

LITTLE LEVER AND DARCY LEVER AREA FORUM

MEETING, 25th October 2011

Present, 23 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Anthony Connell - Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Maureen Connell - Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward

Also in attendance

Dawn Hampton - Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department
Stephen Rowson - Business Support Officer, Chief Executive's Department
David Shuttleworth - Environmental Education Officer, Environmental Services
Dave Bowyer - Community payback, Probation Service
John Rowlands - Assistant Director Customer Services, Corporate Resources
Gaynor Cox - Housing Arts Officer, Bolton at Home
Chris Lloyd - Assistant Head of Service, Environmental Services
Ali Hart - Positive Activities Provision Team Leader, 5-19 service, Children's Services
Eric Hyde - Royal Bolton Hospital

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Yasmin Qureshi MP and Councillor Mary Woodward.

Councillor Maureen Connell in the Chair

9. INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Maureen Connell welcomed everyone and introduced the other Councillor and Officers in attendance. No declarations of interest were made.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND FEEDBACK

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE:

a. Update on keeping the area clean and safe

Dawn Hampton Area Coordinator presented the item covering the following:

- The latest community litter pick Saturday 24th September 2011
 - Undertaken by – Elected Members, Environmental Services and Residents
 - Area covered – Market Street, Mytham Road Park and the public footpath from Old Three Crowns
 - Success – in 2½ Hours 20 bags were filled with rubbish collected
- Future proposals
 - 'Traveling' Dog Bag dispenser
 - Dog waste bags
 - Tri-signs
 - Increased monitoring and patrols
 - More litter picks – next one Saturday 3/12/2011

b. Round-up of community payback projects

Dave Bowyer from Community payback, Probation Service discussed the community payback scheme and the work that had been done and was planned in the Little Lever and Darcy Lever areas covering the following:

- Latest Projects –
 - Christ Church
 - St Matthews Church
 - Footpaths and side of Masefield Primary School

Q3

- Public footpath behind Wilkinson Avenue
 - Public footpath behind Three Crowns pub
- Environmental Focus – Clearing grot spots, more litter picks, cutting back bushes and weeds, clearing public footpaths and improvements such as painting.
- Future proposals –
 - Redcar Road substation
 - Public footpath at side of Kingdom Hall
 - Little Lever Football Club
 - Little Lever Angler's Club

Residents were invited to suggest further schemes that met the criteria for the community payback scheme; footpaths around St Stephens was suggested.

c. Information on the new food waste scheme

David Shuttleworth from Bolton Councils Environmental Services Department gave a presentation and demonstration on the new food recycling scheme and recycling in general.

The main points were:

- Recycling was not only necessary for the environment but also for financial reasons as Council tax bills would rise more if targets were not met as the Council would be fined.
- It was cheaper to recycle waste than send it to landfill.
- Bolton was one of the lowest recyclers in Greater Manchester with around 30% of possible recycling being done.
- Attention needed to be given to correct recycling as if over 5% of a load taken for recycling was not correct the whole load would be rejected at a cost of £500 as well as the cost of then sending it to landfill.

Resolved – That the updates be noted

12. INFORMATION ON THE BRIDGE PROJECT

Gaynor Cox, Housing Arts Officer from Bolton at Home provided information on the Bridge project.

The following was highlighted:-

- Artist recruitment July 2010
- Consultation and engagement activities

- Design proposal – the original bridge proposal at Melrose Basin received resident objections, a new proposal of a bridge at Nob End identified by Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal Society which fitted in with plans for the area, approved by Council in August 2011
- Next stage – would require a planning group to be set up comprising representatives of all interested parties, volunteers to be recruited and a name for the bridge

Following this a number of questions were asked and answered.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

13. UPDATE ON AREA FORUM BUDGETS

Area Co-ordinator Dawn Hampton gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum for 2011-12 financial year, noting that for the year the Forum had been allocated £8,125 in Area Forum Budget and £9,600 in Highways Maintenance Budget, after projects implemented under delegated powers the balances were as follows;

Area Forum Budget (AFB)	£7,475
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£0

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That it be noted that following schemes have been awarded grants under the Council’s Scheme of Delegation:

<u>Grant pot</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
AFB	Dog waste bag dispenser	£150
AFB	Tri Signs	£500
HMB	Further work on Churchill Drive	£6,200
HMB	Baron Walk pavement improvement	£3,400

14. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Maureen Connell introduced this item and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward.

Q1 Dearden Street, could speeding restrictions be put on this street as it is used as a cut through with cars speeding up and down? There were also problems with parking, blocking off access for emergency services and public transport, could the grass verge opposite be converted into parking for the benefit of residents and visitors?

A This would be passed to the highways department to look at and provide a response.

Q2 Grass cutting – what was happening with this now, as many areas were getting overgrown preventing children from playing ball games, especially near the play area at Mosses Gate, the basin (Melrose) and around Nob End?

A The Council used to have a set regime of grass cutting but due to budget cuts now had a number of regimes ranging from every 12-14 days to some only twice a year. However, they were willing to listen to resident's comments and increase frequency were appropriate.

Q3 There were problems with Japanese knotweed and another prolific weed encroaching on Moses Gate Park and at the back of the pub. What could be done about this?

A The Council were in the process of establishing a policy on Japanese Knotweed. Unfortunately it is a very prolific weed and difficult to eradicate with the danger of spreading if care was not taken when removing it.

Q4 Could something be done about speeding on Aintree Road?

A Unfortunately this had been looked at in the past and there had been objections to the traffic calming scheme proposals. Therefore the Council had been unable to implement them. The situation would be monitored.

Q6

- Q5 With Tesco's possible plan to put lights on the corner, this would make the traffic worse on Aintree Road.
- A This among other issues would be considered during Tesco's planning application process should this proceed.
- Q6 What was happening with the old area office now that it had been sold?
- A Dawn Hampton the Area Coordinator stated that she had details for the purchaser as she had been trying to contact them regarding the Christmas tree and the memorial bench. She would report back at the next meeting in December on progress.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and that any not answered on the night be brought back to the next meeting.

15. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Maureen Connell concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the date of the next Area Forum meeting would be on Tuesday 13th December, 2011 starting with a drop-in at 6.30pm and a main meeting at 7pm to be held at Masefield Primary School.

(The meeting started at 7.03pm and finished at 8.23pm)