

KEARSLEY AREA FORUM

MEETING Monday 19th March 2012

Present - 33 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Burrows	-	Kearsley Ward
Councillor Irving	-	Kearsley Ward

Also in attendance

Andrew Donaldson	-	Forum Chief Officer
John Pye	-	Neighbourhood Manager
Jeanette Pemberton-Billing	-	Support Officer
Bernadette Tither	-	Bolton College
Marie Gilluley	-	Principal Bolton College
Pat Harrison	-	Bolton College
Stuart Barnes	-	Sycamore Project/Zac's Youth Bar
PCSO Crompton	-	Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Parkinson	-	Greater Manchester Police
PC Gavin	-	Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were received from Yasmin Qureshi MP.

Councillor Burrows in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Burrows welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, fellow Councillors, and Bolton Council officers and partners. No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. FARNWORTH COLLEGE

The Chair introduced Marie Gilluley the Principal and Chief Executive of Bolton College and Pat Harrison the Director of 14-19 services also from Bolton College, who both gave a presentation detailing the types of adult courses that were available at Bolton College. They also informed the forum that they would like to hold these sorts of courses in Farnworth in the future if there was the demand.

They explained that there would be 'Taster Sessions' held in June and July. They would be in the evenings, and would continue if there was enough requirement to do so. They also said that there may be fees applied to some of the courses in order for the College to provide some necessary materials.

A number of questions were raised and answered on the night.

Resolved – That the updates and presentation be noted.

4. ZAC'S YOUTH BAR

The Chair introduced Stuart Barnes from the Sycamore Project who gave a presentation on the work that they were doing with young people in the Prestolee area and went into more detail about their newly renovated property at Crompton Road that would officially open on 20th March 2012.

He said that the Sycamore Project which ran Zac's Youth Bars was an independent Christian Charity, established in 1995. It had taken them 4 years of fundraising, planning and lengthy negotiations to acquire the lease on the former community centre in Crompton Road, and they had funding in place for one year to provide a basic service. He went on to highlight the need for financial support and volunteers to help run the

centre and thanked the area forum for their financial support in setting the bar up.

He explained that the reason they had set the bar up in the first place was after they had consulted over 250 local young people who had said that there was no youth provision in their area. As a result, The Sycamore Project had started fund raising and managed to successfully acquire a dilapidated wine bar in the centre of Farnworth, which they refurbished and decorated. The Youth Bar would be open for School years 6-13 on various evenings and would provide after school activities such as an internet café, table tennis and soft drinks.

An open evening had been arranged for Thursday 3rd May where people could come along and see exactly what young people had been doing and what sort of facilities were available.

A number of questions were raised and answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

5. EVENTS LINKED TO THE OLYMPICS AND QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Chair introduced John Pye; who gave a short presentation on events that were going to take place in Bolton linked to the Olympic Games and the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and how people could become involved. He detailed the events and encouraged people to organise street parties for the 3rd of June when there would be a National Lunch to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. He explained that the Council would be making it simpler for roads to be closed off in order to hold street parties, and as such residents were told that it would be a simple straight forward application that would not cost anything.

He further explained about the activities that would take place such as Bolton's Food and Drink Festival, along with all of the programmed events relating to the Olympics, as well as the Queen's Park Opening in April, the Olympic Torch Relay in May when the torch would be coming to Bolton on 31st May, and other Programmed National events related to the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee. There would be more details on the

Council website at –

www.boltonevents@bolton.gov.uk and also
www.bolton.gov.uk/streetparty

It was suggested that members of the forum accessed these websites for more information and latest developments along with the Bolton News where there would be details of how to obtain tickets to attend the Queens Park Opening Ceremony nearer the date.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

Neighbourhood Manager, John Pye gave an update on current balances for budgets devolved to the Area Forum for 2011-12 financial year.

The following schemes had been awarded grants under the Council's scheme of delegation.

• Lord St & Grosvenor CC	£ 717
• Zac's Art Fantastic	£ 690
• FLAG luncheon Club	£ 1,205
• Stoneclough FC equipment	£ 2,900
• Kearsley Youth Brass Band	£ 400
• Kearsley Mount Methodist	£ 1,500

A balance of £9,018 remained

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the schemes awarded grants under the Council's scheme of delegation be noted.

7. OPEN FORUM

Councillor Burrows invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Kearsley Ward.

The following questions and comments were put forward:

Q.1 A resident asked why United Utilities were not at the Area Forum?	A.1 A statement was read out from United Utilities in response to a query from Yasmin Qureshi MP on behalf of her constituents which stated that approval was needed and then it would probably get underway in late 2012 early 2013.
Q.2 A question was asked about Wilson's Bridge and when it would be removed and replaced?	A.2 See above
Q.3 A resident asked whether or not Kearsley Town Hall had been sold and who to?	A.3 The response was that it had been sold and anyone could find out who to as it was public information.
Q.4 A question was asked about the changes to bus services in Stoneclough, and what they were?	A.4. A report would be given at the next area forum after GMPTE had been consulted.
Q.5 It was stated that a crossing was needed at the top of Stoneclough as it was a dangerous road.	A.5 The Chair announced that a crossing would be installed within the next 12 months.
Q.6 Various residents complained about the difficulty in exiting in cars from Kearsley Mount Community Centre, so would yellow lines or other forms of parking restrictions be put in place?	A.6 The response was that there was a lot of difficulty for most of the community but that the situation could be looked into and possibly followed up, but that there was a cost implication to the Council and the Area Forum which might make for limitations.

Q.7 It was reported that there was an issue with noise coming from Oldhams Mill/Moss Rose Mill? with waggons being loaded and skips being changed on Springfield Road, and could it be looked into?	A. 7 The Area Forum was informed that monitoring will continue. The sound recording equipment installed following previous reports had not found evidence of noise constituting a statutory nuisance which environmental health could act on.
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Resolved – That the questions and comments be noted and the questions which were not answered be forwarded to the appropriate department.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Burrows concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He announced that the date and venue for the next Kearsley Area Forum would be after the elections in May at a date and venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 8.00pm)