

SMITHILLS AREA FORUM

MEETING – 16 July 2015

Present – 24 members of the public attended the meeting

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| Councillor Hayes | - | Smithills Ward |
| Councillor Martin | - | Smithills Ward |
| Councillor Swarbrick | - | Smithills Ward |

Also in attendance

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| John Shannon | - | Area Coordinator |
| Stephen Rowson | - | Chief Executives Department |
| John Kelly | - | Environmental Services |
| Anne Burns | - | Bolton at Home |
| PCSO Paul Dootson | - | Greater Manchester Police |
| Roger March | - | Alzheimer's Society |
| Hannah Carrington | - | NHS Bolton – Clinical Commissioning Group |

Apologies for absence were submitted by PCSO Bhavina Makwana

Councillor 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 26 February 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Councillor Hayes introduced Roger March from the Alzheimer's Society, who gave a presentation on the dementia Friendly Communities Initiative in Bolton.

The main points were:

- Dementia is a disease of the brain. One third of the population will develop some form of the disease and statistics show that more women than men get Dementia.
- There are over 100 different types of dementia which affect people in different ways.
- There was currently no cure for dementia, however, a preventative approach may help people, for example, living a healthy lifestyle, balanced diet, keeping active and having social interaction.
- The Dementia Awareness Alliance is raising awareness among both individuals and business.
- People should see their GP as soon as symptoms start to affect daily living. Raised awareness among GPs was aiding diagnosis and treatment with over 2,500 assessments made in Bolton.
- Treatment to stabilise the impact of dementia is more effective if the disease is diagnosed early.
- The Alzheimer's Society had been working with retailers and town centre designers to make shopping more Dementia friendly.

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

Resolved – That the update be noted

5. GARDEN ESTATES PROJECT

Councillor Hayes introduced Marian Jackson and Margaret Openshaw from Johnson Fold Action Group who gave an update on the Edible Estates and the Bee Trail projects.

The main points were:

- There had been a big increase in participants on the estate in the last year, 107 homes were now involved. These households had not grown fruit and vegetables previously.
- Each home participating got a large grow box and a bulk load of soil was purchased so residents could help themselves and fill their boxes for growing.
- Surplus food was donated to Johnson Fold School for the Harvest festival.
- It was hoped to develop a penny pantry for surplus food; a bit like a food bank but with locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables provided at low cost to the community.
- It was a whole family project, young and old alike, developing participation by the young for the future.
- Opportunity's for training had been created; some residents recently completed a composting course and could now pass that knowledge on to other members. Courses in planting and plant care had also taken place.
- Groups from Halliwell and as far away as Hebdon Bridge had made visits to see how the project works.
- New volunteers were always welcome, the project could not function without them and they all have fun getting involved and working with each other.
- The next step was to try and get a Food Motivator to build on the initial enthusiasm and offer hands-on tips such as how to keep cats and slugs at bay.
- Other proposals included planting fruit trees and developing bee keeping skills.
- A Bee Trail from the estate to Moss Bank Park was opened with a parade. This trail encouraged more use of the park and was planted with bee friendly shrubs and flowers.
- The trail offered a chance for people to get out in the fresh air and getting active.
- Some of the residents had qualified as walk leaders, thus developing their own skills while helping others.

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

Resolved – That the update be noted

6. UPDATE ON BUDGETS AND PROJECTS

Area Coordinator John Shannon gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum for 2013-15 financial years as follows;

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB) | £962.00 |
| Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB) | £0.00 |

The following points were noted:-

- The Area Forum Budget was available to fund activities which provided a benefit to the ward
- The Highways Maintenance Budget was available to fund asset improvement work covering any of the following activities; Reconstruction, Refurbishment, Patching and Slurry seal works.
- The balance of the 2013-15 Area Forum Flat Rate Budget was set aside to support the proposed 20MPH zone at Mornington Road, etc.
- The budget for 2015-17 had just been confirmed, figures to cover the period up to March 2017 were:
 - o Forum Flat rate budget – £9,375
 - o Highways – £19,200

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following scheme had been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2013-15 budget:

| <u>Grant</u> | <u>Scheme</u> | <u>Award</u> |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
| <u>Pot</u> AFB | Wildflower meadow planting at Johnson Fold roundabout | £414.00 |

7. 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 What was the law on mini motorcycles? They were causing a nuisance and a danger to young children around Barrow Bridge Road and Moss Lane, especially with the summer holidays coming up.
- A There were strict regulations covering the ownership and use of mini motorbikes; their use on public highways and on unlicensed areas was illegal. The issue would be passed to the police for further investigation.
- Q2 Could the sign at Romney Road be moved as it is now obscured by a fence.
- A Bolton at Home would take this issue up in conjunction with Highways department.
- Q3 A number of questions and issues were raised about dog fouling especially around Bowland Drive, approaches had been made to the perpetrators along with reports made to the Council. Also were there any plans to add dog bins or street bins to help.
- A It was important for the Council to receive as much information from residents as possible on when and where offences were occurring and by whom. The council needed firm evidence to convict offenders. This information could be provided by using the “report dog fouling online” page on the Council website. The issues and information would be taken back to enforcement. Dog waste could be put in any Council waste bin, the number of bins in the area would be reviewed.
- Q4 What was the land at the back of Craven Place to be used for? It was attracting dumping in its current state.

A There were no plans known at present but Bolton at Home would make a site visit to assess the dumping issue.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Hayes thanked everyone for attending and stated that the next Area Forum Meeting was to be on Thursday 4th February 2016 at Church Road Primary School.

(The meeting started at 7.03pm and finished at 8.10pm)