

TWO TOWNS AREA FORUM

MEETING, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

Present – 30 Members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Rock (Chairman)	-	Horwich North East
Councillor Hamilton (Vice-Chairman)	-	Horwich and Blackrod
Councillor Barrow	-	Horwich and Blackrod
Councillor Hollick	-	Horwich and Blackrod
Councillor R. Ronson	-	Horwich North East

Also in attendance

John Shannon	-	Area Working
Val Cloynes	-	Area Working
Anne Boles	-	Area Working
Jennifer Roe	-	Area Working
Stephen Rowson	-	Area Working
Vicky Ridge	-	Democratic Services
Marie Moore	-	Adult Services
Kevin Durkin	-	Adult Services
Ellen Miller	-	Adult Services
Simon Boland	-	Children's Services
Glen Carr	-	Children's Services
Catherine Greer	-	Children's Services
Jennifer Hargreaves	-	Bolton at Home
Graeme Mitchell	-	Development and Regeneration
Helen Williams	-	Development and Regeneration
Katie Wilkinson	-	Development and Regeneration
Ian Calderbank	-	Environmental Services
Carl Bullough	-	Environmental Services
Michael Lee	-	Environmental Services
Kevin Wright	-	Environmental Services
Glyn McGann	-	Page 1 of 10

		Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Keith Seal	-	Greater Manchester Police
Shaun Vernon	-	Greater Manchester Police
Richard Amis	-	Greater Manchester Police
Lisa Whitehead	-	Greater Manchester Police
Geoff Taylor	-	Greater Manchester Police
Tim Barwood	-	Energy Conservation, Manchester

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Ronson

Councillor Rock in the Chair.

14. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Rock welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 3rd July, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record subject to the amendment of Minute 8 to include that the proposed scheme was as a result of a request made by the Brazley Residents Association.

16. FEEDBACK SESSION OF ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms A. Boles, Area Co-ordinator circulated an information leaflet which updated members on events since the last meeting and feedback on issues raised previously.

A concern was raised regarding the fact that residents of Crown Lane had still not been formally notified of the results of the survey undertaken on traffic management. It was agreed that this would be investigated and a response provided.

A concern was also expressed regarding the length of time it took officers to respond to enquiries and an example was given whereby a member of public had been waiting for a response regarding the operation at Dicconsions since January, 2007. It was agreed that this would be investigated and a response provided.

Resolved – That the feedback be noted.

17. SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Ms. C. Greer, Head of Early Start, gave a presentation to the Forum which outlined the service provision for 0-5's and their families in the Horwich and Blackrod areas.

Information was provided in relation to the following, viz:-

- (a) details of where 0-5's lived in the area;
- (b) what services were currently available in the area;
- (c) what were Children's Centres; and
- (d) what Children's Centres offered.

The Forum was also advised that, in terms of provision, there were enough childcare places in the area to allow parents to return to work, however, there was a need to plug some of the gaps to meet the needs of families. One of the initiatives to address this was the establishment of Children's Centres. It was stated that every area would eventually have their own Children's Centres which would be rolled out in three phases. With regard to this particular forum area, Lord Street and Brazley were within the disadvantaged areas and, therefore, were included within Phase 2 of the rolling programme for Children's Centres.

Resolved – That Ms Greer be thanked for her informative presentation.

18. OLDER PEOPLE IN BLACKROD AND HORWICH

Mr. K. Durkin, Head of Older People Strategy and Involvement, gave a presentation to the Forum which outlined the needs of older people and the services available within the Blackrod and Horwich areas.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- a) the national picture - a new undertaking of older people's needs;
- b) the local picture;
- c) services for older people;
- d) the importance of information;
- e) the 2006/2007 – Feel the Benefit Campaign;
- f) A Better Bolton for Older People: involving older people in improving services;
- g) understanding the different needs of the local communities; and
- h) neighbourhood networks in Blackrod and Horwich which was proposed for early 2008.

Various questions/comments were raised and responded to.

Resolved - That the presentation be noted.

19. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP BUDGET 2007-2008

The Area Co-ordinator advised that the Forum had received an allocation from the Council's Highway Maintenance Budget of £29,600 for the current financial year.

It was stated that elected members of the Forum had put forward potential schemes along with suggestions received

from local residents and Bolton Council's Highways Engineers as part of the process of considering potential highways maintenance schemes for 2007/2008. However, given the need to expend the available monies within a relatively short timescale, it was proposed that decisions on the implementation of the projects be delegated to the Chair and ViceChair of the Area Forum.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

20. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP – (COMMUNITY SAFETY) BUDGET 2005/2008

The Area Co-ordinator advised that the Forum had received an allocation of £10,000 and the following projects had been approved:-

- alley gating scheme in Horwich at the ginnel between Lower Makinson Fold and Mount Pleasant Street - £5,000; and
- enhanced lighting on the footpath between Makinson Avenue and Ainsworth Avenue, Horwich - £3,850.

As a result of the above projects being approved this left a balance of £1,150 unallocated from the Highways Partnership Community Safety budget 2005/2008.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

21. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND 2006/2008

The Area Co-ordinator advised that the Forum had received an allocation from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund budget of £35,000 for the period 1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2008.

It was stated that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had, under delegated authority, approved a contribution to a borough wide project to tackle residents' concerns about traffic speeds. The intention was to use two signs per Area Forum. One sign type

would give a positive message to drivers if they were driving, at or below, the speed limit, and the other would indicate the measured speed limit and the degree to which the vehicle was complying with the speed limit or was speeding. Each sign would be moved three times per year. The cost of the project for this Forum was £2,500.

A further scheme was also put forward which was aimed at young people from the age of thirteen to participate in activities and trips which would offer opportunities to gain further accreditations and recorded outcomes during the October half term. The scheme would operate from Blackrod Youth Centre for a period of five days, six hours per day. The total cost of the project was £1,062.50.

If both schemes were approved, it would leave a balance of £2,471.50 unallocated from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund 2006/2008.

Resolved – That the proposed scheme at Blackrod Youth Centre, as now detailed, be approved.

22. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS SCHEME 2006/2007

The following councillors declared prejudicial interests in the undermentioned applications and did not take part in the debate and voting thereon:-

Councillor Hollick - Jesus Club (St. Katherine's After School Club)

Councillor R. Ronson - Horwich Visiting Service

Ms. J. Roe, Area Working Support Officer advised that there had been three applications received, together with three deferred applications, for Voluntary Sector Grants, as follows:-

Deferred Applications

- a) Horwich Resource Centre Management Committee - £500 towards sponsoring the

Horwich in Bloom 2007 contest;

- b) Simply Upholstery/Soft Furnishing - £482.63 towards the cost of hiring a room at the Horwich Resource Centre and running a course to develop and improve the skills of members in upholstery and soft furnishings; and
- c) Blackrod Art Group - £500 towards the purchase of a portable wireless microphone sound system to be used by guest speakers, demonstrations and for workshops;

New Applications

- 1) Horwich Visiting Service - £500 towards organising additional publicity material; providing training for volunteers; and organising a summer fete and Christmas lunch;
- 2) Claypool Residents' Association - £250 towards purchasing a colour laser copier to produce a newsletter and occasional flyers for the residents on the Claypool estate; and
- 3) Jesus Club (St. Katherine's After School Club) - £450 towards the provision of refreshments for children attending.

If the above grant applications were approved, there would be an over-commitment of £99.50.

Resolved – (i) That the following grants be allocated to the under mentioned groups, viz:-

Claypool Residents' Association	- £250
Horwich Visiting Service	- £500
Jesus Club (St. Katherine's After School Club)	- £225
	- £20

Horwich Resource Centre Management
Committee

Simply Upholstery/Soft Furnishing - £482.63

(ii) That the application submitted by Blackrod Art Group be deferred to the next meeting of the Area Forum.

23. OPEN FORUM

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

- a) concern was expressed regarding the unreliability of the Arriva 575 bus.

It was agreed that this would be raised with the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive.

- b) with regard to the new rail travel arrangements for people over 60, which were due to come into force in 2008, would it be possible to ascertain what they were and publicise them.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- c) would it be possible to re-open the cashiers offices at Blackrod and Horwich Town Council's on a part-time basis.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- d) concern was expressed regarding the new development at the Blackhorse Hotel.

It was agreed that the Group Planning Officer (Enforcement) provide the residents with the relevant information regarding the proposed development.

- e)

what was the current position regarding the operating times at Dicconsions.

Mr. G. Mitchell, Group Planning Officer (Enforcement) advised that the situation had been monitored, however, it was felt that the current level of activities did not have a significant impact on the road network and, therefore, alternative ways of trying to resolve the issues were being investigated.

- g) could the bus shelters opposite the Blackhorse Hotel in Blackrod be improved.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

- h) could action be taken to clean up the ginnel next to 8-10 Harrison Crescent.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

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.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved – That the next meeting of the Two Towns Area Forum be held on Tuesday, 4th December, 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

(The meeting started at 3.00 p.m. and finished at 5.20 p.m.)

NOTES