

WESTHOUGHTON WITH CHEW MOOR AREA FORUM

MEETING, 23rd November 2010

Present – 29 members of the public attended the meeting.

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| Councillor Christine Wild | - | Westhoughton North and Chew Moor |
| Councillor David Chadwick (Chair) | - | Westhoughton South |
| Councillor Martyn Cox | - | Westhoughton North and Chew Moor |
| Councillor David Wilkinson | - | Westhoughton North and Chew Moor |
| Councillor Kevan Jones | - | Westhoughton South |

Also in attendance

- | | | |
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| Anne Boles | - | Area Co-ordinator |
| Margaret Stoney | - | Forum Chief Officer |
| Councillor L Winrow | - | Westhoughton Town Councillor |
| Jeanette Pemberton-Billing | - | Area Working Support Officer |
| Graeme Mitchell | - | Development and Regeneration |
| Anne Burns | - | Bolton at Home |
| PC Paul Griffiths | - | Greater Manchester Police |

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Ruth Kelly, MP and Councillor Pat Allen.

Councillor David Chadwick in the Chair.

9 INTRODUCTION

Councillor Chadwick welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, fellow Councillors from the Westhoughton wards, Westhoughton Town Councillors, Bolton Council officers and partners.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th June 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

11. ONLINE PLANNING

The Chair introduced Graeme Mitchell, Planning and Enforcement Manager from the Development and Regeneration Department who did an online presentation about the way in which Planning applications were now accessed and how objections would be done more online rather than through the post or face to face. He further explained the enforcement of conditions of planning applications and completed the presentation with a short online demonstration.

Following the presentation a series of questions were posed to the Officer, namely:-

<p>Q.1 A resident asked if this system would now eradicate the ability for people to come into the Town Hall and view applications in person?</p>	<p>A.1 Mr Mitchell responded that there would still be the ability to view applications at the Town Hall but that it would be quicker and easier to do it online from now on.</p>
<p>Q.2 It was asked how much</p>	<p>A. 2 The reply was that in</p>

Q3

this new system would cost the Council?	the long term it would save the Council money as there would be less staff and resources needed to run it.
Q.3 The question was posed as to whether this process could be used in the future when there were Planning Appeals brought against the Council?	A.3 Mr Mitchell replied that a Government inspector would be appointed to oversee the Appeal and would be provided with paper copies of all applications and relevant paperwork.

Resolved – That the questions and report be noted.

12. UPDATE ON BUDGETS

Area Co-ordinator Anne Boles, gave a brief update on devolved budgets.

Ms Boles asked that the Forum noted the current position regarding the Area Forum Devolved Budgets and confirmed the decisions taken under the Forum Scheme of Delegation:

Area Based Grant – Current balance £6,534 and was to be used to support projects aimed at tackling deprivation in the Forum area.

Area Forum Budget – Current balance: £28,000 and was to be used to support projects identified as part of the wards local priorities. The Members had under the Council's Scheme of Delegation agreed the following grants:

Q4

1. Westhoughton Town Council towards the cost of a granite wall and inscriptions for the Pretoria Pit Disaster Centenary Memorial - contribution of £500
2. Mill Lane – Road markings. Cost of project £100;
3. Miry Lane – Planting of hawthorns etc. inside the fencing at the top of Miry Lane. Cost of project £300;
4. Purchase of 4 cycles, maintenance and storage for Westhoughton's Neighbourhood Policing Team. Cost of project £1,840;

The Area Forum was asked to approve the following lighting schemes:-

Punch Lane - cost of the scheme was £2,500

Mossland Grove - cost of the scheme was £5,200

This left a balance of £17,560

Highways Maintenance – Current balance: £21,350 used to support small highways projects identified in the Forum area.

Voluntary Sector Grant – Current balance: £3,790 and was to be used for locally-based initiatives led by local voluntary or community not-for-profit groups. Members were asked to approve the following grant:

Wingates Tenants and Residents Association to provide Christmas hampers for the over 85's in the area, with the £375 grant from the Area Forum.

Positive Contributions – Current balance: £5,000 and would be used to support projects brought forward for consideration by local Councillors from young people in the area.

Q5

Resolved – That the report be noted and that the following grants be approved:

- a) Punch Lane - cost of the scheme - £2,500
- b) Mossland Grove - cost of the scheme - £5,200
- c) Wingates Tenants and Residents Association to provide Christmas hampers for the over 85's in the area, with the £375 grant from the Area Forum.

13. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Chadwick introduced this agenda item and advised that this was an opportunity for residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments relevant to the Westhoughton and Chew Moor area.

The following questions and comments were put forward:-

Q.1 What was happening with the mini roundabout at Park Road and Platt Lane as the majority of residents were opposed to traffic lights at the mini roundabout?	A.1 The response was that there was no money in the budget to pay for a scheme that would cost around £40,000 to sort it out, but the problem may be something that would be looked into in the future.
Q.2 It was asked why there was a camera installed at the mini roundabout if there was no money in the budget?	A.2 The Forum Chair responded that this would be looked into and reported back.
Q.3 Why were HGV's still being allowed to drive up Platt Lane even though there were traffic restrictions? Who monitored and enforced the restrictions?	A.3 It was reported that the Area Cordinator would look into this and let the Area Forum know at the next meeting.

Q6

<p>Q.4 Who was responsible for the lighting behind Daisy Hill Church?</p>	<p>A.4 This would be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Q.5 A resident had concerns over the obstruction on Church Street caused by the parking of the delivery vehicles by LA Pizza at 73 Church St. Although there are double yellow lined road markings at this location they still park several times a night. Can this area be targeted by a traffic warden?</p>	<p>A.5 This would be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Q.6 How many fines have Bolton Council issued to local residents over the past 12 months for the late return of bins to private premises?</p>	<p>A.6 This would be investigated and reported back to the next meeting</p>
<p>Q.7 Can particular attention be given to Cemetery Street, Westhoughton where both residential and commercial waste bins are permanently left on the pavements causing obstructions?</p>	<p>A.7 This would be investigated and reported back to the next meeting</p>

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

14. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Chadwick concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and contributions and announced that the next Westhoughton Area Forum would be held on Tuesday 25th January 2011 at Westhoughton High School, Bolton Road, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3BZ, with the drop in session starting at 6.30pm and the main meeting starting at 7pm.

(The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.15 pm)