

LEVERHULME AREA FORUM

MEETING, 21ST MARCH, 2007

Present – 64 Members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Connell	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor Hornby	- Little Lever and Darcy Lever Ward
Councillor L. Byrne	- Brightmet Ward
Councillor R. Wilkinson	- Brightmet Ward
Councillor Peel	- Tonge with the Haulgh Ward
Councillor Sherrington	- Tonge with Haulgh Ward
Councillor White	- Tonge with Haulgh Ward

Also in Attendance

Gill Hughes	- Adult Services
Julie Spencer	- Adult Services
John Rowlands	- Adult Services
Janet Carter	- Adult Services
Adrian Gittins	- Environmental Services
Carl Bullough	- Environmental Services
Darren Love	- Environmental Services
Gemma Pearson	- Bolton @ Home
Mark Welsh	- Primary Care Trust

Richard White	- East Bolton Regeneration
Adrian Wolstenholme	- Area Co-ordinator
Liz Whitworth	- Area Co-ordinator
Altaf Ahmed	- Area Co-ordinator
PCSO Fox	- GMP
PCSO Cooke	- GMP
Kate Treadwell	- Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Byrne and Brain Iddon MP and David Crausby MP.

Councillor Connell in the Chair

29. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Connell welcomed and introduced everybody to the meeting.

30. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 31st January, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

31. OPEN FORUM FEEDBACK

Mr. A. Altaf, Area Co-ordinator, tabled a paper which provided an update on responses to questions which were raised at the last meeting of the Forum.

Resolved – That the feedback be noted.

32. PRESENTATION: SHAPING BOLTON'S FUTURE

Mr. S. Godley from the Planning Division gave a presentation which outlined the process for shaping the future of Bolton through a sustainable Community Strategy.

This Strategy would guide renewal, lead improvement of Services and tackle deprivation.

Coupled with this, were a number of key aims and objectives, as follows:-

- a strong and confident Bolton;
- a prosperous Bolton;
- an achieving Bolton;
- a healthy Bolton;
- a safe Bolton; and
- an attractive Bolton.

The Forum was advised that the Strategy would take two years to prepare and set out how each locality in Bolton would change over the next 10-15 years. The Strategy would be adopted in December, 2009.

Mr. Godley went on to indicate that the Council were seeking ideas and comments from individuals on what the plan should contain.

In terms of possible issues for the Leverhulme area, it was indicated that these were:-

- improving the visual environment of the inner area;
- provision of jobs and community facilities;
- providing training and employment opportunities for residents;

- possibility of expanding Little Lever's town centre; and
- helping Bolton's University Campus area to achieve its full potential.

In conclusion, it was indicated that a consultation leaflet was available and responses should be submitted to the Council by 13th April, 2007.

Various questions and comments were raised on the following:

- future regeneration of Bolton Town Centre;
- the need for decent youth facilities across the Borough; and
- regenerating the canal system around the area

Resolved - That the presentation be noted.

33. PRESENTATION: PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Mr. M. Welsh, Bolton PCT, gave a presentation which outlined the future plans for health services in East Bolton.

The presentation advised that Bolton PCT had identified, in 2003, that people's standard of health in East Bolton was the lowest compared to anywhere else in the Borough.

In view of developments both nationally and locally it was felt that services needed to be placed in more accessible areas. This meant basing more core services in local areas rather than just in town centres or hospitals.

The presentation advised that the East Bolton Strategy had been designed in view of having more local services and, as such, the following plans were underway:-

- developing services with the Council at Leverhulme Park;

- an extensive refurbishment to Tonge Moor Centre (due for completion Summer, 2007);
- a Health Centre in Hall I'th' Wood which would house two practices, a range of PCT services and a pharmacy due to open October, 2007.

The presentation went on to state that the planned Brightmet Resource Centre would be known as the Alistair Ross Centre and would contain the following:

- three G.P practices;
- a range of community services including a base for district nurses, Macmillan Nurses and dietary services;
- a One Stop Shop; and
- it was likely that diagnostics and outpatients services would also be included.

The presentation went on to state that this was a public-private partnership and that building work would start in approximately April, 2007 for a finishing date of October, 2008.

Various comments and questions were raised on the following issues:-

- the importance of ensuring that enough Hospital Consultants were supportive of this initiative;
- the potential problem of increased traffic on Brightmet Fold Lane;
- whether Dunstan Street Medical Centre would be utilised under the new plans; and
- importance of keeping residents, resident associations and Councillors informed with any

developments

Resolved - That the presentation be noted.

34. OPEN FORUM

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

- (a) The children of Beechcroft and Darcy Lever wanted to know if they could have their skateboard park back and if not, what other provisions could be made for them?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into and passed on to the relevant officers. It would then be brought back to the next meeting of the Forum.

- (b) Why had the fairground been allowed to set up on the new car park on Leverhulme Park as this was done to make provisions for parking during events. Would the Council restrict parking on Long Lane, Leacroft, Holycroft, Beechcroft Avenue, as this had been a problem in the past when residents could not park near there homes.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into and passed on to the relevant officers. It would then be brought back to the next meeting of the Forum.

- (c) At the entrance to Leacroft Avenue there was a grid exposed to the public. Could something be done before a member of the public tripped over it?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter should be referred to United Utilities as it was not the responsibility of the Council.

- (d) There were still power cables on Long Lane bridge above the ground near the substation and the bus station. They appeared to be electrical and had been there for over a year. What could be done about this?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that ownership of these power cables would have to be determined and the area would have to be examined to see if the upkeep was in keeping with current legislation. The Area Co-ordinator stated that any information would be feedback to the next Forum.

- (e) Please would you let the Forum know what is being done about the reports of young gangs in Brightmet smashing windows, covering premises with graffiti, intimidating the public, shop workers and library staff in the evenings. How were the Council and Police combating the problem?

Councillor Byrne stated that youth problems were recognised as an ongoing problem in the area. Efforts were underway with the Police to target resources into particular hotspots.

- (f) What could be done to stop youths hanging around ginnels in the Darcy Lever area. They were breaking fences and damaging cars. The police had been very helpful but would it be possible to have gates on either side of the ginnels where there were problems?

Councillor Peel stated that, in the past the gating of ginnels had been difficult to bring about. However, new legislation meant that Local Authorities now had the power to close ginnels if there was felt to be a need from residents. There had been a programme of

ginnet closures in Brightmet, Great Lever and Tonge and the Haulgh areas.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that the appropriate officer would be contacted to see what could be done in this particular case.

- (g) What was being done to combat vandalism around the Red Lane area. The issue of vandalism and other nuisances by youths often happened before 8.00pm. What were the police doing to combat this problem?

Police Constable Fox stated that a meeting would be held with residents, the police and Area Co-ordinators to discuss the problems in this area and the best way forward. PC Fox emphasised that any people caught would be dealt with by the Police

- (h) What had happened to the youth club at Withins Sports Centre? For the last few weeks there had been no youth club for children over the age of 11. Part of this reason appeared to be the lady who ran the club being in ill health.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would be looked into. It would then be brought back to the next meeting of the Forum.

- (i) What were Greater Manchester Police doing to bring about prosecutions relating to antisocial behaviour? Sometimes the Police did not appear to be taking cases of anti-social behaviour past the point of the matter being reported.

Councillor White stated that Greater Manchester Police were doing everything in their power to tackle anti-social behaviour. However, they also needed the co-operation of members of the

public to help them to compile enough evidence to take a case to court. Co-operation between the public and the police was essential in combating these types of problems.

- (j) Why had a meeting involving residents of the Haulgh and Great Lever area, officers and members of the Council been called at such short notice to discuss the issues of prostitution in the area. Will residents be given more notice in the future about such meetings?

Councillor Hornby stated that this meeting was supposed to be part of the Council's Prostitution Policy Development Group's consultation process. Questions had been asked about this and a decision regarding this matter had been deferred at the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services. This meant that there would be a thorough consultation that would go back to residents.

The Area Co-ordinator acknowledged that better organisation was needed of such meetings in the future.

- (k) Could the Public Voice on Policing Group (PVP) be reintroduced? This previously enabled the public to have their say with senior police officer present.

The Area Co-ordinator stated that the PVP had ceased to exist but that the Police did have an earlier drop in session at Forums so that members could raise similar problems in private with the police.

The Area Co-ordinator went on to state that, as there had been some concerns in the area about issues that would concern the Police, a letter would be written on behalf of this Forum to

them. In addition, the possibility of having a themed Forum regarding some of these issues would be considered.

- (I) The proposed gas maintenance works around the area in places such as Moorfield Road and Eccleston Avenue would cause disruption. What could be done to stop these works?

The Area Co-ordinator stated that this matter would need to be referred to United Utilities as they decided upon this type of work. The Council had no decision making powers in this area.

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

35. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Connell then closed the meeting and thanked Council Members, Officers and Members of the public for their attendance at this Forum meeting and other Forum meetings throughout the municipal year. He also thanked Members, Officers and Members of the public for their contribution during this time.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 9.00pm)