

TWO TOWNS AREA FORUM

MEETING, 14th SEPTEMBER 2010

Present – 202 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Barbara Ronson	-	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Robert Ronson	-	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Kevin McKeon	-	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Stephen Pickup	-	Horwich and Blackrod Ward

Also in attendance

Val Cloynes	-	Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department
Jeanette Pemberton-Billing	-	Business Support, Chief Executive's Department
Ellen Miller	-	Forum Chief Officer and Assistant Director – Strategy and Commissioning
Ian Bailey	-	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Chris Knott	-	Greater Manchester Police
Ben Brookfield	-	Greater Manchester Police
John McCarthy	-	Environment Agency
Stuart Jobburn	-	Blue NG
Nick Daren	-	Blue NG
Neil Large	-	Blue NG
Richard Lyddon	-	Blue NG
Philip Prior	-	Blue NG
Mark Rose	-	Blue NG

Councillor Pickup in the Chair

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr & Mrs Pat Barrow and Julie Hilling MP.

7. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Pickup welcomed everyone to the meeting, led the introductions and then explained the format for the meeting.

8. RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTRE PROPOSAL

Councillor Pickup explained there would be a presentation from Blue-NG on the proposal to build a Renewable Energy Centre in Blackrod on greenbelt land.

One of the representatives, Richard Lyddon from Blue-NG led the presentation and referred to the several other people who were also from Blue-NG, who had been brought along for clarification and to elaborate on several points throughout. He stated that it was a more detailed presentation that had originally taken place at the Central Library in the Town Centre earlier in the summer.

The presenter explained what the proposals were likely to mean to the people in the local community of Blackrod and the impact of having a renewable energy centre in their midst. He went on to say that this was a completely new venture in this country although there was a similar centre in Germany. He stated that the plant would use surplus rape seed oil, which would be delivered to the site from elsewhere in the country or from abroad if necessary in lorry loads, which would power the plant in order to generate renewable electricity and heat, and that it was a subsidised renewable energy source. He also said that the site would be remotely operated with no personnel or staff based there.

It was further explained that Blue-NG would possibly be known by another name (2OC) in a couple of years time when a planning application was submitted to Bolton Council by 2012.

After the presentation a series of questions were asked and answered.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th June 2010 were submitted and accepted as a correct record.

10. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

Val Cloynes, Area Co-ordinator, gave a brief update on the devolved budgets for 2010/11 for the Two Towns Area.

She explained the budgets and current balances:

Area Based Grant 2010/2011

- **HOBL: £2,939.00**
 1. GMP scheme for young people which ran through the summer - £1880.00
 2. Balance £1,059.00
- **HONE: £3,385.00**
 1. GMP scheme for young people which ran through the summer - £1880.00
 2. Lighting for Brazley tool shed in partnership with Bolton @ Home - £735.62
 3. An 'H' line to mark dropped kerb access on Hope Street - £150
 4. Balance £619.38

Area Forum Budget 2010/2011

- **HONE: £15,000**
- **HOBL: £15,000**

Voluntary Sector Grant 2010/2011

- **Combined budget of £4,282.76 (including c/f of £383.76)**

Earlier problem with version of June minutes so these were the correct decisions from Round 1:-

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|----|---|------|
| 1. | Lostock Athletics Club | £250 |
| 2. | Horwich Cycling Club | £250 |
| 3. | Brazley Community Hall | £500 |
| 4. | Little HCF Baby & Toddler Group | £250 |
| 5. | Horwich Old Angling Society | £250 |
| 6. | 42 nd Bolton Scout Group | £250 |
| 7. | Horwich Resource Centre | £190 |
| 8. | Bolton Badminton League application had been referred to the Boroughwide grant pot. | |
| 9. | Balance after Round 1 - £ 2342.76 | |

The following were new applications and were decided on :

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|-----|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Horwich Churches Welfare Cricket | £420 |
| 2. | Blackrod Over 60's | £250 |
| 3. | Claypool Residents Association | £450 |
| 4. | Horwich FC | £500 |
| 10. | New balance - £722.76 | |

Highways Maintenance Budget 2010/2011

- **HOBL: £10,000**

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|----|---|
| 1. | A6 Blackrod bypass/Manchester Road junction white lining - £600 |
| 2. | Balance - £9,400 |

- **HONE: £10,000**

1. Footpath improvements to Horwich footpath 96 off Stocks Park Dr - £3,733.60
2. Balance - £6,266.40

Positive Contributions Budget for Young People 2010/2011

- **HOBL: initial £2,500**
- **HONE: initial £2,500**

11. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions were asked on the night.

Q.1 Should the format of the Area Forums be changed to allow more questions and answers?

A.1 This particular forum had been called in order to feed information to the general public about the Blue-NG proposals and allow for more detailed questions.

Q.2 Why were there such big cuts being announced in Adult Services?

A.2 The Area Forum Chief Officer replied that the cuts had to be made following in-year Government cuts to Council income, and that cuts were of an equal percentage across departments.

Q.3 Why were there not more themed Area Forums as they were always well attended?

A.3. It was reported that Forum meetings would be themed where possible

Q.4 Why would approval be given to Blue-NG, following the issues raised about the Armstrongs sites?

A.4 John McCarthy from the Environment Agency responded that Armstrongs and other such recycling plants were monitored continually, and that Armstrongs operated under permits with strict controls.

Enforcement action was taken when permits were breached. With regard to the recent fire at Armstrongs, an investigation was underway

Resolved - That the questions that could not be answered on the night be noted and the information fed back to the next Area Forum meeting.

12. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Pickup concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and participation. He announced that the next meeting of the Two Towns Area Forum would take place on Tuesday 9th November 2010 with drop in at 6.30 p.m. and main meeting starting at 7.00 p.m. at St. John's Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Horwich, Bolton. BL6 5PE

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 9.00pm)