

Minutes of: **BURY EAST TOWNSHIP FORUM**

Date of Meeting: 9 February 2011

Venue: Freedom Church, Bright Street, Bury

Present:

Councillors: Councillors I Ahmed, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, T Holt, K Rothwell, J Smith T Tariq, S Walmsley

Advisory Group Representatives: Tan Ahmed – ADAB (In the Chair), Tim Boaden - Seedfield TRA, Anne Clayton - New Springs Community Project Group, Darren Durham - Freedom Church, Bury, James Hill - Pimhole Residents' Association, Gemma Philburn - Streetwise 2000

Public attendance: 13 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies for absence: Janet Edwards, Older People's Forum

BETF.596 COUNCILLOR JOHN BYRNE

The Chair, Tan Ahmed, after welcoming everyone to the meeting of Bury East Township Forum, paid tribute to Councillor John Byrne, Councillor for Bury East and Deputy Mayor, following his sudden death at the end of December. Councillors Mike Connolly, Leader of the Council and Councillor Trevor Holt, who are also Councillors for Bury East, expressed their sadness at the loss of a close friend and paid tribute to his contribution to civic and political life in Bury and to such a dedicated Councillor for Bury East Ward.

The chair, Tan Ahmed, asked that all attendees of the Bury East Township Forum stand and observe a minute silence in order to pay their respects in memory of Councillor Byrne.

BETF.597 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in relation to any items considered at the meeting.

BETF.598 MINUTES

Delegated decision:

That the Minutes of the Bury East Township Forum meeting held on 28 November 2011, be approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Following the successful BESA Olympic Festival in October 2011 at Broad Oak High School, Harry Reid asked that the Police and Supporting Officers be acknowledged in the minutes for their contribution to the event also. Harry took the opportunity to inform the Township Forum that on 26 February 2012 a football day at Broad Oak High school was to take place and that Councillor Holt had agreed to be the Chair of Bury East's Sports Association.

Tim Boaden, Seedfield TRA, asked that the minutes be amended regarding the unused land at the junction on Peel Way, Walmersley Road. He had asked that the Council 'investigate' the use of the unoccupied land, not 'invest in'.

BETF.599 AREA PROFILE PRESENTATION

The Township Co-ordinator, Dave Thomas, gave an area profile presentation to the Members of Bury East Township Forum on Formulating Area Plans, including the following statistics, facts and issues:

- Bury East population – Moorside has the second largest population of all the wards in the Borough
- Integration and Cohesion – Bury East has a mix of people from different cultural and religious backgrounds
- Deprivation levels – Many areas of Bury East are consistently in the 20% most deprived for issues such as income and employment deprivation
- Bury East local community plan priorities, including:
 - ∇ Raise education standards to meet the rest of the Borough average
 - ∇ Improve provisions for young people
 - ∇ Ensure local people enjoy the improved Town Centre in Bury
 - ∇ Increase training opportunities so residents can compete for jobs
 - ∇ Reduce crime
 - ∇ Ensure Bury East is a green place to live

- ∇ Reduce the number of house fires
- ∇ Reduce health inequalities
- Health facts – East Ward has the highest adult smoking population in Bury and Bury East the highest mortality rate with Moorside the highest of the 17 Bury Wards
- Childhood obesity – Bury East has the highest level of obesity in Reception and Year 6
- Teenage conceptions – Bury East had the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in 2010
- Out of work benefits – Bury East has a higher than the Borough average for job seeker allowance claimants
- Employment
- Income and debt

It was agreed:

That the Township Co-ordinator be thanked for his presentation.

BETF. 600 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

The Township Co-ordinator invited attendees to take part in a round table discussion based upon a number of key themes on how to improve life for Bury East Residents. Suggestions made during these discussions would help formulate Bury East's Area Plan. Each table included a facilitator and appointed someone to record the discussion and report their findings.

At the end of the session the Chair asked each group for its findings and the following priorities were identified:

TABLE 1: EMPLOYMENT/WORKLESSNESS/INCOME

- Raising aspirations of young people
- Realistic and inspirational career advice
- Progressions in Education
- Interventions
- Employers' engagement

TABLE 2: HOUSING ENVIRONMENT

- Healthy partnerships
- Progress feedback
- Support for parks

TABLE 3: CRIME/PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

- Drug related crime
- Antisocial behaviour – which has dropped 14% in Bury East from last year
- Burglary

TABLE 4: HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Encourage young people from school age to be more healthy
- Have more information available for parents
- Prevention rather than intervention

TABLE 5: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Better use of Children’s Centres - encouraging youngsters to begin reading early
- Free books for children
- Mobile libraries
- World Book Day events

TABLE 6: COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND COHESION

- Positive real role models
- Organise cult awareness events
- Encourage apprenticeships
- Investment in social enterprise
- Information bus
- Raise awareness for parents

TABLE 7: TOWNSHIP FORUM INVOLVEMENT

- Promotion in schools for information
- Youth participation
- More welcoming meetings (less formal)
- Questionnaires

The Township Co-ordinator explained that the information generated would be fed into the draft Area Plan which would be reported at the next meeting of the Township Forum.

BETF.601 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair, Tan Ahmed, invited questions, comments and representations from members of the public present at the meeting. Questions were asked and comments made on the issues detailed below:

- James Hill – Pimhole Residents’ Association, asked if people were able to park on double yellow lines and block driveways. He explained the difficulties certain streets had on Market Days – Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, being reduced to one way traffic and the dangers this was causing.

Inspector Charlotte Cadden replied that the Police don’t enforce parking restrictions as it was not seen as the main priority compared to victims of crime. Inspector Cadden stated that any queries regarding traffic and parking should be made via the LA to NSL who deal with parking and traffic enforcement.

- A member of public asked about issues with fly tipping around Castle Hill Road area.

The Township Co-ordinator stated the Customer Contact Team should be informed of any grievances in the first instance.

- Councillor Ahmed reported that he had been contacted by residents on Rydal Close regarding dog fouling in that area.

The Chair, Tan Ahmed, stated that this issue should be reported to the Customer Contact Team.

- Gemma Philburn, Streetwise 2000, asked if anyone was aware of what the Bluebell Pub Premises on Wash Lane were to become as it had now been sold.

Councillor Connolly replied that he would try and find out and report back.

BETF.602 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was reported that the next meeting of the Bury East Township Forum would take place on Wednesday 21 March at 7.00 pm in the Peel Room, Town Hall Bury.

TAN AHMED (ADAB)
Chair

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