

## **RUMWORTH AREA FORUM**

MEETING – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015

Present – 8 members of the public attended the meeting.

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

### Also in attendance:

Idris Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Christine O'Reardon	- Environmental Enforcement Officer, Environmental Services
Sergeant Andrea Ennis	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Melanie Jackson	- Greater Manchester Police
PC Paul Kenny	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Cassandra Booth	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Michael Farrell	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Kelly Pojunas	- Greater Manchester Police
	- Greater Manchester Police
Marion Griffin	- Business Support Officer, Chief Executives Department

Councillor Ebrahim Adia in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rosa Kay; Pauline Dixon, Rumworth Neighbourhood Manager and Yasmin Qureshi MP.

## **9. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

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

## **10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

## **12. COMMUNITY SAFETY/POLICE UPDATE**

Sergeant Ennis introduced herself and the Rumworth Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and provided an update on crime in Rumworth.

Sergeant Ennis focussed on three main areas; burglaries; Taking of Motor Vehicles and Taking from Motor Vehicles and robbery and stated that there was mixed response as for some areas crimes had risen, whilst others had fallen.

Sergeant Ennis also spoke about break-ins regarding Asian jewellery. There had been a total of 6 Asian Jewellery breaks in Rumworth over the last 3 months. A person had been arrested in another area of Bolton for a similar break and since then there had been no further Asian Jewellery breaks in Rumworth.

PC Melanie Jackson then gave a brief overview on the Week of Action which was held in September 2014.

On each weekday there was a focus on different types of crime, with Friday set aside to review the actions and complete the paperwork.

PC Jackson also spoke about the Confidence Survey undertaken by The Home Office. This was sent to randomly selected Bolton residents' every few months. The residents' had been asked about their views, opinions and perceptions of the local policing team. The questionnaires are then analysed by the Home Office.

To date the statistics had shown a rating of 77% confidence in their local Policing team.

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

Resolved – That the presentations be noted.

### **13. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM**

Idris Jeewa, Area-Coordinator gave a brief update regarding the devolved budgets to the Area Forum available for 2013-15:

#### **Highways Maintenance Budget annual allocation - £19,200**

This budget funds repairs and maintenance to the highway asset.

Balance remaining: £14,505.

#### **Flat Rate Budget - £13,750**

This was to be used to fund activities providing benefit to Rumworth Ward.

Since the last meeting the following projects had been approved.

Relocation of lighted sign on Willows Lane £1000.

Balance remaining: £6,805.

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

### **14. 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.

Q1.The site of the former Stags Head pub is a real eyesore. What is being done to keep it tidy.

A1. As this is private land, an enforcement notice would need to be served against the Landlord. Councillor Adia will take this forward.

Q2. What is happening with the former mill site on Brandwood Street?

A2. This was earmarked for development but with the drop in market prices the developers had yet to start the scheme.

Q3. What is happening with a small plot of land off Croston Street which someone had purchased and is looking to build a property on?

A3. Councillor Adia explained that the land had been sold, however, it would be difficult for the people to get permission to build property on that land; the people had been told of same.

Q4. There is a lot of traffic issues on Oriel Street, the street is being used by heavy goods vehicles, cars speeding and issues of parking on both sides of the road. Can anything be done to resolve these issues?

A4. Councillor Adia stated that the volume and speed of traffic could be assessed over a one week period by conducting a survey. This will be raised with Highways Department.

Q5. There is a lot of rubbish building up in Hawthorne Road.

A5. This would be passed on to Environmental Services.

Q6. There is a Community Centre on Willows estate which is only open one day a week. Could it not be opened on more days for children to use and run after school clubs, breakfast clubs and other activities?

A6. Councillor Adia would speak with Pauline Dixon, Rumworth Neighbourhood Manager, and ask her to speak with the resident to discuss their ideas and involvement with the Community Centre in more detail.

He also stated that there was £500,000 available through the Community Empowerment fund to help fund volunteers, for example, street cleaning and supporting people's projects.

Q7. Could the Area Forum be held more frequently, perhaps on a quarterly basis, in order that residents have more scope to voice their opinions.

A7. Councillor Adia explained that it was a policy decision following government cutbacks, to reduce the number of Area

Forums. The Council now have smaller resources and therefore, cannot guarantee more Areas Forums.

Resolved – That the questions and answers be noted.

## **15. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Councillor Adia concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He confirmed that the next Area Forum would be advertised in the Bolton News and on Bolton Council's website.

(The meeting started at 6.05pm and finished at 7.05pm)