

WESTHOUGHTON WITH CHEW MOOR AREA FORUM

MEETING, 25th January 2011

Present – 22 members of the public attended the meeting.

Councillor Christine Wild	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor David Chadwick	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Martyn Cox	- Westhoughton North and Chew Moor
Councillor David Wilkinson	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Kevan Jones	- Westhoughton South
Councillor Patricia Allen (Chair)	- Westhoughton North and Chewmoor

Also in attendance

Val Cloynes	- Area Co-ordinator
Margaret Stoney	- Forum Chief Officer
Councillor L Winrow	- Westhoughton Town Councillor
Nicola Birchall	- Area Working Support Officer
Anne Burns	- Bolton at Home
Malcolm Russell	- Environmental Services
PC Gareth Barnes	- Greater Manchester Police
Lesley Doherty	- Royal Bolton Hospital
Pauline Lee	- Royal Bolton Hospital
Esther Steel	- Royal Bolton Hospital
Christopher De Sa	- Office for National Statistics
Helen Clarke	- NHS Bolton

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Julie Hilling, MP

Councillor Patricia Allen in the Chair.

15 INTRODUCTION

Councillor Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself, fellow Councillors from the Westhoughton wards, Westhoughton Town Councillors, Bolton Council officers and partners.

16. HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE

Councillor Allen introduced Lesley Doherty, Chief Executive of the Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Ms Doherty then gave a presentation on the Integration of the Royal Bolton Hospital with NHS Bolton provider services.

Subjects covered included:

- Why the changes were coming
- What the PCT provider services were (e.g Walk In centres, health visitors, school nursing etc)
- How the new service was decided upon (i.e consultation with stakeholders and the public)
- What it meant for Bolton - including better patient services and better communication between service providers and the public
- What the new style of the organisation was trying to achieve
- A selection of charts and graphs depicting Bolton's performance against National averaged rates on areas such as MRSA, mortality rates and Clostridium Difficile (C-Diff)

Ms Doherty then offered the audience the opportunity to ask questions:

If GP practices were taking over their own services and running surgeries as a business, then who would pay for the accountants and business managers? Would it	Ms Doherty explained that money was allocated purely to patient care by the NHS
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Q3

come out of the NHS budget?	
A resident had experienced problems with aftercare following a knee replacement and wanted to make a complaint.	Ms Doherty told the resident that if he made a formal complaint then it would be fed back to the Commissioner.
Would private healthcare providers focus on money not service? The service at the hospital was first class.	Ms Doherty explained that residents are free to choose any willing provider of healthcare – public or private - but the hope was that the Royal Bolton Hospital would be the preferred choice.
The former Chief Executive received a pay rise last year. Would the new Chief Executive be taking a pay rise this year?	Ms Doherty explained that she opted not to take a rise in pay. She also explained that Directors had chosen not to take a pay rise for the last 3 years.
On their discharge day from hospital, patients were being kept waiting a very long time by the hospital pharmacy. It also took a long time to be served at the hospital pharmacy in the entrance hall.	Ms Doherty explained that there was a new system in place called Gateway whereby doctors, physicians and trained nurses could place orders for prescriptions 24 hours in advance of discharging a patient. Ms Doherty also explained that they were working with Outpatients to allow people to collect prescriptions at local pharmacies rather than wait at the hospital pharmacy.
Had the number of C-Diff cases reduced between 2006 and 2010?	Ms Doherty confirmed that there was an 80% reduction in c-diff cases at the hospital. This figure also included patients who contracted c-diff within and outside the hospital.
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GP appointments were getting harder to obtain. When were GPs going to be made accountable for this?	Ms Doherty explained that this was with the remit of the PCT not the hospital, but that the new NHS Commissioning Board would be managing GP customer satisfaction surveys in the future
Should Bolton West have a Triage Unit?	Ms Doherty stated that the hospital was looking at more rapid access with an outpatient review to follow. The intention was to have more consultant-led local services in the future.

Councillor Allen thanked Ms Doherty for the presentation.

Resolved – That the questions and report be noted.

17. CENSUS 2011

Councillor Allen introduced Chris De Sa, 2011 Census Area Manager for Bolton & Bury, who delivered information on the upcoming Census. The subjects he covered included:

- Why the census was important
- What the information from census was used for
- The benefits of the census
- What help & support was available – including the availability of the census forms in Braille format as well as in 56 languages

At the end of the presentation, Mr De Sa encouraged all Forum attendees to fill out the Census form and stressed how important it was to do so. Mr De Sa then offered to respond to questions. These included:

Was there a fine for not filling in the census form?	Mr De Sa confirmed that completion was compulsory with a possible fine of up to £1,000 for non-completion
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How many forms were being sent out?	Mr De Sa explained that around 25 million Census forms would be distributed in England and Wales
Was it correct that 25,000 people from the North West were missing from the last Census?	Mr De Sa agreed that this was correct, but subsequent improvements meant that that Area Managers would now sample the return and carry out checks
In the past, data collected from the Census was made available to non-profit companies free of charge. Would this happen for this Census?	Mr De Sa was not able to respond as to whether there would be charges applied to companies who request Census data.
For students, should they be listed as living at home?	Mr De Sa explained that students would also receive Census forms at their University accommodation (including halls of residence) so parents would not have to put the names down of their children if they are living away from home at University.

Councillor Allen thanked Mr de Sa for his presentation.

Resolved – That the questions and report be noted.

18. CENTRAL PARK - MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) UPDATE

Councillor Pat Allen introduced Malcolm Russell, Head of Neighbourhood Services, Environmental Services Department. Mr Russell gave a short presentation about the new MUGA development. Subjects covered included:

- Issues with the previous location
- Proposed new location and location plan

Q6

- Consultation results
- What the next steps were

Mr Russell then invited questions, which included:

Would the trees lining the park create a place for youths to hide?	Mr Russell explained that there were no plans for additional trees. The police had been consulted and had no problems
Would the new park be close to the existing children's play area?	Mr Russell agreed that the new MUGA would be in the vicinity of the children's play park but was a significant distance away. Mr Russell also stated that having both areas would encourage mixed use for young children, teenagers and young adults
Why did the Council decide not to provide lighting to the new development since other sites had had problems after dark where lighting was not provided?	Mr Russell explained that there were pros and cons to a lit site, but that use during daylight hours was being encouraged so that there was clear visibility
How much had it cost to provide the cage and then remove it?	Mr Russell explained that when the original cage had been removed, parts of it had been recycled at other sites, allowing funding to go back into the pot to provide the new MUGA, for which the budget estimate was £50,000.
Could the Leisure Centre house the MUGA instead?	Mr Russell explained that the Leisure Centre was within the school grounds and therefore not available during daylight hours, whereas the new location would be an unlocked facility available to everyone during daylight hours.

	Councillor Allen added that the Leisure Centre had not wanted the MUGA.
Would the tennis courts be refurbished?	Mr Russell stated that 2 tennis courts had been refurbished, one available all year round. There were no plans to re-instate any further courts, the current area is being utilised well by children and residents.

The Chair thanked Mr Russell for his presentation.

Resolved – That the report and questions be noted.

19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Allen stated that there had been a few errors within the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd November 2010 and that the amended minutes had been distributed to the Forum attendees on the night.

The amended Minutes were submitted and approved as a correct record, and the amended version would appear on the website.

20. UPDATE ON BUDGETS

Area Co-ordinator Val Cloynes, gave a brief update on devolved budgets.

Ms Cloynes asked that the Forum noted the current position regarding the Area Forum Devolved Budgets and outlined the decisions taken under the Forum Scheme of Delegation:

Lighting improvement schemes

£21,500 had been spent on schemes at Leigh Street, Common Street, Paterson Street, Gregory Street, and Peters Street.

Pathway improvement schemes

£15,180 had been spent on pathways on Knutshaw Crescent, Mossland Grove, Doyle Road, and Hunger Hill Drive.

Car park pathway extension

£3,000 had been spent on an extension of the pathway from Ditchfield car park.

Speed limit review scheme

£4,700 had been allocated to a review of the speed limit at Wigan Rd/Snydale Way

Schemes for young people

A total of £6,660 had been allocated to the following schemes:

- Central Park 'Urban Street Soccer'
- Chrysalis Project
- HACFRA play scheme
- Crucial Crew
- John Holt Centre MUGA equipment

The following Voluntary Sector Grant applications had been received:

- Washacre FM: request for £500 for a 4-day broadcast
- Weight Management Group: request for £500 for room rental, new equipment and taste sessions
- Friends of Eatock Lodge: request for £500 to set up a website and pay for computer consumables, postage, phone calls and advertising

Resolved – That the following grants be approved:

Washacre FM - £500

Weight Management Group - £500

Friends of Eatock Lodge - £500

21. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Allen introduced this agenda item and advised that this was an opportunity for residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments relevant to the Westhoughton and Chew Moor area.

The following questions and comments were put forward:-

Would the fencing be replaced on the play area in Chew Moor?	New bushes and fencing were to be installed; Mr Russell would confirm that this had taken place
With reference to Question 1 on the Feedback Sheet from the last Forum (camera at Park Road/Platt Lane), and the subsequent response, if the camera had not been installed by the Council or the Police, was it legal?	The camera had not belonged to traffic enforcement, highways, Police, community safety or Bolton at Home, and therefore it was not possible to comment on whether it had been legal. The camera had been removed subsequently.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and the questions that had not been answered at the meeting be directed to the appropriate Council Department or external agency.

22. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Allen concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and contributions and announced that the next Westhoughton Area Forum would be held on Tuesday 15 March at the Carnegie Hall, with the drop in session starting at 6.30pm and the main meeting starting at 7pm.

Q10

(The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.50pm)