

HEATON AND LOSTOCK AREA FORUM

MEETING – 13th MARCH 2013

Present – 12 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Bob Allen	Heaton and Lostock Ward
Councillor Alan Rushton	Heaton and Lostock Ward
Councillor Colin Shaw	Heaton and Lostock Ward

Also in attendance

Tim Hill	- Area Forum Chief Officer
Idris Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Stephen Rowson	- Business Support Officer
Kevan Roberts	- Environmental Services
John Rowlands	- Customer Services
Amanda	- Children's Services
Highland-Partington	
Chris Berry	- Ring and Ride
Alison Mulvaney	- Ring and Ride
Ken Hahlo	- Royal Bolton Hospital
PC Andrew McMath	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Peter Mariette	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by Julie Hilling MP.

Councillor Alan Rushton in the Chair

19. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Alan Rushton welcomed everyone and introduced the other Councillors and Officers in attendance.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

21. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 October 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

22. HEATON & LOSTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Amanda Highland-Partington, Team Manager - Children's Services gave a presentation on the Heaton & Lostock Neighbourhood Children's Centre.

The main points were:

- Consultation with the community and local families
- Feedback from the community
- Groups running at the Centre
- Other groups interested in the centre
- Services provided through the centre
- Engagement at the centre since it opened on the 26 March 2012
- Links with services and partnerships
- Next steps for the centre

John Rowlands, Assistant Director - Customer Services then gave a presentation on the Neighbourhood Book Collection Service from the Centre

The main points were:

- Development of the service
- Delivered in partnership
- Establishing the Children's Centre and Book Collection
- Link Library – Linked to Horwich Library for support
- Performance so far
- Comments received
- Next steps

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

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

23. UPDATE ON BUDGETS

Area Co-ordinator Idris Jeewa gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum for 2011-13 financial years as follows;

Area Forum Flat Rate Budget (AFB)	£6,588.00
Highways Maintenance Budget (HMB)	£0.00

Resolved –

- i. That the report be noted;
- ii. That it be noted that the following schemes has been awarded a grant under the Council's Scheme of Delegation from the 2011-13 budget:

<u>Grant pot</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
AFB	Road markings on Chassen Road	£300
AFB	Street lighting on High Bank Lane, a joint scheme with Horwich North East Area Forum	£850
AFB	A contribution to Ladybridge Residents Association to improve access to the community car park	£250
HMB	The Walkway to resolve drainage problems in the area.	£5,745

24. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Alan Rushton 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 There had been a reporting of vandalism in the Chorley New Road area recently. Could the Councillors and police consider installing some CCTV on Chorley New Road as a matter of urgency (even if this has to be on a temporary basis) to try and catch the culprits in question?

A It was not certain that this location fell into the Heaton and Lostock ward but the request would be passed to the Community Safety Team and the Police Team covering that area. Unfortunately there was only one deployable CCTV camera for the whole borough which was sited on a priority basis.

Q2 A query was raised about a question asked at a previous Area Forum meeting relating to the Jones Homes development at Lostock Junction, and why work had stopped?

A The developer Emerson Group had been asked to comment and replied that the site was currently unviable due to market conditions at the present time.

Q3 Further to question 2, could the Council not buy the site and use it for car parking or social housing?

A As some building work had already been undertaken, the land would now be designated as residential land. For the Council or Network Rail to buy it, they would have to do so at the market rate for residential land. Buying land at that price and then converting it to car parking would not be a variable use of resources.

Q4 Concern was expressed around land at the end of Devonshire Road as children had nowhere to play and were no longer allowed to play on this land due to nuisance to local residents.

A This land had been highlighted for housing use as the Council was under pressure to allocate more land for housing due to the higher than expected growth in Bolton and Greater Manchester's population. There was still time however for residents to raise objections to this as the final decision had not yet been made.

Resolved – That the questions be noted.

25. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Alan Rushton thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting of the Heaton and Lostock Area Forum would take place on Wednesday 19th June 2013, starting with a drop in at 6.30pm and the main meeting at 7.00pm. The venue was still to be confirmed but residents would be notified in the usual way.

He gave advanced apologies for the next meeting for Councillor Colin Shaw and wished him well in his forthcoming term as Mayor of Bolton.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.01pm)