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## **LEVERHULME AREA FORUM**

**31ST JANUARY 2007**

Councillor Connell

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Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward

Councillor Hornby

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Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward

Councillor Woodward

-

Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward

Councillor R. Wilkinson

-

Brightmet Ward

Councillor Peel

-

Tonge with the Haulgh Ward

Councillor Sherrington

-

Tonge with Haulgh Ward

Councillor White

-

Tonge with Haulgh Ward

Gill Hughes

-

Adult Services

John Midlane

-

Corporate Resources

Steve Arnfield

-

Corporate Resources

Adrian Gittins

-

Environmental Services

Carl Bullough

-

Environmental Services

Darren Love

-

Environmental Services

Jon Gorton

-

Environmental Services

Chris McIver

-

Children's Services

Beverley Andrews

-

Royal Bolton Hospital

Adrian Wolstenholme

-

Area Co-ordinator

Liz Whitworth

-

Area Co-ordinator

PC Roberts

-

GMP

Kate Treadwell

-

Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Connell in the Chair

## **19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 30th October, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **20. PRESENTATION: COUNCIL BUDGET 2007/08**

Mr. Steve Arnfield of the Corporate Resources Department, gave a presentation to the Forum which outlined the overall budget position for 2007/08, the impact of Council Tax and also sought the views of Members of the Public on the budget allocation. The Forum was advised that for 2007/08 central Government Funding had increased by 3.2% for general services and 6% for schools. The funding for schools was by way of a direct grant. The Government had also indicated a wish for Council Tax rises to be below 5%.

Mr. Arnfield also mentioned that as per last year the Council was losing Government grants monies to protect other Council's in England.

Mr. Arnfield went onto explain that the budget for 2007/08 would be about £352 million.

The increase in the direct grant for schools would be approximately £10 million, Capital Projects including road schemes would receive an extra £1 million, inflation would result in an increase of £12 million, waste collection and recycling would increase by £1.5 million all other charges including the Passenger Transport Authority and Waste Disposal Authority would require an extra £2 million.

The Forum was advised that if Council Tax was set at 4% then there would be a budget shortfall of £10.8 million.

Mr. Arnfield explained that Departments of the Council had been asked to identify savings of 7% which amounted to £11.3 million, compared to £10.8 million pounds was required to balance the budget.

The Forum was advised that Council Tax was likely to be around 4% or below, but the Council now needed to consider its options including the level of Council Tax for 2007/08.

In conclusion, the Forum were encouraged to complete and return a questionnaire which had been circulated, principally seeking views on how the Council's budget should be allocated and what level the Council tax should be.

Various comments and questions were responded to.

Resolved - That the position be noted.

## **21. PRESENTATION: ROYAL BOLTON HOSPITAL - TRUST STATUS BID**

Mrs. B. Andrews of the Royal Bolton Hospital gave a presentation which advised the Forum of a consultation exercise undertaken by the Bolton Hospital Trust prior to the submission of an application to the Government for Foundation Trust Status.

Mrs. B. Andrews advised the Forum of the reasons for the application for Foundation Status, which were as follows, viz:-

- more of co-operative;
- more interested in the views of local people;
- focus on local need; and
- additional freedom to innovate and improve services and patients and carers would receive greater choice; and greater financial flexibilities.

The Forum was informed that the securing of Foundation Status would mean that accountability switched from Whitehall to the appointed Foundation Trust Governors.

It was explained that there would be a Foundation Trust Board, the Membership of which would be drawn from the public, patients and staff. The Governing Council would be elected by the Members. A Board of Directors would also be appointed by the Governors.

Mrs. Andrews also explained that the current consultation exercise being undertaken ended on 2nd February, 2007. Following this a formal application would be made to the Secretary of State, the result of which would be known by 31st March, 2007. Should the application be successful then this would be implemented by July, 2007. In conclusion, Mrs. Andrews encouraged Members of the Public to submit comments for inclusion in the consultation exercise.

Various comments and questions were responded to.

Resolved - That the position be noted.

## **22. PRESENTATION: BREIGHTMET LIBRARY**

Ms. J. Spencer, Bolton Libraries, issued an invitation to members of the Forum to a meeting at Breightmet Library

and discussed problems the Library was experiencing.

The Forum was advised that, Breightmet Library's readership was in decline and the building itself had a backlog of maintenance work.

Ms Spencer also stated that the Library had been subjects to acts of vandalism and destruction from youths. This problem was being combated by the Police and the Youth Service.

The Forum was informed that, due to these problems, the Library was considering a lottery bid for money to relocate the Library.

Ms Spencer invited all members of the Forum to attend a meeting to discuss these matters on 13th February, 2007 at 7.00pm in Breightmet Library.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **23 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE BUDGET**

Ms. L. Whitworth, Area Co-ordinator, updated the Forum on the £98,500 that had been allocated to the Leverhulme Area Forum via the Highways Maintenance Budget 2006/07.

The Forum was informed that members had agreed that the money should be spent in the following areas:-

Tonge with the Haulgh Ward

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widening of Castlewood Square;

Breightmet Ward

-

resurfacing of Bannister Street; and

Little Lever/Darcy Lever Ward

-  
carriageway resurfacing on Heywood Avenue

The Forum was advised that the work in the above areas had used all the Highways and Maintenance Budget allocation for this year.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

## **24. OPEN FORUM**

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

(a)  
Could anything be done to remedy the traffic problems on Brightmet Fold Lane, particularly near the industrial estate? The amount of traffic, particularly lorries, dangerous parking and large potholes was terrible.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into and passed on to the relevant officers. It would then be brought back to the next meeting of the Forum.

(b)  
Why was there not more consultation of residents with regard to Children's Centres being built in the area?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that Sharon Branaghan was currently looking into this matter and a representative from Children's Centres would be coming to the next Forum regarding this matter.

(c)

What was happening to the rundown state of the Pavilion located at Holy Croft Avenue in Breightmet South?

Mr. J. Gorton responded to this question by stating that the Pavilion was used for sports activities on one side and the other side by community artists. There were no plans to renovate this site at present and it was judged, at this time, that the provision was satisfactory for the use it supported.

(d)

Did the Council know who was responsible for the footpath near the old railway that ran along Bradley Fold towards Bury?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this was the responsibility of Bury Council and enquiries would be made to see what plans, if any, were underway for the footpath.

(e)

Could the spare land at Firwood Grove or surrounding areas be used to create a play area?

Mr J. Gorton stated that this area was already considered to be sufficiently served by Glaisdale and Tonge Park and so it would not be possible to create a play area in this vicinity.



(f)

Could the land behind Empire Road and Long Lane be cleaned up?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into and passed on to the relevant officers. It would then be brought back to the next meeting of the Forum.

(g)

Would it be possible for the Brightmet area to become known as Leverhulme?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that there had not been any other calls from Brightmet residents to change the name of the area.

(h)

Was it true that there was a proposed caravan site off Thicketford Road being considered. If this was the case would there be screening, litter bins etc to stop the area becoming an eyesore as had become the case at Mill Hill?

Councillor Sherrington stated that this proposal was being put to the Planning and Highways Committee with a possible site visit to the Thicketford Road site. She stated that the Council had always had a good relationship with fairground people but that it was felt by some of

Councillors that the proposed site was inappropriate. It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged to speak with the fairground people regarding this proposal.

(i)

Could anything be done to remove a car in the Lansdowne Road, Tonge with the Haulgh area which had been there for six months and was on a jack? It now appeared to be deteriorating.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be referred to the Highways Department.

(j)

Could there be a regular update on youth services at the Forum? There appeared to be many anti – social problems in the Leverhulme area. A scheme such as ‘Zac’s Bar’ in the Haulgh had helped to curb existing problems in the area.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into. Councillor Woodward stated that, as of yet, the premises for ‘Zac’s Bar’ had not been secured.

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

## **25. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

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

