

TWO TOWNS AREA FORUM

MEETING, 15th June 2010

Present – 21 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Barbara Ronson	-	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Robert Ronson	-	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Kevin McKeon	-	Horwich North East Ward
Councillor Raymond Barrow	-	Horwich and Blackrod Ward
Councillor Stephen Pickup	-	Horwich and Blackrod Ward

Also in attendance

Dawn Hampton	-	Area Co-ordinator, Chief Executive's Department
Jeanette Pemberton-Billing	-	Business Support, Chief Executive's Department
Ellen Miller	-	Forum Chief Officer and Assistant Director – Strategy and Commissioning
John Sharrock	-	Head of Service, Neighbourhood Services, Milton House
Ian Davies	-	Community Sports Outreach, Children's Services
Garry Lee	-	Greater Manchester Police
Ben Brookfield	-	Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Bob Ronson in the Chair

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Pat Barrow.

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Bob Ronson welcomed everyone to the meeting, led the introductions and then explained the format for the meeting.

2. HELPING OLDER PEOPLE TO STAY INDEPENDENT AND PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

Councillor Bob Ronson explained there would be a presentation on Helping Older People to stay independent and prepare for the future which was given by Ellen Miller, Assistant Director of Strategy and Commissioning, Adult Services.

The basis of the presentation looked into what mattered to the people of the Two Towns Area Forum and it was established that there were four main basic concerns around care support, domiciliary care, long term care and specialist/targeted care. It also highlighted that a third of the Adult and Social care budget was spent on just 1% of the population.

Ms Miller emphasised that the basic requirement was to maintain care standards for people aged 65 plus with the aim of keeping them in their homes using residential and nursing care. However, with the current economic climate, Ms Miller said that there were going to be difficult times ahead financially.

She stressed that it was vital that community and voluntary groups were kept involved and included at all stages in order that local communities were able to still provide a service for the most vulnerable in the area.

After the presentation, there were round table group discussions after which the residents were invited to ask questions.

The discussions produced a few areas for concern such as where do people go to access support and it was felt that agencies and departments ought to advertise and communicate better in order to promote their services.

Q.1 Councillor McKeon asked about personalised budgets?

A.1 Ellen Miller responded that there was a high uptake of younger people and people with mental health issues applying for personalised budgets, but not many elderly people.

Q3

Q. 2 Councillor Robert Ronson asked how people with specific needs could buy a 'service' with a personalised budget?

A.2 Ms Miller said that this process had not been finalised and there could be a wait of six months before contracts were sorted as they had not got specialists in yet. Also it was stated that 50% of commissioned services would be bought in.

Ms Chadwick from the Horwich Befriending Service made a comment that there been cuts in their funding recently, and now they were going to be able to help and support much less people and they had a waiting list already. She said that with budget cuts it would mean that more and more elderly people would now have to rely on volunteers to help them fill in forms to claim for benefits which they were entitled to.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

32. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th February 2010 were submitted and accepted as a correct record.

33. UPDATE ON BUDGETS DEVOLVED TO THE AREA FORUM

Dawn Hampton, 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:

Area Based Grant - allocation spent

Area Forum Budget

- **HONE** – balance remaining **£3,146**
 - i. Potholes including Hope Street - **£3,146**
- **HOBL** – balance remaining **£10,315**

Q4

- i. Herbert Street **£3,795**
- ii. Ainse Road **£6,520**

Voluntary Sector Grant – balance remaining £1,532

- i. Bolton Arts Community Members Limited - **£150**
- ii. Horwich Fairtrade Town Group - **£500**

Highways Maintenance – balance remaining £6,702 for HONE (£0 for HOBL)

- **HONE**

- i. Footpath x 3 at Wilderswood off Georges Lane - **£ 921.00**

£ 920.00
£1,179.00
- ii. Footpath at St. Leonards Avenue **£998**
- iii. Mill Lane footpath improvements **£1,159**
- iv. Wallsuches footpath improvements **£940**
- v. Potholes **£585**

Positive Contributions Budget – balance remaining of £1,335

- i. St. Katherine's intergenerational work **£1,400**

There were several Voluntary Sector Grant applications received as follows:-

Resolved - That the report be noted and that the following grants be approved: -

- Lostock Athletics Club £500
- Horwich Cycling Club £500

Q5

- Brazley Community Hall £500
- Little HCF Baby & Toddler Group £250
- Horwich Old Angling Society £250
- 42nd Bolton Scout Group £250
- Bolton Badminton League £250

34. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Dawn Hampton read out a pre-submitted question to the Forum which was as follows:-

Q. 1 There was clarification needed regarding the 106 Agreement monies and the improvements to New Chapel Lane that have not been completed.

A. 1 The question would be answered at the next area forum.

Q.2 Why could the meetings not be held in Blackrod instead of always being in Horwich?

A.2 It was stated that there were not many venue options available, but that possible alternatives would be looked into.

Q.3 Speed restrictions around the Brazley area were not being enforced.

A. 3 The response was that there were not enough enforcement officers to deal with this problem.

Q.4 Why wasn't there a Speed Indicator Device (SPID) situated at Chapel Lane?

A.4 The reply was that there could be one the next time they came around as they were rotated on a regular basis.

Q.5 A member of the public asked why the police could not be held accountable.

A.5 It was suggested that the Chief Constable be invited to the next Area Forum.

Resolved - That the question be noted and the information fed back to the next Area Forum meeting.

35. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Bob Ronson 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 14th September 2010 with drop in at 6.30p.m. and main meeting starting at 7.00 p.m. and that the venue was to be confirmed.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.35pm)