

FARNWORTH AND KEARSLEY AREA FORUM

MEETING, 30TH OCTOBER, 2006

TRINITY CHURCH, HIGHER MARKET STREET

Present – 34 Members of the public attended the meeting.

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

Also in Attendance

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|-------------------|---|--|
| Lisa Burley | - | Environmental Services |
| Isobel Southern | - | Adult Services |
| Gemma Pearson | - | Bolton at Home |
| Lynne Jones | - | Children's Services |
| Lena Grant | - | Children's Services |
| Phil Lamb | - | Development and Regeneration |
| Helen Williams | - | Development and Regeneration |
| Pauline Dixon | - | Development and Regeneration |
| Bernadette Tither | - | New Bury Community and Learning Centre |
| Greg Brooks | - | Youth Service |

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|---------------------|---|---|
| Jo Pitchford | - | The Greater Farnworth Children's Centre |
| Marie Brookfield | - | CVS |
| Adrian Wolstenholme | - | Area Co-ordinator |
| Altaf Ahmed | - | Area Co-ordinator |
| Liz Whitworth | - | Area Co-ordinator |
| John Shannon | - | Area Working Manager |
| Kate Treadwell | - | Democratic Services |

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rothwell and Stones.

Councillor Lord in the Chair

17. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Lord welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 11th September, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

19. OPEN FORUM FEEDBACK

Mr. A. Wolstenholme, Area Co-ordinator, tabled a paper which provided an update on responses to questions which were raised at the last meeting of the Forum.

Resolved – That the feedback be noted.

20. PRESENTATION: QUEEN STREET DEVELOPMENT

Mr. P. Lamb, Senior Project Officer and Ms. P. Dixon, Principal Project Officer, Development and Regeneration Department gave a presentation regarding the College Co-location Project at Queen Street.

By way of background information, Ms. P. Dixon informed the Forum that the Learning Skills Council had examined post 14 education in Bolton. The Skills Council identified the South of the Borough as having a severe lack of educational facilities. Therefore, the Learning Skills Council had offered funding for this area of the Borough.

Ms. Dixon went on to state that the 14-19 year old educational development would be placed where the old Queen Street School had been in Farnworth. It was emphasised that this development should be of benefit to everyone in the area and should bring about wider regeneration.

Ms. Dixon stated that the Council's role within the project was as a facilitator working with the colleges on the Queen Street Development.

Ms. Dixon confirmed that, as of yet, a Planning Application had not been put forward.

Various comments and questions were responded to.

Resolved – That Ms. Dixon and Mr. Lamb be thanked for their informative presentation.

21. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Ms. L. Whitworth, Area Co-ordinator, reported that one application had been received for Voluntary Sector Grant monies for the Kearsley Area, as follows:-

- New Bury Residents Association - £471.70 towards a trestle table, bingo machine and refreshments.

Members agreed that as there was only £462.58 left for the Kearsley Area the remaining monies be given to the New Bury Residents

Resolved – That a grant of £462.58 be awarded to the New Bury Residents, as detailed in the report.

22. OPEN FORUM

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

- (a) What would be done to improve the problem on Long Causeway regarding the busy traffic, the broken pavements

and the sinking of certain houses?

The Area Co-ordinator agreed to refer this matter to the Planning and Highways Department.

- (b) What action was being taken to combat the anti-social behaviour in and around the Long Causeway area?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that he would liaise with the Police to see what action was being taken and also with Youth Services. In addition, the Chair added that this matter could be considered by the newly set up Farnworth Management Board which was due to meet.

- (c) When was a decision going to be made about cars travelling at inappropriate speeds along Frederick Street?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this area had been looked into by the Highways Department and was not thought to be a high priority for traffic calming measures.

- (d) Why were cars being allowed to park on the footpath near a Market Street Takeaway?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be investigated and referred to the relevant Council Department.

- (e) What progress had been made regarding the bollards on Brackley Street?

The Chair stated that it had taken a long period of time to erect the bollards. This was partly due to the need to ensure the Emergency Services and Post Office vehicles had access to Brackley Street when the bollards were up. However, Highways had now agreed that the bollards would be operational from 20th November, 2006.

- (f) Why had Yoga classes been moved from the Community Centre on King Street to the New Bury Community Centre?

The Area Co-ordinator informed the Forum that the King Street site was no longer in use by Bolton Community College. Therefore, all services at that site had now been moved to New Bury Community Centre. The Area Co-

ordinator stated that the College would be approached to give their response.

- (g) Was there any improvements being planned for the Play Area at Bolton Road, Recreational Ground in Kearsley which was in need of repainting and replacement swings?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that Jon Gorton was due to come to a forthcoming meeting of the Forum and would be able to answer such questions regarding play areas.

- (h) When would the proposed Women's Refuge Centre come before the Planning Committee?

Councillor Rothwell confirmed that the matter had come before the Planning Committee but that the matter had been deferred to look into the legal position of the land. The matter would now be considered at the 16th November, 2006 meeting.

- (i) What was being done regarding the traffic lights on Bolton Road at Stoneclough as a lot of cars seemed to go through on a red light?

The Area Co-ordinator advised that the matter would be looked into and referred to the relevant Council Department and the Police.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions that had not been answered at the meeting be directed to the appropriate Council Department or external agencies.

23. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

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

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8.00pm)