

HARPER GREEN AREA FORUM

MEETING – Monday 9th June, 2014

Present – 15 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Francis	- Harper Green Ward
Councillor Mistry	- Harper Green Ward

Also in attendance

John Pye	- Neighbourhood Manager
Jane Bickerstaffe	- Business Support Officer
Andrew Bolan	- Environmental Services
Ian Lomax	- Environmental Services
Neil Counsell	- Environmental Services
Lesley Heyes	- Bolton At Home
PCSO Nafisa Chhoangaua	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were received from Yasmin Qureshi MP and Councillor Asha Ismail.

Councillor Francis in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Councillor Francis welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then introduced Councillor Mistry and other Council officers and partners present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION – ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Councillor Francis introduced Andy Bolan, Manager of the Environmental Education and Enforcement Unit, Bolton Council, who gave a presentation on keeping Harper Green cleaner and greener. The main points were:

Environmental Issues affecting the area

- **Back Street Waste/Fly Tipping**
- **Litter**
- **Dog Fouling**

Back Street Waste/Fly Tipping:

- **The Problem**
 - Campaign to target Back Street Waste
- **The Impact of loose refuse**
 - Makes communities untidy and creates public health problems by attracting vermin
 - Danger of loose refuse being used to start fires
- **The Impact of Recycling**
 - Recycling conserves resources, saves energy, helps protect the environment and reduces landfill
- **The Consequences**
 - The campaign highlighted that legal proceedings are available to the Local Authority and the Police to address these problems where necessary
- **Doorstep Delivery Process**
 - Doorstep engagement proved effective by increasing awareness and changing behaviour towards local environment issues
- **Zero Tolerance Days of Action**
 - Led to numerous individuals being fined for illegally depositing waste
- **Examples of Action Taken**
 - Fixed Penalty Notices issued £75 each
 - Prosecution £415 fine - £316 costs
- **Council's Household Collection Service**
 - £29 for 1-5 items
 - £58 for 6-10 items
 - £87 for 11-15 items
 - £116 for 16-20 items

Litter:

- **What is Litter?**

- Litter is caused by people – anything from a crisp packet or cigarette butt to a bag of rubbish
- Litter does not clean itself away, it makes our local areas look untidy and uncared for
- It can take years to degrade
- It can harm wildlife and habitats
- It can contribute to crime and make people feel less safe
- It can discourage people from investing in areas
- It can attract pigeons and vermin such as rats
- It is a criminal offence to drop litter and you could be fined

- **Takeaway Litter**

- Responsible – the businesses who sell the food and it's packaging, the public who drop it and the Council who pick it up

- **Food on the Go Campaign**

- Food on the Go establishments to display posters
- Encourage use of additional bins
- Reduce amount of packaging they give away
- Ensure businesses store waste correctly
- Request litter is regularly picked up around takeaways. Where litter can be traced to certain businesses the Authority will consider use of Street Litter Control Notices

- **Making your community a brighter place**

- **Big Bolton Tidy Ups** – working with local community groups in encouraging them to help the Council by keeping neighbourhoods clean

- 3000 bags of rubbish have been collected
- 4235 people have took part in a clean-up event
- 137 Groups currently registered – More groups are coming on line every week

- **Supporting Groups – Litter Picking**

- The Council provides support and advice to groups and makes available all equipment and safety measures necessary for volunteers to carry out litter picking

Dog Fouling:

- **Dog Fouling – Why is Dog Fouling a problem?**
 - Dog fouling carries a risk of infection and disease
 - ‘TOXOCARA’ is serious eye disorder that can lead to blindness, especially in young children
 - Public Health risk (which can lead to serious illness) and affects peoples quality of life
 - Most offensive form of litter
 - Dog fouling, there’s no excuse, bag it, bin it or receive a £75 fine – Bolton Council operates a Zero Tolerance policy against Dog Fouling, failure to pay the notice/fine will result in prosecution

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

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. AREA FORUM BUDGET UPDATE

Councillor Francis introduced John Pye, Neighbourhood Manager, who gave a brief update on the budgets for 2013-2015.

Area Forum Budget 2013-15:

Amount remaining as of 27 January 2014	£13,750
● Maltby Residents Association	£350
(Funding for a day trip for residents, many of whom are disabled or who would otherwise be unable to enjoy a day trip without assistance)	
Balance to carry forward	£13,400

Area Forum Highways Maintenance Budget:

Amount remaining as of 27 January 2014	£19,200
Balance to carry forward	£19,200

Resolved – That the report, together with the project approved under the Council’s Scheme of Delegation be noted.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

A number of questions were received from a resident before the meeting, Councillor Francis read these out and gave responses to them all before inviting the other residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Harper Green ward.

Q1 A resident said she was very saddened that some of the gardens on the Flower Estate were not being tended to as well as they used to be and this had led to a deterioration in the appearance of the area

A Councillor Francis said he would look into this

Resolved – That the questions and comments be noted and the questions that were not answered be forwarded to the appropriate department.

7. CHAIRS CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Francis concluded the meeting by thanking residents for their attendance and contributions and advised that the next Area Forum Meeting would be on Monday 12th January, 2015 with the drop-in at 6.30pm and the main meeting at 7.00pm this would be held at Mount St Joseph's RC High School, Greenland Road, Bolton BL4 0HU.

(The meeting started at 7.06pm and finished at 8.25pm)