

SMITHILLS AREA FORUM

MEETING – 18th October 2018

Present – 12 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Roger Hayes	- Smithills Ward
Councillor Douglas Bagnall	- Smithills Ward

Also in attendance

John Shannon	- Area Coordinator
Stephen Rowson	- Chief Executives Department
Andrew Bolan	- Department of Place
Steve Walsh	- Department of Place
PC John Gregory	- Greater Manchester Police
Chris Green PM	- MP for Bolton West
Peter Hopkinson	- Litter Pickers of Johnson Fold
Sara Fearn	- Bolton At Home

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Carole Swarbrick and Shauna Morton (Bolton at Home).

Councillor Roger Hayes in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Hayes welcomed everyone and introduced himself, Councillors and other Officers in attendance.

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 28 September 2017 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Councillor Hayes introduced Andrew Bolan from the Department of Place who gave a presentation on the Smithills Environmental Project. The main points were:

- The project aimed to tackle littering and fly tipping in the Lowndes Street and Johnson Fold areas.
- Guidance given to residents, dog owners and shop owners.
- The approach was to liaise with residents and businesses and seek co-operation to resolve littering and tipping issues, however, enforcement action was taken when necessary.
- Section 46 Notices (mainly related to domestic refuse) have been issued on Johnson Fold (1115) and the Lowndes Street Area (388).
- Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued in the Lowndes Street area (1) and Johnson Fold (2).
- Community protection notices have also been issued.
- Fly-tipping reports have been investigated.
- Businesses have a duty of care to ensure commercial waste is securely stored.
- Untidy back yards/gardens have been investigated.
- Additional actions including guidance to schools, clearing vegetation and clear ups by Council teams had been taken.
- The Council worked closely with community groups, providing guidance, advice and equipment.

Councillor Hayes then introduced Peter Hopkinson (Litter Pickers of Johnson Fold) and Sara Fearn (Bolton at Home) who gave an update on community led environmental initiatives.

- The litter pickers of Johnson Fold were set up March 2017
- The group developed following a Clean-up/Skip day on the estate that was a great success, removing 26 tons of rubbish and waste from the estate in just two days.

- The group were highly commended at the Bolton at Home stars of the community awards.
- Since set up the group have filled 1372 bags of litter.
- There were also education events at the UCAN and rewards to encourage the litter pickers.
- To volunteer or become a community litter champion contact BoltonLive.main@gmail.com
- For more information go to www.johnsonfoldlitterpickers.org or www.facebook.com/JohnsonFoldLitterPickers

A number of questions followed the presentations and were answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

5. UPDATE ON BUDGETS AND PROJECTS

Area Coordinator John Shannon gave an update on current balances for budgets devolved to the Area Forum:

For 2015-17 financial year's the budget balances were as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£0.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£0.00

And the allocation for 2017-18 financial year were £3,750 AFB and £9,600 HMB, the budget balances were as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£0.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£0.00

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following amounts had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2015-17 budget:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
<u>Pot</u>		
AFB	To cover cost of direction signs (free standing) at Cope Bank.	£470.00
AFB	Contribution to cost of new litter bins at Moorside Avenue.	£707.00
HMB	Contribution to cost of the patching/resurface of the stretch of Captains Clough Road from Moss Bank Way to Church Road.	£3,050.00

- iii. That it be noted that the following amounts had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2017-18 budget:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
<u>Pot</u>		
AFB	To cover cost of new litter bins at Moorside Avenue.	£293.00
AFB	As Smithills ward contribution to cost of purchase of land at Kenilworth Square.	£3,000.00
AFB	To cover cost of wildflower planting at Doffcocker roundabout.	£457.00
HMB	Contribution to cost of the patching/resurface of the stretch of Captains Clough Road from Moss Bank Way to Church Road.	£9,600.00

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Hayes introduced this item on the agenda and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Ward.

The questions were as follows:

- Q1 A resident raised concerns about the number of incidents and confrontations at the mini-roundabout at Church Road and Captains Clough. He noted it was a very busy junction used by motorists, cyclists and many school

children, a young cyclist had been injured in Collision with a vehicle in June.

A Highways Services advised that reported injury incidents at the junction had been investigated and that, given the traffic levels at the junction and that there was no road safety budget available, Highways Services could not support any additional measures at this time.

Q2 A resident raised parking issues on Church Road and Captains Clough, especially on Saturday mornings when activities were taking place.

Another resident raised the issue of the 501 Bus service diverting down Ivy Road on a Saturday because of this issue leaving passengers queuing at bus stops unaware.

A Highways Services advised that any amendments to waiting restrictions would be costly and could not be implemented unless other funding became available. Obstructions should be reported to the police. The issues would also be passed to Parking Services for their consideration.

The issue with the bus service would be taken up with Transport for Greater Manchester.

Cllr Hayes stated that better signage and additional car parking on Moss Bank Park would alleviate the issue.

Q3 A resident raised concerns at the number of thefts of vehicles and burglaries in and around the area of Old kiln Lane over the last six months. The resident asked if the forum could provide the following:

A. Details of recorded crime in the vicinity over the last 12 months.

B. Details of police investigations and prosecutions from the above.

C. Actions taken and planned by the police to address these issues.

A This question was passed to the police for a response.

Q4 A number of residents raised the issue of commercial vehicles parking at junctions on the Johnson Fold estate (Tattersall Avenue, Gisburn Avenue and Montserrat Road) obstructing the view of vehicles trying to use those junctions. They also noted that overgrown hedges were

obstructing paths at Montserrat Road and Chorley Old Road.

- A These issues would be taken back and passed to the relevant departments/agencies to investigate and take appropriate action.

A resident wished to note how helpful the contractor had been during the resurfacing works at Moss Lane and Smithills Croft Road.

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 Hayes thanked everyone for attending and advised that the date of the next forum meeting was still to be confirmed, however, it would not be until the 2019/20 municipal year. Notice of the meeting would be made through the Council website and bulletins.

(The meeting started at 7.02pm and finished at 7.54pm)