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## **SOUTH TURTON AREA FORUM**

**04 OCTOBER 2006**

Councillors P Brierley, Critchley and A Wilkinson

Mr W Waring - Environmental Services Department  
Mr J Evans - Environmental Services Department  
Mr L Farrington - Environmental Services Department  
Mr S Roberts - Youth Services  
Ms G Luczka - Youth Services  
PC M Flannery - Greater Manchester Police  
PC D Tann - Greater Manchester Police  
Mr R Lee - Mental Health Trust  
Mr A Donaldson - Chief Executive's Department  
Ms S Sameja - Chief Executive's Department  
Ms H Longworth - Chief Executive's Department  
Mrs V Ridge - Principal Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Councillor P Brierley in the Chair

### **7 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

Councillor P. Brierley welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

### **8 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the South Turton Area Forum held on 12th July, 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **9 GREENSPACE, THE COUNCIL'S PLAY AREA STRATEGY - PRESENTATION**

Mr. Jon Gorton, Sport and Recreation Asset Manager, gave a presentation which explained of the review being undertaken and forthcoming consultation exercise in relation to the location of play areas in the Borough.

The Forum was advised that at present, there were about 130 play areas in Bolton all of which were regularly inspected. There was though, currently a large backlog of necessary maintenance repairs.

Mr. Gorton explained that locations and designs of the

play areas used to be driven by planning policy with little consideration to actual need.

Furthermore, it was highlighted that capital funding from Section 106 Agreements, for play sites, arising out of developments was often in the wrong area. There was also a huge range of equipment used at all the various sites which often meant that it was difficult to easily obtain spare parts.

In terms of local issues, the Forum was advised that at some sites there had been instances of juvenile nuisance, crime and drug/alcohol misuse.

Mr. Gorton went on to explain that the way forward was the adoption of a strategy that influenced:-

- local ownership;
- planning policy;
- investment programme;
- secured funding; and
- supported Members of Council and officers.

In conclusion, Mr. Gorton explained that public consultation would shortly be undertaken on proposals for the future of play areas in the Borough.

Various comments and queries were responded to.

Resolved - That the presentation be noted.

## **10 VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Sameja, Area Co-ordinator, advised members of an application which had been received for Voluntary Sector Grant funding.

An application had been received from Harwood Scout Group for a grant of £420.00 towards the replacement of the main fire exit doors from the hall. This was needed as the fire exit doors were of a poor condition and the crash bars were badly worn.

The Forum was advised that there was currently £3,062.58 and, if the grant was approved, it would leave a balance of £2,638.42 remaining to be allocated.

Resolved - That the application for grant aid, as now detailed, be approved.

## **11 OPEN FORUM QUESTION TIME**

Verbal and written questions were received which detailed the following issues:-

(a) Who owned Longsight car park?

It was explained that this was currently being investigated.

(b) Could the pavement on Longsight Road be improved to a decent standard?

It was stated that a report had been requested on the costings for resurfacement works from Tottington Road to Recreation Street and near the Seven Stars Public House.

(c) Why were the speed limit indicators not working on Tottington Road?

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

(d) Concern was expressed regarding buses stopping on Bromley Cross Road despite there being no designated bus stop.

It was stated that a meeting of the Local Transport Group was to be held on 19th October, 2006 at 2.00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House where this issue could be raised with the relevant agency.

(e) Concern was expressed regarding youths playing football in residential streets. Apparently this was an offence, although it was not enforced, therefore, a request was made for signs to be erected to try and stop this from happening.

It was agreed that contact would be made with the Environmental Services Department to try and address the concerns raised.

(f) Concern was expressed regarding a proposed planning application for the erection of a telecommunications mast at Hough Fold Way.

It was explained that the application would be considered by the Planning and Highways Committee and also a site visit would be undertaken. It was also acknowledged that the mobile phone company had circulated a questionnaire to residents in the area asking for their comments.

(g) A representative from the Phoenix Group outlined to the Forum the service which they provided for youths in certain areas of the Borough. In addition, they also sought support from the Forum for the work they undertook.

It was agreed that this would be considered.

(h) Concern was expressed regarding the lack of venues for community groups to undertake activities for local people in the Harwood and Bradshaw areas.

The concerns were acknowledged and the Forum were also advised that with regard to anti-social behaviour in the area, Ward Councillors would be undertaking discussions with the Police to try and re-introduce Dispersal Orders.

(i) Despite two extra dog litter bins being placed in Longsight Park they had been placed within a five minute walk of each other.

The Forum were advised that two further dog litter bins were programmed in to be placed in the Firwood Fold area.

(j) What was happening to the land, which was once the old timber yard, next to the Royal Oak Public House.

It was explained that remedial works had been carried out to the retaining wall, although, no further works had been undertaken.

(k) In the past, the grassed piece of land at Dunscar Woods, was always cut to a certain standard, however, recently, this had deteriorated.

It was agreed that this issue would be investigated.

(l) Would those areas which had previously not been identified as deprived be entitled to additional funding in the future.

It was explained that as Central Government determined areas of deprivation based on the information collated for the Census and it was unlikely that these areas would be amended in the future.

(m) Concern was expressed regarding footballers parking their cars outside of the car park at Longsight Park.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

(n) Why was the Council not complying with the new regulations for building control.

It was explained that this would be investigated.

Resolved - That the questions be noted and that the questions which have not been answered at the meeting be directed to the appropriate Council Department or external agencies.

## **12 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Councillor P. Brierley then closed the meeting and thanked Council Members, officers and members of the public for their attendance.

## **13 NEXT MEETING**

Resolved - That the next meeting of the Forum be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th December 2006 at the T-Mac College.