

HALLIWELL AREA FORUM

MEETING, 18th September 2012

Present – 19 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Akhtar Zaman	Halliwell Ward
Councillor Linda Thomas	Halliwell Ward

Also in attendance

Shaheen Sameja	Halliwell and Crompton Neighbourhood Manager, Chief Executive's Department
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Colin Whitehead	Environmental Services, Bolton Council
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Rachel White	Community Safety Services, Bolton Council
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Ian Platt	Community Housing, Bolton at Home
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Lesley Doherty	Bolton NHS Foundation Trust
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Marion Griffin	Business Support Officer, Chief Executive's Department
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Councillor Akhtar Zaman in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of David Crausby MP; Councillor Cliff Morris; Sue Johnson, Corporate Resource, Bolton Council

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Councillor Zaman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and Officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th May, 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE AT BOLTON ONE

Linda Doherty, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust introduced herself and gave a presentation on recent and planned developments in relation to Bolton One as follows:-.

- Bolton NHS Foundation Trust manages a whole range of services
- Hospital and Community based services came together in Bolton One based in the Town Centre
- First services transferred 14th May 2012
- Remainder transferred by 11th June 2012
- Outpatient services currently located at Lever Chambers, for example, Orthopaedic Physiotherapy; Rheumatology and Thoracic medicine will now be located in Bolton One
- Other services to be provided in Bolton One will include X-Ray; Breast screening; Pharmacy (satellite); Hydrotherapy services and one GP practice
- All urgent care will be reallocated to the Royal Bolton Hospital
- The aim of the changes is to bring waiting times down, improving facilities and redesigning how patients move through the system
- The accessibility to Bolton One includes a drop off zone; circular free bus; car parking – at reduced rate in NCP; Hearing loop; Braille signs; and lifts; all disability access requirements are met.
- Average waiting times have been reduced considerably. Overall, the 18 week (admitted) performance target has been exceeded, with Bolton being first in Greater Manchester to hit and achieve those targets.

- Accident and Emergency have a four hour wait performance target, which has also been exceeded.
- The Care Quality Commission registered CarePoint in February and April 2012 to look at 12 outcomes across the service, scrutinised over 2 days, and all were found to be fully compliant.
- The report will be published Thursday 20th September, which will show that Bolton has one of the best quality care reports in Greater Manchester.

This was followed by a number of questions which were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE IN HALLIWELL

Rachel White, Community Safety Officer, Community Safety Services, gave an update on the following:

- Shaheen Sameja, Halliwell and Crompton Neighbourhood Manager, has been working in partnership with Sergeant John Nicol Bolton West, Community Safety and Environmental Services on Operation Viking.
- Operation Viking started in July 2012 and will run until end of October 2012.
- The main aim of the Operation is to target burglary and vehicle crime in Halliwell, working also with members of the community who are involved in Homewatch schemes.
- A number of warrants have been issued disrupting criminal activities, for example, drug dealing in the Halliwell area
- The Operation has resulted in a 53% reduction in burglary of houses from June to September 2012, equating to 6 fewer burglaries.
- The Community Safety Partnership is keen to increase the number of Homewatch schemes. Rachel White asked the Forum members to let her know if they are interested in becoming involved in a Homewatch scheme.

- On Thursday 20th September the Halliwell UCAN will be piloting a 'Super community residents' meeting where residents will talk about Crime and ASB in the Halliwell area. 15 members will be attending this meeting. Rachel White invited The Forum members to contact her if they would be interested in attending.
- Residents in Halliwell have been spoken to in respect of implementing No cold calling zones, and they are supportive of this initiative.

This was followed by a number of questions which were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

6. UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES/BUDGET

Shaheen Sameja, Neighbourhood Manager provided an update on the following activities/budget:-

- Work has been progressed on Operation Viking. With the help of the community Environmental Crime has been reduced, for example, fly-tipping in Oxford Grove.
- A CCTV camera has been purchased for Halliwell, funded through the Neighbourhood Management budget.
- The Neighbourhood Management budget has commissioned 'Raise The Youth' Foundation project who help people get into work. A job club has been running at the Halliwell UCAN on Monday afternoons.
- The Halliwell Moochers walking group will start on Friday 21st September at 10.30am at the Halliwell UCAN centre.
- Basic IT sessions will be held every Wednesday evening. The sessions run for three weeks and will be held throughout the year at the Halliwell UCAN.
- Halliwell Neighbourhood Management funded a youth project to be delivered by Insyt Media. Robert Stevenson gave a presentation on the creative project and work which his company had undertaken with young people aged 12 to 25 year old.

- The Creative Arts project started in July 2012, and includes giving young people the opportunities to become involved in, for example, creative writing; voice recording; virtual DJ; music production; film and media.
A clothing brand for the youth by the youth has been created.
- £2,250 has been provided from the Halliwell UCAN Neighbourhood Management budget to fund this project.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

7. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Zaman introduced this agenda item and invited all forum attendees to ask any questions they may have regarding issues in the Halliwell Ward

- Q1. When Oxford Grove library closed on February 24th this year, Halliwell residents were offered an alternative service through the Neighbourhood collection at Halliwell UCAN centre.

Since this has now been in operation for six months, can we have a report on usage of the new services and how it compares with what was previously available?

- A. Shaheen Sameja, read out a response on behalf of Julie Spencer, Head of Library Management, Bolton Council.

Neighbourhood Collections are not substitute libraries. They are part of the Council's provision to mitigate the impact of closing libraries by providing a small collection of library materials in the neighbourhood where a library has closed. Any direct comparison of performance with the previous neighbourhood library would be misleading. However, we are pleased to report that at all five Neighbourhood Collections the offer comprises greater accessibility in terms of local opening hours, a range of book stock of up to 1,000+ titles, plus access to computers.

In terms of promotion, there is a new 'Guide to Services' leaflet which includes information about Neighbourhood Collections and this information is also available through the Council's website. There have been articles in the Bolton Scene and 'Ask Bolton Libraries' (the virtual enquiry service) has promoted them on Facebook and Twitter.

Neighbourhood Collections are provided through partnership delivery in partner buildings. The Library Service is supporting these partners in terms of related training for their staff, day to day operational issues and advice on associated activities for customers through a 'buddy library' system. Activities to date have included storytelling sessions at Oldhams Children's Centre, a homework club at Tonge Ucan and invited nursery visits at Halliwell Neighbourhood Centre.

It was agreed that Neighbourhood Collections would be reviewed, along with other initiatives introduced as part of the recent Library Review, over periods of six, twelve and eighteen months.

The six monthly review report will be presented to the Executive Member in October.

- Q2. Central Library and Museum is now open every Sunday and Bank Holidays, however, the library is not staffed by librarians; machines are available, but no professional staff to assist in the use of these machines.
- A. Councillor Zaman will take the issue forward with libraries.
- Q3. I am partially sighted and live just around the corner on Gilnow Road. The road links Gilnow primary school, this park, the new mosque and Heaton cemetery. It is used by many pedestrians, including children and older people. Despite this many drivers drive too fast and of course we had the fatal accident last year.
I welcome the new zebra crossing but would like to ask the Council to extend the current 20 mph zone next to

Bolton school on Dobson Road, so that Gilnow Road and Park Road are also included.

Can there be a meeting with local residents to discuss this?

- A. Shaheen Sameja read out a response to the above on behalf of Environmental Services:

“Over the last few years the council has improved traffic safety along Gilnow Road via a range of speed management measures the most recent of which being the zebra crossing. In order to implement an effective 20mph speed limit several tests have to be satisfied including traffic volumes, current average speed and road hierarchy. At present Gilnow Road does not satisfy any of these tests thus making such a measure difficult to implement at this location.

Accident statistics were checked and it does not highlight that there is a need for a 20mph zone.

The council will, however, continue to monitor this location and should any of these factors change we would be receptive to making potential amendments at that point.

- Q4. Can the Council consider a new road sign to warn traffic to slow down coming from the Town Centre approaching Gilnow Road garage.

- A. Councillor Zaman to take forward with Highways, Environmental Services

- Q5. Traffic on Park Road causing noise at night and early morning and fireworks late in the evening.

- A. Shaheen Sameja to take issue forward with Environmental Services.

8. CHAIR’S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Zaman concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

The next meeting of the Halliwell Area Forum will be held on 9th February 2013 with a 10.30am drop-in session and main meeting at 11.00am at the Halliwell UCAN, Hatfield Road.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.30pm)