

## **GREAT LEVER AREA FORUM**

MEETING – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

Present – 22 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Mohammed Ayub - Great Lever Ward  
Councillor Mohammed Iqbal - Great Lever Ward  
Councillor Madeline Murray - Great Lever Ward

### Also in attendance

John Pye - Neighbourhood Manager  
Jane Bickerstaffe - Business Support Officer  
Chris Wood - Bolton at Home  
Sgt Pete Crowe - Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by Yasmin Qureshi MP  
and Jon Tuson, Department of Place.

Councillor Murray in the Chair

### **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Murray welcomed everyone and introduced herself,  
and the other Councillors and Officers in attendance.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
November, 2017 were submitted and approved as a correct  
record.

#### **4. PRESENTATION – GREAT LEVER CONNECTED COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Councillor Murray introduced Chris Wood from Bolton at Home and members of Great Lever Connected, who gave a brief presentation on this project. The main points were:

Following the arson attack on Great Lever Library in 2018, where the project was to be re-housed, funding was now in place for a new purpose-built centre on Bradford Road.

In the mean-time GLC have continued to run lots of groups and activities at 98 Calvert Road, such as;

- ESOL and Community English Classes
- Employment and training support/Job Club
- IT support
- Women's groups
- Craft and cooking sessions
- Local history group
- Community Café/Drop In
- Police – Great Lever PCSOs available for local residents to report crime and ASB issues
- Food Stories – people can sample different foods
- Gardening in the community
- Remembrance Day Poppy Project
- Karaoke
- Christmas meal

It was proposed that the new Great Lever Community Hub could include;

- A large space for multifunctional use
  - Café
  - Social/craft clubs
  - Fitness activities
  - Youth Group
  - Younger children's groups
- Smaller spaces/rooms for
  - GMP
  - Counselling
  - Computer skills

Following the presentation Councillor Murray suggested that table discussions took place so that the residents could share their thoughts and ideas as to what they considered to be the priorities for the new community centre, for example;

- Health walk and talk
- Allotment
- Memory sessions (helping with dementia)
- Youth mental health and support services e.g. bullying support
- Movable walls to provide an area for sports e.g. five aside football, indoor bowls, badminton
- Climbing wall
- Mother and toddlers e.g. Tumble Tots
- Connecting people together via projects – pride in your community
- Education, homework, pc skills, back to work skills – library
- Availability – first point of contact for information and action

Councillor Murray thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussion and said these ideas would be collated and considered prior to the plans for the building being drawn up.

Eileen McKay Crowe, from Emmaus Bolton, explained to the forum that Emmaus would like to help more in the community, so if any groups needed funding or equipment to contact them and they would consider their request.

A number of questions were asked and answered and comments made.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

## **5. BUDGETS UPDATE**

Councillor Murray introduced John Pye, Neighbourhood Manager, who gave an update on current balances for budgets and grants devolved to the Area Forum as follows;

### **Area Forum Budget 2017-18 and 2018-19**

Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) throughout the Ward, including St Marks Close and Lecturers Close	£4,316
Replacement bollards on High Street/Lever Street	£600
Day of action at Cecelia Street	£500
Balance to carry forward	£1,624

### **Area Forum Highways Budget 2015-18**

Contribution to the resurfacing and reconstruction of Westbourne Avenue	£28,800
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Resolved – That the report, together with those projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, be noted.

## **6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**

Councillor Murray introduced this item on the agenda and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Ward, starting with any written questions.

- Q1 I would like to raise the issue of the amount of litter in Great Lever, particularly near schools; I live almost opposite SS Simon and Jude primary school and along Newport Road there are many takeaway bags and general littering on the grass borders. I have noticed this is also an issue on Greenland Road with Mount St Joseph secondary school, possibly other schools in the vicinity.
- Is it possible to encourage schools to educate pupils that littering is an offence and provide bins outside the school vicinity for schools to manage as part of their Ofsted community interest?
- Littering is not as much of an issue on roads such as Green Lane where there is faster moving traffic, but is on other roads where items are thrown from cars. Could notices be put up on lampposts warning people that littering is an offence?

I am aware of the budget restraints of the Council but am currently picking litter in my street and Newport Road out of desperation. The weekly van sweeper no longer does the rounds which may be due to cuts. Are there any litter picking groups in my area, and if not, any gloves or equipment available to those like myself who are doing the job themselves? I try to recycle but much is going into my own bin allowance and I'm not sure what to do with items such as the small drug gas cannisters. Any help or advice gratefully received!

A Another resident informed the forum there is a local litter picking group and they would be happy to assist with this either as a group or individuals.

Also, a lady from Emmaus, who attended the forum said that the charity would be happy to provide bins, gloves and pickers for anyone who wanted to join in with litter picking in the area.

Councillor Murray advised that the contact person at the Council was Andy Kerks who can also provide residents with the above equipment. Also, if bags of rubbish are dumped and evidence of who has left them can be recovered, then the person/people may be prosecuted.

Q2 What action is the Council going to take regarding bags of rubbish, litter, items of furniture being dumped all around Lever Street, Slaterfield Estate and Pike Mill Estate.

A Councillor Murray said this would be reported to the Enforcement Officer at the Council.

Q3 When are the Police, Council and other relevant agencies going to address the ongoing problem of anti-social behaviour in the Heywood Gardens/St Marks Walk area of Great Lever and also the surrounding areas of the Slaterfield Estate?

A Sgt Crowe from GMP asked the resident to speak to him after the meeting.

Q4 We as residents are concerned about the consequences if the proposed new build on Crescent Road/Lynwood Avenue goes ahead. The resident went on to say, this was Green Belt Corridor and when he and other

residents had met with a Reservoir Inspector, the inspector said that if building took place in this area it would become a flood risk and if the top reservoir breeched and homes had been built, there would be a risk to life. However, the Developers' Engineer had reported there would be no risk of flooding.

A Councillor Ayub said Martin Mansell, Principal Development Officer from the Planning Department had also said the area was not a flood risk. However, it would be proposed to undertake further inspection in the near future.

Q5 Another resident reported seeing a grey and a green wheelie bin that had been left out in the area near Heywood Park for some time and people were using them to put anything and everything in. The resident also said she had been reporting this problem to the Council since last September, but nothing had been done about it.

A Councillor Iqbal asked if the resident would copy the Great Lever Councillors into any emails that she sends to report this to the Council and they will look into it.

Q6 A resident said there was a lot of concern amongst local residents re the two new schools they have heard are to be built next to Essa Academy, as there is already a lot of traffic in the area and they were annoyed that there had been no public consultation.

A Councillor Murray said she would look into the issue.

Q7 There were issues with parked cars/vans causing problems on a car parking area near Slaterfield Estate, as they had been there for some time and not all were residents of this street. Also, some had SORN notices on and one van had no tax or insurance, but was being used on a daily basis. The resident said he had reported the vehicles to the police but nothing had been done.

A Sgt Crowe said he would investigate the matter.

Q8 A resident said he believed The Brooklyn Hotel was going to be knocked down and that flats would be built on the land. He went on to say he would like to know if it

is a listed building as he feels it is historic/iconic and would be a loss to the area and it needs to be preserved.  
A Councillor Murray said she would make enquiries.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

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

Councillor Murray thanked everyone for attending and advised that the date of the next Area Forum had not been decided. Residents on the emailing list would receive invitations and the details of the meeting would also be made available on the Councils website.

Councillor Murray asked that special thanks be given to Alison Hart, Headteacher, St Michael CE Primary School, for the use of the hall and for staying late whilst the forum took place.

(The meeting started at 7.08pm and finished at 8.33pm)