Police
Mary Devenish	- Bolton at Home
Marion Griffin	- Business Support Officer, Chief Executives Department

Councillor Rosa Kay in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Yasmin Qureshi MP and Lisa Morgan Groundwork.

8. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Councillor Kay welcomed everyone and introduced Councillor Adia; Councillor Ibrahim and other Council and partner officers present.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

This update was deferred until the next Area Forum meeting.

12. DEANE UCAN PROJECT UPDATE

Mary Devenish, Bolton at Home gave the following presentation on the Deane UCAN Anti-poverty project from March 2015 – to December 2015.

The project aimed:

- To assist people into work, training and volunteering
- Run activities and services to support local people to be free of or reduce debt
- Activities and services to reduce poverty

List of services and provisions:

- The footfall to the UCAN – averaged 600 per month (7,200 per annum)
- From August to December 171 new members joined the Work club
- Intense one to one support to remove barriers to work
- CV service to assist residents to develop a good CV
- I T training to help residents set up email accounts, enable them to fulfil Universal Credit requirements. 5000 over the year had used the IT services.
- Debt advice for Bolton at Home customers
- Energy efficiency training – with savings for customers through changing suppliers, cheaper tariff, dual fuel and direct debt
- Keep Warm for less – 32 grant applications from June to December 2015 £10,500

- Food Vouchers – provided to residents who have no food in the house many with children
- Local Welfare provision – average 12 per month
- Café drop in at the Willows Centre on Tuesdays
- Gardening/growing group

Positive feedback had been received from all residents who had used the services and provisions.

HATE AWARENESS PROJECT – RUMWORTH AREA FORUM RECRUITMENT

Carol Elford, Rumworth resident, gave a brief presentation on the Hate Awareness campaign of which she and local residents, volunteer time to make Rumworth a better place to live and work.

The aim of the project was to help residents understand Hate Crime incidents and the impact on people.

The volunteers will facilitate six 2 hours sessions over 3 months starting in February. The request is for residents who may have experienced or witnessed Hate Crime or who would be interested in understanding how this can be stopped to let them know by contacting Pauline Dixon by telephone on 07976257843.

Resolved – That the presentations be noted.

13. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

Pauline Dixon, Neighbourhood Manager gave a brief update regarding the devolved budgets to the Area Forum available for April 2015- March17:

Budgets for 2015/17 devolved to the Area Forum are as follows:

Highways Maintenance Budget annual allocation - £19,200

Allocation based on ward – flat rate £9,375

Resolved – That the update be noted.

14. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Kay introduced this agenda item and invited all forum attendees to ask any questions they may have regarding issues in the Rumworth Ward.

One written question had been submitted as follows:

Q. There used to be a pole with a mirror at the junction of Church Avenue and Willis Street. It was knocked down when two cars collided and never replaced. Can the pole and mirror be replaced? Also at the bottom of Church Avenue the back street is still cobbled. Can this be looked into?

A. Bolton Council had no powers to approve the use of road mirrors on the public highway. Mirrors are only placed in exceptional circumstances and must be authorised by the Department for Transport. Even when permitted, they are only allowed in rural areas, never in built-up urban areas. The Council engineer had advised that the cobbled back street is structurally sound and there would be no benefit of tarmacking this area.

Q. I had heard that the Area Forums are to be reduced to one a year. When and how would the residents be consulted?

A. A review of the service is being undertaken and for those residents who had provided an email address they would be invited to take part in the consultation by email.

Councillor Adia explained that as a result of ongoing budget reductions £43m savings had to be identified from 2015 -2017. Over the next 2 years the workforce would be reduced by a third. By 2020 another £45m savings would have to be identified.

Although, the frequency of Area Forums would be reduced meetings could still be held with Councillors and Residents to discuss specific issues.

Q. What is the progress on the installation of CCTV cameras on Oriel Street?

A. Pauline Dixon explained that she was waiting for an update from the Council's Engineers this week. When she had further information she would pass this to PCSO Michael Farrell who would let the residents know when the work is to take place.

Resolved – That the questions and answers be noted.

15. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Kay concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting is yet to be confirmed and would be advertised on the Council's website.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.45 pm)