

HARPER GREEN AREA FORUM

MEETING, 13th July 2009

Present – 38 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Williamson(Chair)	- Harper Green Ward
Councillor Clare	- Harper Green Ward
Councillor Mistry	Harper Green Ward

Also in attendance

Adrian Wolstenholme	- Area Co-ordinator
David Spencer	- Area Working Support Officer
Jeff Smethurst	- Chief Officer
Phil Bailey	- Environmental Services, Facilities Support
Joe Fox	- Environmental Services, Highways and Engineering Development
Greg Brookes	- Children's Services, Positive Contributions
Jayne Brazil	- Children's Services, Sure Start
Catherine Woodall	- Development & Regeneration, Community Housing Services
Christine Collins	- Adult Services, Library Services
PC Dave Lowe	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Gary Howard	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Jade Fitzgibbon	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Andy McCormick	Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Williamson in the Chair.

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Dr Brain Iddon MP

6. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Williamson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the event then introducing himself, fellow Councillors from the Harper Green ward, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bolton Councillor Norman Critchley and Delyse Critchley and finally the Bolton Council officers and partners.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th May 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

8. PRESENTATION BY THE MAYOR OF BOLTON

The Mayor of Bolton Councillor Norman Critchley informed the meeting that he had been asked by the Councillors of Harper Green to attend the Area Forum to present a community recognition award to 4 residents of the Harper Green area for their outstanding and continuous service thought out the past 20 years.

The Mayor then advised that he had himself decided to hold an event called The Mayor's Unsung Hero of the Year 2009. The Mayor advised that he was determined to acknowledge the work carried out by Bolton's unsung heroes who worked tirelessly and often behind the scenes to help others in need.

The Mayor went on to say that he would like the residents of Harper Green to nominate the people who they think deserved this award. He advised that the closing date for nominations was 27th September and the finalist would be decided soon after.

All finalists would be invited as personal guests of the mayor to the Awards and Charity Luncheon event which

was to be held in the Platinum Suite at the Reebok Stadium on Friday 16th October.

Although the finalist would know who they were as they would attend the event as the guests of the mayor the three runners up and the Mayors Unsung Hero would only be announced at the event.

Following the mayors presentation the community awards for the Harper Green area were presented to the recipients.

Resolved – That the report be noted

9. UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENTS AT THE LOWER ORCHARDS

Councillor Williamson introduced this item and informed the Area Forum that Greg Brooks Senior Locality Worker, Christine Collins Orchards Library Manager, Jayne Brazil from Children's Services and Catherine Woodall from Mediation would be updating the Area Forum on the developments of the Lower Orchards.

Greg Brooks Senior Locality Worker informed the meeting that the youth centre was in operation 2 days a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00pm until 9:30pm.

Mr Brooks also advised that there was a free play session to be launched at Highfield Kids Club every Tuesdays and Wednesday from 28th July 4:00pm until 6:00pm for ages 9 to 13. Mr Brooks went on to say that the youth centre had also arranged sporting activities on the all weather pitch on a Fridays from 6:00pm until 9:00pm and also on a Saturdays from 2:00pm until 8:00pm.

Mr Brooks concluded his presentation by informing the meeting that a fun day had been arranged for 27th August

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from 11:00am until 3:00pm with activities available for the young people. The activities included were the new Bolton Boxes, climbing wall, ball fusion and also an opportunity to consult on the proposed youth shelter for the upper orchards site.

Jayne Brazil, from Children's Services advised that the Children's Centre worked with families who had children aged 0-5. Ms Brazil informed the meeting that they also ran a multi agency services including midwifery, health visiting, children's activities including: messy play, toddler gym and alphabet books, family support, job centre plus and information officers.

Highfield Library Manager, Christine Collins gave an update on the library since this moved from Marsh Lane. Ms Collins advised that the opening hours of the library were Monday and Thursday between 9:00am until 7:30pm and Saturdays 9:00am until 12:30pm.

Ms Collins went on to say that to become a member of the library was free to everybody who wished to join and that members under the age of 17 and aged over 60 would have free access to the libraries facilities and also benefit from free swimming.

Ms Collins concluded her presentation by informing that the library had gained a lot of new members but had also lost members since the move from Marsh Lane. Ms Collins urged residents at the meeting to become a member if they had not already done so, and also asked to pass on the message to friends and family and inform them of the great benefits they would receive by doing so.

Safer Communities Mediation Officer Catherine Woodall, informed the meeting of a proposal to hold an intergeneration day for the Highfield Area. Ms Woodall invited any residents who wished to be involved to contact her to discuss further details.

Resolved - That the report be noted

10. ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE HIGHFIELD ESTATE

Principal Engineer Joe Fox, gave a short presentation on the possibility of introducing a traffic scheme on the roads around the Highfield Estate. Mr Fox advised that the idea was to highlight the area as a 20mph zone by displaying slow down stickers on wheelie bins.

Mr Fox went on to say that this was the first time the idea had been introduced in Bolton but had been implemented in other authorities and had been deemed a success.

Mr Fox concluded his presentation by asking for comments from the residents and also asking for volunteers to help deliver the stickers to the 370 households on the estate.

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

1. How many accidents had occurred on the estate?
2. Would signs painted on the road not be a better idea?

Resolved – That the report be noted

11. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The following questions and comments were put forward during the question and answer session:-

1. When would the Highfield Road resurfacing be completed?
2. The Grids on Highfield Road overflowed when it rained.
3. Who were the community PCSO's
4. Could the Flower Estate be covered during the Area Forum?

5. Who had the right of way between Derwent Road and Seathwaite Road as there were no road markings?

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.

12. CHAIRS CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Williamson thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and informed the meeting that the next Area Forum was arranged for 29th September, Venue to be arranged.

(The meeting started at 7:00p.m. and finished at 8:30pm.)