

GREAT LEVER AREA FORUM

MEETING – 29th January 2015

Present – 18 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Madeline Murray	Great Lever Ward
Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	Great Lever Ward
Councillor Mohammed Ayub	Great Lever Ward

Also in attendance

John Pye	- Area Coordinator and Neighbourhood Manager
Marion Griffin	- Chief Executives Department
Chief Inspector Nikki Thompsett	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Simon Ratcliffe	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Andrew Sharkey	- Greater Manchester Police
Shane O'Neill	- Raise the Youth Foundation

Apologies for absence were submitted by Yasmin Qureshi MP.

Councillor Iqbal in the Chair

9. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Iqbal welcomed everyone and introduced Councillor Murray; Councillor Ayub and other Officers in attendance.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June 2014 were approved as a correct record.

12. PRESENTATION – RAISE THE YOUTH IN GREAT LEVER

Shane O'Neill, Chief Inspector with Greater Manchester Police and a volunteer working with Raise the Youth Foundation, gave a presentation, which included a video made by the Young people who are involved in Raise the Youth Foundation.

Information was provided in relation to the following:-

- Raise the Youth Foundation is a Community Interest Company which brings people, Partnerships, communities and industry together, to Raise the Youth and invest in the future. It had been established for three and a half years.
- Raise Headquarters is based at 54-56 Holmeswood Road, Great Lever, Bolton BL3 3HS
- The age group involved with Raise The Youth varied from 11 years old to 24 years old
- Work was with all young people, but specialised in the 20% who are most difficult to engage, or from the most challenging localities, helping them to make positive change in their lives towards a range of outcomes, in the areas of Health, employability, emotional wellbeing, safeguarding, avoiding offending, avoiding homelessness
- Working with a range of target groups, gangs, groups, offenders, children in care, ethnic minorities, girls at risk.

- Referrals to Raise the Youth Foundation are mainly for Housing Associations and schools, with a few referrals from the Police.
- Using a range of methods, emotional and transformational support, solution focussed work, outreach, detached work, mentoring, group work and activities.

Education and learning

- Aimed at improved attainment, attendance and behaviour through their registered learning centre, providing a range of qualifications.
- Raise the Youth are working towards achieving school status.

Business services

- As a social enterprise Raise the Youth Foundation trade with schools, business, charities, social housing providers and the public sector to deliver a range of services delivered by experience staff, for example, graphic and web design, creative industry events and workshops, and landscaping.
- Work is undertaken with the young people to help develop their own businesses.
- Awareness raising of Raise the Youth Foundation is done, for example, through the Community work, that the young people had done, whereby signs would be placed in the specific area to inform the public of this.
Also, publicity of a range of work; activities and achievements, which the young people had done had been placed in the Bolton News.
- Delivering positive social outcomes, via work experience, vocational training, apprenticeships and employment for young people in a supportive business environment.

A number of questions were raised and answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

13. BUDGET UPDATE

Area Co-ordinator and Neighbourhood Manager, John Pye gave a brief update on what has been approved from budgets available to the Area Forum for the 2013 – 2015 financial years.

Toys for the Pop in group in Slaterfield Community Centre	£203
Recreation Street Lighting	£4,700
Road safety leaflets and banners	£2,100
Contribution to Pedestrian crossing Bridgeman St	£7,000
DBS checks for High St and Peabody St Residents Association	£500

Members also had access to the Highways Maintenance Budget for which they have £19,200. £15000 had recently been earmarked for work to Back Bridgeman Street to tidy the area around the new school.

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

14. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Iqbal 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.

Q1. What can be done to clean up dog fouling on Nugent Street; Lennon Street and Morrison Street?

A1. John Pye explained that more information on the people who were not picking up after their dogs would be needed in order that Environmental Services could take action.

Q2. What can be done to resolve the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour on Settle Street? The residents had put forward a petition with regard to criminal damage on Settle Street.

A2. John Pye thanked the residents who had organised the petition on behalf of the Council and explained that one option was that there may be some interest in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Anyone who was interested in taking part should contact him and a meeting would be organised where the neighbourhood policing team would advise people attending how to set up a scheme.

Q3. What can be done to tackle an ongoing problem with fly-tipping in the back streets in Great Lever, in particular, Back Settle street; Higher Swan Lane and Sunnyside? We do report this to the Environmental Enforcement team and they do clean this up, however, it happens time and again on a regular basis. Another resident commented that Bolton at Home used to leave skips at the back of Settle street for residents to leave their rubbish which did help, however, as Bolton at Home do not do this anymore, it is a real mess.

A3. The Police explained that they have a Week of Action, which focussed on different types of crime and anti-social behaviours in specific areas. The Police would speak to residents in the above areas and could target this as a priority for the next Week of Action. During the last Week of Action warning letters had been sent to residents in Weavers Court; Shaw Street; Rupert Street and Cecilia Street. Police reassured residents that this would be taken forward again as part of the next Week of Action.

Q4. What is happening regarding the implementation of the new LED lighting in Great Lever?

A4. All street lighting will be replaced with LED lights over the next 3 years and at Cllr Iqbal's request Settle Street would be a priority for the programme.

Q5. Cars had been vandalised on a number of occasions on Settle Street, particularly on Back Settle street. From No.96 Settle Street up to SevenOaks drive there is no street lighting and as a consequence, people had been burgled. What is being done to tackle these problems?

A5. The Police explained that there had been shed and garage break ins and one incident of criminal damage where cars were vandalised. However, over the past 12 months crime had reduced in Great Lever. The Police informed residents that reporting any information or intelligence is essential if any problems are to be tackled.

If anyone was afraid to report any incident, the Crimestoppers phone line 0800 555 111 is anonymous, it is reported in confidence and therefore the Police would not visit the resident's home.

The Police reported that although there was a pattern nationally of domestic burglars targeting jewellery belonging to Asian families and there had been a few local incidents, there was no current elevated risk in Great Lever.

The Police use of CCTV follows reported crime and anti-social behaviour, and as currently Settle Street is not seen as high demand CCTV is deployed in other areas. Therefore, it is important that more residents report issues in this area, which could then trigger demand to have CCTV deployed.

Q6. Are there fewer PCSOs than in the past? We do not see many PCSO's in Great Lever.

A6. The number of PCSO's had not changed, however, due to resource issue they are spread thinner. The PCSO's have to focus their work in areas which have the greatest demand.

Resolved – That the questions and answers be noted.

15. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Iqbal thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting of the Great Lever Area Forum would be confirmed in due course and residents would be notified in the usual way.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.20pm)