

HULTON AREA FORUM

MEETING – 29th October 2018

Present – 15 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Toby Hewitt	- Hulton Ward
Councillor Diane Parkinson	- Hulton Ward
Councillor Shafaqat Shaikh	- Hulton Ward

Also in attendance

Idris Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Vivienne Morris	- Neighbourhood Development Manager
Marion Griffin	- Chief Executives Department
Joe Fox	- Department of Place
Shauna Morton	- Bolton at Home
PCSO Katherine Gray	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Keith Jackson	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Matthew Blakeley	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Diane Parkinson in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Parkinson welcomed everyone and introduced herself, the other ward Councillors and officers in attendance.

Councillor Parkinson paid tribute to Councillor Whitehead in recognition of his hard work and support for the area.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th October 2017 were approved as a correct record.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT/PROJECT ACTIVITY 2018 – BOLTON AT HOME

Councillor Parkinson introduced Shauna Morton, Head of Community Investment, Bolton at Home, who gave the following presentation:

- Hulton Lane Neighbourhood Management Fund is targeted to support projects and initiatives that bring communities together, promote cohesion and raise aspiration, through skills, education and employment or community activity in disadvantaged areas.
- Decisions are made with Hulton Ward members

Some of the projects that had been funded were talked through including:

- St Bede's Brownies funding towards: Trips; uniforms; and running of the group.
- Wallies Youth Club funding towards: Running the building and maintaining land around; sporting activity including rounders and football.
- Daisy Dell, funding towards: The development; plants/fruit; events; new paths; and activities resources.
- Other activities: May Bank Holiday BBQ; Team Deane; community get togethers; Jo Cox Foundation Better Together event; England National football events; Christmas parties; Trips to the Octagon and Bolton Wanderers.
- Hulton Residents Association: Every year the Elected members for Hulton support the local residents' association to carry out a clean-up in the area, this includes: Skips; litter picking; hot food and refreshments; local volunteers; and service support.

Bolton at Home had also provided funding and support for the projects and activities.

A number of questions were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

5. AREA FORUM BUDGET UPDATE

Councillor Parkinson introduced Idris Jeewa; Area-Co-ordinator who have a brief update on budgets devolved to the Area Forum:

The following schemes were approved from the 2017/18 flat rate budget:

- Contribution towards Hulton Lane Fields trip rail - £3,250
- Manchester Road (approximately BL5 1BA)
Footpath/Pavement/Surfacing issues - £500

The balance remaining is £0.

Resolved – That the update, together with those projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation be noted.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Q1. A number of issues were raised about the proposed housing development at Hulton Lane including, possible contamination of the land, shallow mines, future traffic disruption; loss of the land and club for sporting and youth activities; access for emergency vehicles; and the planning process. Residents had initiated a petition and asked for the support of the elected members with this issue.

A1. Councillor Hewitt explained that the Council would consider all planning applications. Any request to build on playing fields must include provision for better or equal facilities. The outline application did not comply with Bolton's core strategy.

The resident stated that the new application was no different and asked why it was considered.

The ward members acknowledged the concerns raised and agreed to discuss further with the residents outside of the Area Forum.

Q2. A question was raised about the numbers in attendance at the forum and how people were informed about it if they didn't have access to a computer. Issues were also raised about the

email notification. A suggestion was made to produce and distribute leaflets.

A2. Idris Jeewa explained that there had been a significant reduction in resources and staffing levels to cover the area forums and that was the reason that are now held less frequently. He went on to inform the meeting that the forums were advertised on the Bolton Council website, in the Bolton News and through the email distribution list. As part of the General Data Protection Regulations the Council is required to contact all people on the email list for them to decide whether they want to opt in or out of receiving information regarding the Area Forums. There are currently more than 300 people on the email list. In the past leaflets had been used to inform people but this did not generate any marked increase in numbers attending and with the cost involved it was not value for money. Some residents had used the email notification to circulate the information within residents' newsletters etc. and spread the word for the those without computers. He pointed out that this was very helpful and was encouraged. Idris Jeewa agreed that he would take back the comments and would look into the issue with the email notification.

Q3. A question was raised about what was being done to address residents' concerns about fireworks going off regularly from the 3Ds centre in Rumworth.

A3. Idris Jeewa responded to say that this issue was being looked into and that if residents wanted to complete a diary pack to collect evidence of ASB the Council could supply this. Evidence diaries were already being collected from residents in Rumworth and this would assist the Council to look into this matter further.

Q4. A question was asked about what action was being taken to address the issue of speeding on Morris Green Lane, Hulton Lane and St. Helens Road.

A4. The Police stated that an assessment of speeding had been carried out on Hulton Lane and the vast majority of drivers were within the speeding limits, therefore the need for any new traffic measures was not warranted. However, due to their limited resources, assessments could not be carried out at every location but if residents felt a particular area was experiencing excessive

speeding, then residents could fill out diary packs, information from which could then be used to carry out a thorough assessment of the area.

Q5. A question was asked as to who holds responsibility for overseeing parking on a clearway. There is a particular problem on the A6 when the fair comes to town.

A5. Joe Fox, Department of Place, stated that his understanding was that as this was a traffic offence, the responsibility for dealing with it lay with the Police.

Q6. A question was raised about the planning portal on the Council's website and why the important dates/ documents were now not available.

A6. This question would be passed to the planning department and the answer would be included in the feedback sheet.

Q7. A resident asked if anything had been done in relation to a question that was asked at the last area forum regarding the problems with bus lanes on St Helen's Road, between Smethurst Lane junction and Hulton Lane junction because it is not wide enough to sustain both a bus lane and on street parking. Councillor Whitehead had agreed to take this up with Transport for Greater Manchester.

A7. The elected members agreed to take this up with Transport for Greater Manchester.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

7. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Parkinson thanked everyone for their attendance. The date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course and advertised on the Bolton Council website.

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