

KEARSLEY AREA FORUM

MEETING, 27th May 2009

Present – 35 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Burrows (Chair)	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor J Rothwell	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor M Rothwell	- Kearsley Ward

Also in attendance

Dr. Brian Iddon	- MP
Adrian Wolstenholme	- Area Co-ordinator
Lynne Ridsdale	- Chief Officer
David Spencer	- Area Working Support Officer
Jon Gorton	- Environmental Services
Janet Pollard	- Environmental Services
Jo Pitchford	- Children's Services
Stuart Barnes	- Zac's Youth Bar
PC Abram	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Lindop	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Burrows in the Chair.

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Burrows opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the event and introduced himself, fellow Councillors from the Kearsley ward, Bolton Council officers and partners.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONSULTATION ON PARK AND PLAY AREAS

Sport and Recreation Asset Manager Jon Gorton, gave a presentation on the current developments of the play facilities within Kearsley. He advised that Bolton had around 130 play areas across the Borough at present with over 30 of them either new or refurbished sites.

He advised that around £3 million had been invested to date and that the funding had come from various sources such as the lottery fund and playbuilder.

He then informed the meeting of the three parks that had recently been completed in the Kearsley area:

- Bank Top
- Moss Lane
- Bradford Street

He went on to say that there were two further parks currently on the program to be completed in the Kearsley area.

- Ringley Meadows
- Prestolee

Mr. Gorton then showed a short video of the consultation that had taken place over the Easter period on the Ringley Meadows development.

Following this presentation an opportunity was given for any questions to be asked:

1. Will the park at Prestolee link in with the community centre?
2. Will residents be informed of the plans for the Prestolee park?
3. Why had only two areas of the Ringley Meadows estate been developed?

4. Would traffic calming be introduced on Hulme Road when the park had been developed?
5. Were there plans for further work on the Bank Top park?

Mr Gorton responded to the questions.

Resolved - That report be noted.

4. ZAC'S YOUTH PROJECT AND CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Director of Zacs Bar, Stuart Barnes, gave a presentation on youth work consultation that had taken place. He advised that with the help of George Tomlinson School they had given a presentation to all year groups and consulted with 259 of the school pupils from years seven to eleven.

He then advised that they gave out a questionnaire which covered the following topics:

- What did young people already do at weekends and after school?
- Where did they do it?
- When did they do it?
- What would they like to do?
- What about young people who were not engaging with any activity?

Mr. Barnes then informed the meeting of the key findings from the consultation which, amongst other things demonstrate that there was a limited number of young people engaging in out of school youth activities and less so at weekends. He also advised that most of the young people travelled outside of the Kearsley ward to engage in activities.

He went on to say that only around a third of young people did engage in some activities and that two thirds congregated on the streets stating that there was nothing

to do.

Mr. Barnes explained what activities young people were participating in such as football and the Zac's Bar. He also informed the meeting that over 90% of young people wanted more youth work provision for themselves in the Kearsley area for example Sport, Internet Café and Youth Bars.

In conclusion Mr. Barnes informed the meeting of the possible next steps:

- Ideally establish a permanent youth work provision, with dedicated premises.
- Provide general open access youth club style sessions.
- Enhance with specialist provision e.g. sport, skills, 1-2-1 etc
- More work would be required incorporating further research and consultation with the wider community and potential delivery partners
- Production of a detailed plan to support funding bids.
- Some one off events with young people to maintain links and momentum.

Following this presentation the following questions were asked:

1. Were the young people of Ringley & Prestolee included in this presentation?
2. What was the age range in the consultation?
3. Could other schools be involved in the consultation as well as George Tomlinson School?

Resolved That the report be noted and further meetings were to take place to develop the proposals.

5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S FOOTBALL FUSION PROJECT

Area Co-ordinator Adrian Wolstenholme, informed the meeting that during the school summer holidays there would be a mobile football pitch at various locations throughout the Kearsley ward. He advised this was organised by colleagues in the community safety team and was subject to the Kearsley Councillors approving the funding required.

Resolved – That the report be noted

6. UPDATE ON BUDGETS

The Area Co-ordinator, Adrian Wolstenholme, gave a presentation on the subject of budgets and grants available to the Kearsley ward. He advised that there was a new allocation of funding for the new financial year 2009-10 and explained that there were five budgets to consider:

- Highways Maintenance Budget - £10,245
- Area Forum Budget - £31,508
- Area Based Grant - £8,270
- Voluntary Sector Grant - £2,000
- Positive Contributions – £10,000

Mr. Wolstenholme advised that £16,508 from the Area Forum Budget had been carried forward from the 2008/09 budget and clarified that the funding available was used to benefit the Kearsley ward and the decisions as to where these budgets and grants were allocated was at the discretion of the ward Councillors.

He informed the meeting that the Councillors were currently looking at possible projects that would benefit the Kearsley ward and would report back at a future meeting.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Burrows invited residents to ask any question or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Kearsley Ward.

The Following questions and comments were put forward:

1. When would Springfield Road Resurfacing be finished?
2. Wilsons Bridge was still closed off when would this be repaired?
3. What was the latest on Kearsley Town Hall and had there been any interest in the property?
4. Who was responsible for broken bus shelters?
5. Why did buses stop at 5:30pm in Stoneclough?
6. Kearsley Train Station had extended the car park but trains don't stop regularly, why had this been done?
7. The Steps at Kearsley train station were unsafe could they be looked at?
8. Who was the elected member who sat on the Greater Manchester Public Transport Authority?
9. Ringley Road potholes had still not been repaired when they should have been completed in March.
10. When would the ally-gating scheme at the back of St Stephens Gardens be completed?

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

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Burrows concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the next Kearsley Area Forum would be held on 20th July 2009 at 6.30pm with the venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 6:30pm and finished at 8:00pm)