

AGENDA FOR

WHITEFIELD AND UNSWORTH TOWNSHIP FORUM

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**To: All Members of Whitefield and Unsworth Township
Forum**

Councillors : Adams, R Caserta, E Fitzgerald,
J Grimshaw, D Jones (Chair), Mallon, A Matthews,
Whitby and M Wiseman

Dear Member

Whitefield and Unsworth Township Forum

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Whitefield and Unsworth Township Forum which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Tuesday, 17 November 2015
Place:	Elms Community Centre, Green Lane, Whitefield
Time:	1.00 pm (Please note time)
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Whitefield and Unsworth Township Forum are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters on the Agenda and, if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 MINUTES *(Pages 1 - 6)*

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015.

4 POLICE - UPDATE

5 FIRST BUS - UPDATE

Representatives from First Bus will be in attendance at the meeting.

6 UPDATES (UPLANDS, FORMER TOWN HALL, HIGHER LANE - HICKORY GRANGE)

7 TREES UPDATES

Les Beardwood, Trees & Woodland Management will be in attendance.

8 TOWN PLAN UPDATE

9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME *(Pages 7 - 10)*

Questions are invited from members of the public present at the meeting about the work or performance of the Council or the Council's services relevant to the Whitefield and Unsworth area.

10 WHITEFIELD AMBULANCE STATION - PROPOSAL FOR RELOCATION *(Pages 11 - 12)*

11 FUNDING REPORT *(Pages 13 - 16)*

12 URGENT BUSINESS

Any other business which, by reason of special circumstances, the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency.

Minutes of:	WHITEFIELD AND UNSWORTH TOWNSHIP FORUM
Date of Meeting:	8 September 2015
Venue:	St Andrew's Church, Ribble Drive, Whitefield
Present:	Councillor D Jones (In the Chair) Councillors P Adams, R Caserta, E FitzGerald, J Grimshaw, J Mallon, M Whitby and M Wiseman
Advisory Group Representatives:	Leonard Lott – Whitefield and Unsworth Homewatch Assn. Marlene Dawson (Victoria Estate TRA) Pamela Taylor (Hollins Village Community Assn) Yvonne Moore (Old Hall Park Residents Assn) Mrs S Bannister – Jewish Representative Council
Public attendance:	33 members of the public were in attendance
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors A Matthews and Mrs T Heyworth (ELMS TRA)

WUTF.273 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in relation to any items to be considered.

WUTF.274 MINUTES

An amendment was made to minute number WUTF.143 Public Question Time – Amend "St George's Church" to read "St George's playing field".

Croft Lane road markings – no change reported.
Seat at Hamilton Park – no change reported.

Delegated decision:

That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

WUTF.275 FIRST BUS - UPDATE

Representatives from First Bus attended the meeting (Dave Rutherage, Alan Blackburn and Steve Shaw) to provide an update on First Bus services for the Whitefield and Unsworth area.

Service 95 – will now stop at Whitefield interchange. The service will also be a direct route to Manchester from Pendleton.

Service 97 – There has been an ongoing reliability issue for the service due in part to the congestion problems in Manchester City Centre as a consequence of Metrolink works and the sinkhole repairs on the Mancunian Way. The 97 and 98 services had been re-timed to give added flexibility for service users in Radcliffe and Whitefield. This has been reflected in user statistics.

Service 135 – following the comments made at a Township Forum meeting regarding the last bus from Bury on Friday and Saturday it was reported that there would be a late bus leaving Bury at 23:25 to Manchester. The return service would leave Manchester at 00:15 (Saturday and Sunday). The service from Manchester was being used by people returning to Bury and it was hoped that the number of users travelling from Bury to Manchester would increase to make the service viable and sustainable.

It was reported that an additional early morning service had been introduced on Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Service 95 – the hourly service around Sunnybank was not being used as anticipated and would be monitored. It was believed that the catchment area identified should ensure that the service would become viable.

Service 93 – the service will be extended from Carr Clough to the Prestwich Tesco store.

Service 94 – the public are requested to pass on any issues.

Mrs Taylor asked if there would be a Pilsworth service when the Pilsworth retail area site was redeveloped at some point and why had a bus stop been suspended?

It was stated that services would be investigated based on potential users and the needs of the area. The services to Pilsworth had been stopped for the reason that there were insufficient users of the service to make it sustainable. Bus stops were managed by Transport for Greater Manchester and the question would be passed on the officer concerned for a response.

Service 95 – will be reintroduced in October 2015.

The Chair thanked the representatives from First Bus for their attendance and invited them to a future meeting of the Township Forum for further updates.

It was agreed:

That the update be noted.

WUTF.276 POLICE UPDATE

The meeting was attended by Inspector Cottam (GMP) who provided statistics on crimes committed over the last three months. The meeting was informed that all crime statistics for Whitefield and Unsworth and Greater Manchester were available to view on the Greater Manchester Police website.

The following statistics were given:

- violence with injury – 32
- violence without injury – 43
- burglary of a dwelling – 27
- burglary other – 17
- criminal damage/arson – 42
- vehicle offences – 40

Details and information on anti-social behaviour and hate crime was circulated.

An overview from beat officers on issues in the local area was also provided. It was reported that there had been Anti Social Behaviour around the Morrison's Store (Whitefield) and a mobile police station had been set up during the summer holiday period. There had been a number of cannabis farms closed down and traffic operations had resulted in the issue of speeding fines and the seizing of a vehicle.

PCSOs would be undertaking surveys, involving local residents to ask for opinions on the way in which policing is undertaken. The public were also being asked to provide information on the location of shops or premises selling 'legal highs'. The police were intending to visit any premises selling these items to highlight the risks those pose to health.

The campaign for a safer summer was coming to an end and attention would now turn to the autumn and winter period and the safety of children and young people leading up Halloween and bonfire night.

The 'market place' that had taken place prior to the Township Forum meeting and was seen as a success in view of the number of local residents who had attended and spoken to police officers and PCSOs on a one to one basis. This had allowed more time to fully answer questions and get information.

It was reported that GMP in partnership with the Bury Times would be publicising PACT meetings in order to reinvigorate the meetings and encourage residents to attend. Details of the Neighbourhood Beat Officers would also be publicised for the Unsworth and Prestwich areas.

It was proposed that an online police surgery would be developed using the GMP Bury South twitter account to encourage greater communication.

Operation 'Picton' would be in place from 13 September for the Jewish holiday period in targeted areas.

Councillor Whitby asked for statistics for rates of domestic violence. It was reported that rates of domestic violence varied throughout the year and had seen an increase during the summer period due in the main to excessive alcohol consumption.

The chair thanked Inspector Cottam for his attendance and his presentation.

WUTF.277 UPDATES

A number of updates were given relating to issues raised at meeting of the Township Forum.

Tree Management

Councillor FitzGerald reported that she had a number of issues related to overgrown trees. As these were in addition to those previously reported she suggested that rather than dealing with the issues as they arose on an individual basis it would be more efficient to tackle this ongoing problem with a collective approach to identify the areas where overgrown trees were causing problems. A survey of areas could be undertaken and then a consultation could then take place with the Council arboriculturist on what action could be taken and the timing for work.

Councillor Mallon stated that it was important to ensure that the trees listed were actually causing a problem /damage and were not listed just because the resident didn't want it there for other reasons.

Reference was also made the damage to properties caused by Japanese knotweed. Councillor Mallon reported that research was taking place to address this as a national issue and it appeared that a solution could be developed in 2/3 years time.

It was reported that there were a number of lime tree stumps on Thorp Street, Nipper Lane and Bradshaw Avenue that required removal due to their encroachment on foundations of houses. The trees were number 50 in the queue of tree removal jobs to be undertaken.

WUTF.278 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair invited questions from the members of the public present about the work or performance of the Council or Council's services relevant to the Whitefield and Unsworth area.

Bury Diabetic Support Group

Geoffrey Goldberg informed the meeting that the Bury Diabetic Support Group was facing possible closure due to the reduction in the grant funding from it receives Bury Council (£500). The Group was a voluntary service for people with diabetes and provided a vital help and support for many people in Bury. There were around 20,000 diabetic people registered in Bury but this was expected to increase by a further 8000 following the lowering of the register threshold by the NHS. The Group provided one to one telephone support to diabetics but the grant would not cover the cost of this service.

Damaged fence due to fallen tree St Georges Park

The fallen branch reported at the last meeting of the Township Forum had caused damage to a fence. Could the Council arrange for this to be repaired? Details would be passed on to the appropriate department.

Issues Hollins Village Area

The play areas require repairs to be made to the pieces of play equipment which had been vandalised and had become a safety risk for children. Also children going to Castlebrook High school were at risk because of the overgrown bushes that made it difficult to walk on the pavement next to the road on Hollins Lane. Could the Council also take action to cutback the bushes near to the golf club, as it does every year? The comment was also made that the 20mph sign was also impeded by overgrown bushes.

Livsey Street – Whitefield

Could the Council reconsider the decision to introduce yellow lines on Livsey Street which would reduce the number of parking spaces available to residents? Contact has been made with the Council engineers but the response has been that the order is being made and cannot be altered. There are too many cars parked in the area and residents cannot park outside their own property. Residents would welcome a dialogue with the Council to address this problem. There was also issue with bin collections due to accessibility on Bill Lane.

Councillor FitzGerald reported that Councillor Whitby would arrange to meet with local residents and asked for contact details.

Whitefield Town Hall/ Uplands

It was reported that that there was nothing further to report on the issue since the last meeting.

Whitefield Tram Station

Could a crossing be introduced to the Whitefield Tram station similar to the crossing at Abraham Moss Metrolink tram station? Transport for Greater Manchester will be contacted.

Digital Updates

Councillor FitzGerald suggested that social media be used to pass on update information relating to the issues raised at Township Forums for wider contact.

WUTF.279 TOWNSHIP PLAN UPDATE

The Chair reported a copy of the updated Township Plan had been circulated and asked for the approval to adopt the plan.

It was agreed:

That the updated Township Plan be approved.

WUTF.280 FUNDING REPORT

A copy of the funding report for the funding of projects and activities within wards was submitted.

The meeting was informed that an application for a £250 grant had been

Whitefield and Unsworth Township Forum 8 September 2015

received from the North Manchester Jewish Women's Drama Group. The application had been considered by the Sub Group which had agreed to the funding proposal. The Township Forum was asked to formally approve the funding.

It was agreed:

1. That the Funding report be noted.
2. That approval be given to a grant of £250 to the North Manchester Jewish Women's Drama Group.

WUTF.281 REDUCTION OF TOWNSHIP FORUM MEETINGS

Councillor Grimshaw referred to the Review of Township Forums and the decision taken which would result in a reduction in the number of Township Forum meetings from six to four meetings per year. She stated that the meeting of the Whitefield and Unsworth Township Forum in November should remain in the meeting schedule for the reason that the Whitefield and Unsworth Township Forum had a high number of attendees which had helped to ensure the meetings were useful and productive for local residents. The length of time between the September and January meetings could result in a negative impact on this success

Councillor Grimshaw undertook to speak to the Leader of the Council on the matter.

COUNCILLOR D JONES **Chair**

(Note: The meeting started at 6:30 pm and ended at 8.05pm)

Whitefield & Unsworth Township Forum: Issues raised 08/09/15

	Raised by	Item Raised at Open Forum	Action by	Action
1	Jack Goldberg, Diabetic Society	We cannot continue without council funding and will be forced to close. We have been to the papers and leader. Application currently in for £500 cross ward funding		Will liaise with Jack after the meeting. Cllr Jones
2	Resident Pam Taylor	St Georges Road Play Area wire fencing broken and needs fixing St Georges Road Play Area – Health and Safety issue with the equipment	Parks Dept	The fencing to Parr Lane play area along with the surfacing and equipment revamp will be undertaken by Tom Buggie in his round of redevelopments with his section 106 / play area funding. The damage to the fencing was caused by a falling poplar tree a few weeks ago. Kevin Dickinson Buildings and Facilities Officer The safety surfacing will be replaced as necessary at Parr Lane. The works will start during October and should be completed within 3 weeks. Tom Buggie Facilities Manager (Parks and Countryside)
3	Pam Taylor	Hollins Village Play Area – Health and Safety issue with the equipment. Fed in to Mike Bent weeks ago, he passed to Kevin Dickinson and nothing has happened. The slide is unguarded at the top leading to the fireman's pole and is very dangerous	Parks Dept	The fire damaged multi play has been vandalised beyond economic repair and an order has been raised for its removal. This item will not be replaced. Kevin Dickinson Buildings and Facilities Officer
4	Pam Taylor	Hollins Community Centre to Church	Highways	Hedges are from the farmers field. Contacted Highways

		Meadow – Can only walk in single file as hedges are very overgrown. Can you arrange to have them cut down	Enforcement	Enforcement. Ruth Shedwick Township Coordinator
5	Resident	Large House on Hollins Lane, The Mount next to 152 Hollins Lane, the hedges are overgrown and the 20 mph road sign is not visible. As a condition of the planning application the sign was to remain visible	Planning Enforcement	Issue will be logged and an officer will visit - possible untidy land complaint. Lee Stoney Senior Planning Enforcement Officer
6	Resident	Livesey Street/ Bill Lane – several residents have signed a petition against the proposed yellow lines. Residents want a meeting with Council, Highways, Police and Residents	Cllr Whitby	Cllr Whitby agreed to look at this
7	Resident	Uplands and Town Hall shown on poster as being on the agenda, why is it not on. Want it shown on the agenda as a standing item even if there is nothing to update		Agenda item 'updates' refers to Uplands and Town Hall. I confirmed that no updates have been reported which Christine Maksymowski stated in my absence. Ruth Shedwick Township Coordinator
8	Resident	Whitefield Tram Station – Disabled access, viability of a crossing, issues now the side of Nat West is closed off. This is a TFGM issue	TfGM	Steve Shaw is attending the HVCA meeting on 29 September to provide update Cllr Grimshaw
9		General issues regarding trees, lime tree stumps and Japanese Knotweed. Survey required: Ribble Drive Roach Crescent		Formal request for survey and tree DNA sent to Les Beardwood along with request to attend 17 November Township Forum. Ruth Shedwick Township Coordinator

		Victoria Request invite Les Beardwood to the next Forum		
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Ruth Shedwick, Township Coordinator
16 September 2015

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Cllr Sarah Kerrison
Chair Health Scrutiny Committee
Chief Executive's Department
Town Hall
Knowsley Street
Bury
BL9 0SW

3 July 2015

Dear Cllr Kerrison,

WHITEFIELD AMBULANCE STATION

As you may be aware from previous communications, the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust is currently undergoing an extensive review of its estates portfolio throughout the region.

This review has been undertaken with three main objectives;

- to maintain and where possible, improve service delivery for the communities we serve
- to improve the working environment and facilities for Nwas staff
- to establish in this challenging financial climate whether the Trust is using its resources as effectively as possible.

We have committed to communicating developments to local stakeholders such as yourself and I would like to take this opportunity to update you with our plans for Whitefield ambulance station on Bury Old Road.

Whitefield station is a 1950's building, occupying a site shared with the Nwas Greater Manchester office and the structure is showing extensive signs of age and needs significant investment to bring it up to a modern and acceptable standard. We currently have one 24 hour and one 12 hour emergency ambulance operating from the station.

Discussions with Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) has led to the development of an option to relocate the 24 hour vehicle to the fire station which has capacity both within its garage and staff facility areas. The site is approximately 0.8 miles from the ambulance station and provides access to the A56.

As part of this proposal, the 12 hour vehicle would relocate to Bury ambulance station and a rapid response vehicle (RRV) would operate from Whitefield fire station.

It is important to understand that ambulances are on the road for the majority of their shifts which means for most of the time, stations are vacant. Once a patient has been taken to hospital, the vehicle will usually be despatched straight to the next patient and will rarely return to station except for a rest break, restocking or cleaning.

Headquarters: Ladybridge Hall, 399 Chorley New Road, Bolton. BL1 5DD

Chair: Ms W Dignan

Chief Executive: Mr B Williams



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Should these proposals go ahead, we do not believe that the community will see any change to the way in which they are served and responded to.

Both NWAS and MFRS agree that these proposals are a positive demonstration of partnership and responsible financial management by two publicly funded organisations.

With regard to the support services based on the same site as Whitefield ambulance station, it is anticipated that the remaining staff who occupy the offices will vacate the site in late 2015, at which time, a proposal will be made for disposal.

By opting for the relocation and eventual disposal of the whole site, the Trust believes it can save approximately £107k per annum, and any monies from the sale of current site would be reinvested in frontline services.

As well as yourself, I am also writing to Bury Healthwatch and Ivan Lewis MP to let them know of our plans. These proposals will be discussed by our Board of Directors and if agreed, we also plan to inform residents in the area through traditional and social media channels.

If you would like to discuss these proposals with any of our Project team, please do not hesitate to contact me so we can arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Bob Williams
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Bury Council Township Forum Report

The Council has allocated £8,000 to each Township Forum to be allocated through a sub group of the Township forum four times a year in June, September, November and March. A maximum of £250 individual grant is available for formally constituted organisations.

Additionally, a borough-wide allocation of £8,000 is available for "cross-ward" applications for activity that takes place across more than one ward. The "cross-ward" applications are determined by the Council's Small Grants Panel.

Organisations applying for funding should be running projects which address at least one of the following priorities or one of those detailed in the Township plans:

- Improved employment opportunities
- Improved Community and Safety
- Improved Health and Well being
- Learning Opportunities for local residents
- Community Cohesion, Community Pride and belonging
- Environmental improvements

This report details the applications for the August round of funding. The first round of applications was approved by the Small Grants Panel as there was insufficient time to form sub group of the Township Forums before the applications had to be approved. .

Bury East

Group	Details	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Completion date
	Allocated	-		

Bury West

Group	Details	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Completion date
	Allocated	-		

Prestwich

Group	Details	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Completion date
Seaforth Explorer Unit	New Equipment	£250	£250	17/08/2015
St Margarets Bowling Club	To purchase fridge	£250	£250	17/08/2015
Simister Village Community	To put on a Social event 18/08/2015	£250	£250	17/08/2015
	Allocated		£750	

Radcliffe

Group	Details	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Completion date
Withins Community Association	Purchase wooden raised bed planters and compost	£250	£250	16/09/2015
Radcliffe Heritage Society	Promote historic places in Calendar	£250	£250	16/09/2015
	Allocated		£500	

Ramsbottom Tottington and North Manor

Group	Details	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Completion date
			£ -	

Whitefield and Unsworth

Group	Details	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Completion date
North Manchester Ladies Jewish Drama Group	To put on a bespoke play written for the ladies	£250	£250	08/09/2015
	Allocated		£250	

Cross Township

Group	Details	Amount requested	Amount allocated	Completion date
Bury & District Homewatch	Annual Bury Homewatch Conference	£500	£200	15/09/2015
Unsworth Cricket Club	New removable goal post	£500	£500	15/09/2015
Little Britain Anglers	Purchase lawn mower	£450	deferred	
Bury Carers Centre	Activities for young carer's	£500	Declined	15/09/2015
Buddy's for Children with Autism	Shop fixtures & fittings	£500	Declined.	15/09/2015
Rotary Club of Ramsbottom	Organised trip for Bury's	£500	£500	15/09/2015
Bury Diabetic Support Group	Publicity material	£500	Declined	15/09/2015
Prestwich, Radcliffe & Whitefield Scout District.	To provide security lighting and cameras	£500	£500	15/09/2015
SupportiveStem Community Growth	Marketing cost to raise awareness	£500	declined	15/09/2015
	Allocated		£1,700	