

RUMWORTH AREA FORUM

MEETING – Wednesday 21st September 2016

Present - 28 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Ebrahim Adia	- Rumworth Ward
Councillor Ismail Ibrahim	- Rumworth Ward

Also in attendance:

Pauline Dixon	- Neighbourhood Manager
Vivienne Morris	- Neighbourhood Development Manager
Andy Bolan	- Environmental Enforcement and Education Manager, Department of Place
PCSO Michael Farrell	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Mark Harrison	- Greater Manchester Police
Mary Devenish	- Bolton at Home
Lisa Morgan	- Groundwork Trust
Marion Griffin	- Business Support Officer, Chief Executives Department

Councillor Ebrahim Adia in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Yasmin Qureshi MP.

On 26th July this year Councillor Rosa Kay passed away, she served the Rumworth Community for many years and was an inspiration to many people. A minute of silence was held in her memory.

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Councillor Adia welcomed everyone and introduced Councillor Ibrahim and other Council and partner officers present.

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 Thursday 21ST January 2016 were submitted for approval. Councillor Adia stated that an amendment is to be made to the minutes at Question 3 on the 'Question and Answer' session which should read 'driver feedback sign' and not 'CCTV cameras'.

The minutes were then approved as a correct record.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE – PRESENTATION

Councillor Adia introduced Lisa Morgan, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, Groundwork Trust who provided the following presentation/update on Community Volunteering Cleaner Greener in Rumworth:

Behaviour Change included:

- Education
- Community projects
- Recruitment
- Progress so far
- Case Studies

Education

- Where education has taken place
- Resources
- Who has benefited
- Case Studies

Community projects ongoing:

- Willows Centre, ESOL Classes & Allotment
- Rumworth Residents
- BCOM, Khidma, Darul & Ghosia
- Bolton at Home residents and UCAN users
- Melbourne Church groups
- Al-Khair Foundation & Islamic College
- Love Rumworth Day

Recruitment

Recruitment of Volunteers since Sept 2015

- 24 individuals
- 16 groups
- 2 Recycle area's set up with 660 Litre Recycle bins – Willows Centre and Cartmel Road – both with locked access
- Supported 30+families with new bin requests and Waste Audits

Progression to date:

- 1441 bags collected in Rumworth
- 16 groups involved

Case Studies/Results:

- Love Rumworth day
- Who took part – groups from Pikes Lane; Sunninghill; Brandwood and Haslam Park
- Results – 2 and a half tonnes rubbish collected
- Winners – Pikes Lane won the Recycling cup, which was presented to the Children. Visits to Raikes Lane would be arranged for the Children and parents
- The winners of the Senior Cup from the 'Love Rumworth day' were the ESOL Class from The Willows Centre who were presented with the cup at the Forum
- River Croal & Queens Park – 78 attended in Tidy up Partnership with BCOM, Bolton Council, Faith4change and Environmental Agency

A video of some activities could be seen on:

<https://vimeo.com/160752125>

Rumworth Steering group:

- The group had been set up for Residents and Partners
- Sustainability of Cleaner Greener projects
- Links between partners and residents
- Funding

The residents were asked to contact Lisa Morgan on 07739978798 if they were interested in becoming involved in the Steering group.

A number of questions were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. DEANE UCAN ACTIVITY UPDATE - PRESENTATION

Mary Devenish, Bolton at Home gave the following presentation on the Deane UCAN Anti-poverty project and Community Cohesion activities from April 2016 – August 2016.

The project aimed to:

- More focussed interventions to get people into work, training or volunteering
- Improved access for Community English Classes and other integration projects
- Other anti-poverty provision

Employment Provision:

- Work Club - New registrations 120 residents (April to July)
- Barrier Busting – intense one to one support to remove barriers to work
- CV service – assist residents to develop a good CV
- BEST Programme
- I.T training – to help residents set up e-mail accounts, enable them to fulfil Universal Credit requirements

Outcomes April – July

- Into paid employment 47 residents
- Accredited Courses 5
- Unaccredited courses 47
- Into further education 2
- Careers advice 59

Integration:

- An extended Community Café is commencing in October (on Tuesdays from 11.00 a.m.) at the Willows Centre. Volunteers will cook food from one of their own recipes. The recipes will be given out for everyone to try out. Everyone welcome.
- During the summer holidays Community Volunteers at the Willows centre provided packed lunches for 60 children throughout the week. The children also took part in Arts and Crafts.

Progression route for ESOL

- Community English Class at Willows
- Working with Workers Education Association (WEA) lets get ready for ESOL
- Onto accredited ESOL via WEA
- More Co-ordination in Rumworth on English Classes

Other Anti-Poverty Provision:

- Money Advice Team for – Bolton At Home Customers
- Money Skills and Salvation Army for other residents needing Debt advice
- Energy efficiency training – savings for customers through changing suppliers, cheaper tariffs, dual fuel and direct debit
- Keep Warm for Less –grant applications just commencing partnering with Money Skills and Salvation Army
- Food Vouchers - provided to residents who have no food in the house many with children
- Local Welfare Provision - average – 12 per month

A number of questions were answered on the night.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

6. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

Vivienne Morris, Neighbourhood Renewal Manager gave a brief update regarding the devolved budgets to the Area Forum available for April 2015- March17:

Budgets for 2015/17 devolved to the Area Forum are as follows:

Area Forum Flat Rate £9,375 Balance £9,375

Highways Maintenance Budget annual allocation - £19,200

Ward Councillors had agreed the following schemes for repairing the road surface:

Oriel Street/Cambria Street estimated cost is £37,300.

Part Deane Church Lane to Wigan Road estimated cost is £33,000.

All estimates are above the budget awarded, Highways have agreed to contribute the shortfall.

Balance = £0

Resolved – That the update, together with those projects approved under the council's Scheme of Delegation be noted.

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Adia introduced this agenda item and invited all Forum attendees to ask any questions they may have regarding issues in the Rumworth Ward.

One written question from Alan Johnson had been submitted on the night.

Q1. I would like to ask the councillors what is their view on the proposed closure of 12 Childrens Centres and what impact would the closure of Harvey/Alexandra Centres have on vulnerable families in the ward. Why could Council reserves not be used to cover or meet the £1.5 million.

A1. Cllr Adia responded that as a consultation was currently ongoing he couldn't comment but advised that any comments/ideas should be put forward into the consultation process. A final decision on the proposals could not be made until after the end of the consultation and comments/ideas had

been looked at. He also explained that this was in a context of reducing budgets and the fact that over the past five years the council had to save £100 million and that another £40+ million was still to be found.

The Council has Statutory responsibilities that it has to fulfil, and whilst having a legally balanced budget. Decisions about reducing services especially when it affects children are always a difficult balance and are not taken lightly.

A lot of the Council's reserves are already allocated. Reserves can only be used once, so money would have to be found again to fill any shortfall in a service.

Q2. A resident stated that she was disappointed at the method that Bolton Council is using to consult the residents on the issue of the closure of the Children's Centres. The actual consultation document is not good. Some people in areas of the borough may not be able to understand and respond to the questions. Face-to-face consultation with the residents would have been better. More background work should have been done before the document was sent out for consultation. We need the correct information on people's opinions regarding the closure of the Centres.

A Parliamentary group study document reported that all Parent groups and Children's Centres and Community Hubs are the way forward, however, we are now stigmatising these groups.

A2. Councillor Adia informed the resident that they should feed their comments into the consultation.

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

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Adia concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.00 pm)

