

TWO TOWNS AREA FORUM

Meeting, 4th November 2009

Present, 40 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Stephen Rock - (Chair)	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Barbara Ronson -	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Robert Ronson -	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Pat Barrow -	Horwich and Blackrod Ward
Councillor Raymond Barrow-	Horwich and Blackrod Ward
Councillor Michael Hollick -	Horwich and Blackrod Ward

Also in attendance

Val Cloynes	-	Area Co-ordinator Chief Executives Department
Claire Atkinson	-	Support Officer Chief Executives Department
Tracy Ashton	-	Juvenile Response Team Leader Sport, Health and Inclusion Adult Services
Ian Davies	-	Community Sport Outreach Worker Sports Health and Inclusion Adult Services
Suzanne Hindle	-	Participation Development Manager Play and Children's Services Community and Young People
Simon Boland	-	Locality Youth Worker Positive Contributions Children's Services
Ellen Miller	-	Assistant Director – Strategy and Commissioning Adult Services
Gillian Mangnall	-	Organisational Development Consultant Chief Executives

Q2

Anne Burns	-	Neighbourhood Manager Regeneration Services – West Bolton at Home
Marie Grady	-	Community Housing Manager Chorley Old Road Estate Office Bolton at Home
Andy Vernon	-	Greater Manchester Police
Ben Brookfield	-	Greater Manchester Police
Tony Doyle	-	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Chris Taylor	-	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Ken Thomason	-	Horwich Town Council
Kieran McGeeghan	-	Horwich Town Council
Isabel Seddon	-	Blackrod Town Council
John Seddon	-	Blackrod Town Council
Representatives from	-	Horwich Eden Bus Project Horwich Youth Club St Joseph's RC Secondary School Rivington and Blackrod High School Lever Park School

Councillor Stephen Rock in the Chair

17. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Stephen Rock welcomed everyone to the meeting, led the introductions and then explained the format for the meeting.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th July 2009 were submitted and accepted as a correct record.

19. WHAT'S IT LIKE TO LIVE ROUND HERE: DISCUSSION GROUPS

Councillor Stephen Rock explained there would be three short presentations on youth activities in the local area followed by a 10 minute round table discussion with young people, officers and partners involved in the projects. After this discussion, residents would move tables to another group of representatives to hear of a different project.

Presentations:

1. Students from St Joseph's RC Secondary School's Cultural Visit to South Africa – presented by Stacy Rushton, Teacher
2. Greater Manchester Police – Summer Activities 2009
3. Lever Park School – impact and benefits of Omega 3

1. Stacey Rushton, teacher from St Joseph's RC Secondary School was unable to attend; it was agreed that the student representatives would share the project details during the round table discussions.

2. Andy Vernon from Greater Manchester Police gave a brief presentation on the Summer Activities aimed at addressing the issues of youth congregating and anti social behaviour.

He began by explaining some of the difficulties experienced in the area related to youths including:

- Stress and anxiety for residents caused by congregations of youths
- Anti-social behaviour
- Criminal damage and vandalism
- Alcohol and drug abuse by young people
- Littering and associated paraphernalia from alcohol or drugs
- Fear of particular areas/locations becoming “no-go areas” at night

He went on to explain the prior methods the police service had used to tackle this problem:

- Dispersal orders
- Fixed Penalty Notices
- Curfews
- Police football ‘kick-about’ with young people

Q4

The summer activities at the Anderton Centre included canoeing, survival skills and outdoor cookery. PC Vernon advised the Forum that these activities had been devised as a 'fun-based' project with an educational basis towards skills, team working, community knowledge and respect for others. Local Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers were involved and stated that all who took part had reported a positive experience in terms of breaking down barriers and mutual understanding.

These activities were scheduled every Friday afternoon during the school summer holidays and were well attended. PC Vernon stated that there was a subsequent drop in youths outside in the evenings and a drop in reports of anti social behaviour, totalling:

21% in the Blackrod area

24% in Horwich East

9.6% in Horwich West

PC Vernon ended his presentation by confirming that these activities were alongside an ongoing police presence in the area.

3. Mr Colin Roscoe and Mrs Jane Roscoe, Head Teacher and Assistant respectively, began their presentation by explaining that their school is specifically for children and young adults with behavioural difficulties.

Mr Roscoe said that the school had received a donation of liquid Omega 3 from a Canadian company and had begun giving it to the pupils in the morning with their breakfast, mixed into cereals, fruit drinks and smoothies.

Mrs Roscoe then informed the Forum that this had a remarkable effect on the pupils, leading to:

- Increase in literacy skills of 80%
- Decreased anti social behaviour and aggression of 75%, 80% and 90% over the last three years.

Round table discussions followed with residents, Councillors, Officers and Youth Representatives regarding projects already completed or underway in the local area. Residents received information on three schemes in total.

Q5

Anne Burns, Neighbourhood Manager with Bolton at Home, then posed some questions prior to the next set of discussions –

- What are the residents' experiences of the area – particularly relating to youth issues?
- What are the problems they see?
- What do they feel could be done to assist?

After this discussion, Councillor Stephen Rock asked for feedback from each table on the top two issues raised, which included:

- Littering, particularly around schools and on match days
- Lack of facilities in the area for young people
- Young people had 'lost their way'/ feeling of 'unsafeness' on the street
- Young people didn't know about current activities
- Current provision was sometimes being mis-used by older youths

Tracy Ashton, Juvenile Response Team Leader, gave an overview of the £20,000 Young People's Funding and where it had come from. Each area of Bolton was assigned a Strategic Lead who met with the elected members to discuss how to make decisions on this money. The elected members in Horwich and Blackrod and Horwich North East decided to work together with the young people and the community on the decision making.

Tracy Ashton asked the Forum to come up with suggestions of projects or ideas for spending the money on young people. Feedback was then given from each table, and included:

- Split the money between all current facilities and services
- Produce and maintain a monthly newsletter for young people
- Reduce fees at the Leisure Centre
- An inter-generational forum to share issues and ideas regularly
- Re-decorate Blackrod Youth Club and provide additional activities
- Music Festival in Horwich – invite youth bands from the area to play
- Reduce public transport fees
- Start a Performing Arts Club for youths and adults
- Video-conferencing for international school activity
- More sports equipment for schools

Q6

- Advertise youth activities in Bolton Scene or Town Council newsletters

Councillor Barbara Ronson thanked everyone for their contributions and ideas and commended the young people and schools involved in the activities across the area. When she then asked if people would like to do this format of meeting again, the general consensus was positive.

Councillor Rock added his thanks to Forum attendees and the organisers, saying he was pleased to see the interaction between older and younger generations, and invited the younger representatives to leave before the main Forum meeting continued.

Resolved – That the reports be noted together with the ideas submitted for consideration.

20. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVELOPED TO THE AREA FORUM

Val Cloynes, Area Co-ordinator, gave a brief update on the devolved budgets for 2009/10 for the Two Towns Area.

She explained the budgets and current balances:

Horwich North East

Area Based Grant (ABG)	- £0 – Fully allocated
Area Forum Budget (AFB)	- £15,230.09
Highways Maintenance (HM)	- £10,245
Positive Contributions Grant (PCG)	- £10,000

Horwich and Blackrod

Area Based Grant (ABG)	- £0 – Fully allocated
Area Forum Budget (AFB)	- £2,256.76
Highways Maintenance (HM)	- £10,245
Positive Contributions Grant (PCG)	- £10,000

Voluntary Sector Grant (VSG)	- £2,226.57
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Resolved – That the report be noted

(ii) That it be noted that the following schemes have been awarded under delegation arrangements detailed in the Forum's Scheme of

Delegation

Horwich North East

<u>Grant Pot</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
AFB	Acceptable Behaviour Notice -Lever Park Gardens	£240.67
AFB	Outward Bound course led by Greater Manchester Police and youth staff – additional amount	£56.90
AFB	Replacement boards round Horwich Public Hall bowling green	£1,500
AFB	Contribution towards cultural visit by students of St Joseph's Secondary School to South Africa (2 teachers and 6 students)	£100
AFB	Extra lighting on Old Station Park to complete the larger scheme; each ward to contribute half the cost of £15,000	£7,500

Horwich and Blackrod

<u>Grant Pot</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Award</u>
AFB	Outward Bound course led by Greater Manchester Police and youth staff – additional amount	£84.65
AFB	Contribution towards cultural visit by students of St Joseph's Secondary School to South Africa (2 teachers and 6 students)	£100
AFB	Extra lighting on Old Station Park to complete the larger scheme; each ward to contribute half the cost of £15,000	£7,500

Voluntary Sector Grant – both wards

St Andrews Brownies and Guides - for camping equipment for 24 Brownies and 24 Guides for centenary celebrations in May 2010	£437.94
Blackrod Treble Makers – for 24 embroidered shirts and sheet music	£200
Churches Together in Horwich and Rivington – for the hire of the Eden Bus	£500

(iii) That suggestions be put forward by members of the public for the allocation of the Highways Maintenance budget

(iiii) That the decisions regarding the Positive Contributions budget be made by the Councillors based upon the outcomes of the Forum meeting

21. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Councillor Stephen Rock introduced this item and invited Ellen Miller to read a pre-submitted question to the Forum

Can you advise if there are any plans to move the recycling facility at Blackrod?

Response from Mark Hoban, Environmental Services – The site is managed by Viridor on behalf of Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority. This was part of the 25 year waste disposal private Finance Initiative, there were no current plans to relocate it.

Councillor Rock invited residents to ask questions or put forward comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Two Towns Forum area.

What was happening with regards to the broken destination indicators at Horwich Parkway Station?

This issue would be referred to the Council representation on the Passenger Transport Authority

Could something be done regarding the right of way issue on Claypool Road as it caused issues for residents and drivers?

This had already been placed under review by the Highways Section. The Highways Section would be asked to provide an update.

Would any revenue from the sale or facilities in Horwich? development of the land from the former Market be used for market

Q9

It was confirmed that there had been no moves to purchase the land at this time and that these matters were ordinarily dealt with on a case by case basis. Usually

the revenue from sale went to the Capital Receipts Budgets to be managed for the Council. The Corporate Property team would be asked to provide further information on the conditions surrounding the sale/development of this land.

Could anything be done about the 7.5 ton wagons using the top end of Crown Lane to access Dickinson's and speeding on the road?

It was recognised that there was a requirement to allow Dickinson's to have access to their works. The issue of the sign would be raised with the Highways Section. The issue of speeding would be raised with the local police.

Why had the central white line on the road been moved during recent line painting on Sandringham Road at the junction with Ainsworth

Avenue?
This issue would be referred to the Highways Section.

Were the Councillors aware of a new planning application made to Chorley Borough Council from Go Ape Adventure Park? Could there be more control and policing as to how this was done?

The Councillors confirmed they had been advised by residents of this application and would keep an eye on the progress and developments. Councillor Ronson advised the Forum that the Councillors could only make representations to Chorley Council.

Resolved – That the report be noted and the questions that have not been answered at the meeting be directed to the appropriate Council department or external agency

22. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Stephen Rock concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and participation. He announced that the next meeting of the Two Towns Area Forum would take place on Tuesday 16th February 2010 at 6pm

(The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 8.50pm)