

KEARSLEY AREA FORUM

MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2018

Present – 35 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Mark Cunningham	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor Liam Irving	- Kearsley Ward
Councillor Julie Pattison	- Kearsley Ward

Also in attendance

John Pye	- Neighbourhood Manager
Jane Bickerstaffe	- Business Support Officer
David Hashdi	- Department of Place
PC Aimee Abram	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies were received from Yasmin Qureshi MP.

Councillor Mark Cunningham in the Chair.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Cunningham welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the other Councillors and Officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

The Councillors declared an interest in item 4 on the agenda, as they are all involved with the Churches on the Mount Community Project.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 30th October 2017 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY LED PROJECTS IN KEARSLEY

Councillor Cunningham introduced Tracey Wilkinson from the Churches on the Mount Community Project, who gave a presentation on the community led projects in Kearsley. The main points were:

Kearsley Festival Group

The Kearsley Festival Group was set up in 2015 after the success of the first ever Kearsley Scarecrow Festival.

- Churches on the Mount kindly took us under their umbrella and provide us with vital support.
- The Kearsley Festival Group is made up of a small group of people who all live within Kearsley.
- We have a good mix of people of different ages, genders and backgrounds.
- We have people who are in employment, those enjoying retirement and local business owners.
- We all have different skills and abilities but together we are making a difference.

Kearsley Scarecrow Festival

- The festival was first held in 2015
- Since then the community have made 628 scarecrows

Over £18,000 has been raised for Kearsley helping to buy/donate towards:

- 7 public access defibrillators bought and installed
- 6 public benches with plaques bought and installed
- 4 community gazebos bought
- Funds donated to Kearsley in Bloom
- More on the horizon

Kearsley in Bloom

- 12 railing planters and 12 sets of 3 planters
- Residential and business competitions
- Working with all our local schools including; Kearsley Academy, Kearsley West, St Saviour, St John's, St Gregory's, Prestolee, St Stephen's, St Peter's and Spindle Point
- Inspiring others in the community

Kearsley at Christmas

- Kearsley Christmas Tree and Star Lights Switch On
- Kearsley Light Festival

Other projects in Kearsley

- Unity Brook Colliery Disaster
 - The Memorial unveiling
 - Educating the young
- Remembrance Sunday
- The Poppy Appeal

Working Together

- Residents, businesses and local Councillors

The people of Kearsley are putting Kearsley back on the map.
How can you help? By getting involved!

Councillor Cunningham thanked Mrs Wilkinson for the presentation.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

5. AREA FORUM BUDGET UPDATE

Councillor Cunningham introduced John Pye, Neighbourhood Manager who gave a brief overview on budgets for 2017-18;

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| • Amount remaining as at 30 th October 2017 | £1,420 |
| • Gifts for children who took part in the Christmas Lights Switch On 2017 | £200 |
| • Commemoration of the 1878 Unity Brook Pit Disaster | £1,000 |

Balance to carry forward: £220

Resolved – That the report, and those projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation be noted.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Cunningham 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. One written question was received before the meeting and this was read out first;

Q1	<p>There is speculation within the Kearsley community that Atlas House (corner of Springfield Road and Manchester Road) is being converted into and HMO (House of Multiple Occupation).</p> <p>Can the Councillors confirm if this HMO is to be used as a bail hostel?</p> <p>If so, do they agree that a bail hostel would be unsuitable at this location?</p>
A	<p>The Councillors said they couldn't confirm the usage of the HMO and they do not have the developer's contact details as these are not required under planning law. However, the Councillors said they would be objecting about it and they suggested that as many residents as possible put their objections in to the Planning Department by logging onto the Bolton Council website. Councillor Cunningham explained that the closing date was actually today, but he had requested an extension which had been granted until the 21st November.</p>
Q2	<p>A resident said that after the Child Care Presentation at item 4 on the minutes of the last meeting, someone asked for confirmation of the closing date of Kearsley Children's Centre, but as far as they knew nothing had been mentioned about it since.</p>
A	<p>Councillor Pattison explained that she had been informed the centre is not closing, but that it is going to be run by different people and the children's sessions etc would continue as before.</p>
Q3	<p>A resident said she had received a letter from Highways England regarding a survey of the M60 from J8 to J18. Do the Councillors know what they are proposing to do?</p>
A	<p>Bolton Council is aware that Highways England, the organisation responsible for motorways, are currently carrying out a study in the area known as Manchester North West Quadrant, which is looking at measures to improve transport links in this area, but they are not aware of any detailed proposals at this stage. More information can be found on the Highways England</p>

	<p>website: https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/manchester-north-west-quadrant/</p> <p>It was agreed it may be helpful for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to write to Yasmin Qureshi MP and ask her to contact the Department of Transport regarding the M60 survey • Consult with the Councillors and residents of other areas covered by the project • Councillor Irving suggested inviting Yasmin Qureshi MP to a public meeting, as she may be able to shed more light on this issue. However, as she is not available on Mondays the meeting should be scheduled for a day later in the week
Q4	A resident asked when the next Area Forum meeting would be?
A	<p>Councillor Cunningham explained that there is now only one meeting per Ward per year, so the next Kearsley Area Forum would be in 2019, but the date had not yet been set.</p> <p>He also said that it was possible to call a public meeting where issues raised at the forum could be discussed further and residents receive updates, as this had been done previously.</p>
Q5	<p>Another resident asked if it was possible for Kearsley and Farnworth to have joint Area Forums and then they could have two meetings a year, as one meeting was not enough?</p> <p>Could a mailout be done to the residents of Kearsley for a wider consultation to ask what they think of having joint meetings with Farnworth?</p>
A	The Councillors said they would discuss this.

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

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Cunningham concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. He advised that the date of the next Kearsley Area Forum was yet to be confirmed, but residents would be informed through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.15pm)