

**Minutes of: WHITEFIELD AND UNSWORTH
TOWNSHIP FORUM**

Date of Meeting: 9 July 2013

Venue: Elms Community Centre, Green Lane, Whitefield

Present: Councillor A Audin (In the Chair)
Councillors K Audin, B Caserta, E FitzGerald,
J Grimshaw, D Jones, A Matthews and M Wiseman

**Advisory Group
Representatives:** Leonard Lott – Whitefield and Unsworth Homewatch
Assn.
Theresa Heyworth – ELMS TRA
Marlene Dawson – Victoria Estate TRA
Pamela Taylor – Hollins Village Community Assn.
Alex Stacey – Whitefield and Unsworth Business
Group
Yvonne Moore – Old Hall Park Residents Assn.
Mrs S Bannister – Jewish Representative Council

Public attendance: 19 members of the public were in attendance

**Apologies for
absence:** Councillor B Vincent

WUTF .163 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made in respect of any of the items to be considered at the meeting.

WUTF .164 MINUTES

Delegated decision:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**WUTF .165 ITEMS RAISED IN OPEN FORUM FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 4
June 2013**

The Township Co-ordinator submitted a report on the action taken on issues raised at the last meeting of the Township Forum.

PACT Meetings - Mr Lott referred to PACT meetings that use to take place prior to the Township Forum meeting and requested that an update report was still presented by the Police.

It was reported that Sergeant Garland (GMP) was present and would give an update and would ensure that an update was provided at future meetings.

The Chair stated that she would write to Inspector Kenny to highlight the importance of a police presence at the Township Forum meeting to provide an update on activities within the area and have an input in discussions.

Libraries – the Township Co-ordinator was requested to email information on the outcome of the Cabinet meeting taking place on 10 July which would be considering the Review of Libraries.

Direction Signs to Elms Community Centre – The Chair reported that new direction signage would be installed by Six Town Housing.

It was agreed:

That the update be noted.

WUTF .166 BURY PUBLICATION – CORE STRATEGY NOTIFICATION OF FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION

The Township Forum received a presentation from David Wiggins (Neighbourhoods and Communities Department) regarding the Council's Core Strategy consultation. The Core Strategy will be a key document at the heart of Bury's Local Plan. It will set out the long-term vision for the future development of the borough to 2029 and will contain strategic policies that are required to deliver that vision

The consultation would run from for six weeks (2 August to 13 September 2013) and would be submitted to the Secretary of State (Environment) in December. An examination of the Strategy will take place in March 2014 and it is anticipated that the final Core Strategy would be adopted in September 2014.

The Chair invited questions.

Q - What will be done to reduce damage to the environment and in particular managing air quality produced from vehicles using the M60 and M66?

The Core Strategy would look to reduce the need for travel more often by promoting mixed use developments.

Q – Why is there is no mention of the green belt in the Strategy on the west side of the borough.

There are no proposals to amend any of the green belt in the borough.

Q – Can something be done to address the empty plots at Pilsworth retail-park which would not impact on Bury town centre?

The area has been identified as employment land for offices and other uses.

Q – People living on Croft Lane are very concerned at the volume of traffic that uses the road each day resulting from the access to the M66 and the

employees of the businesses located at the business and retail park. Residential roads are also very busy and the surface of the roads requires improvement.

Any proposals for development would be the subject of assessment on the proposed use of a site as well as the likely traffic flow that it would generate. A judgement would be made on this basis.

Q – The Core Strategy refers to strengthening Whitefield District Centre. How could this be achieved because there is no room for further development.

There is a national policy 'Town Centre First' which has been introduced to help retain local businesses and prevent them from being drawn away from to out of town developments. Whitefield District Centre could be strengthened by maintaining the status-quo in terms of existing development or considering development opportunities that could improve the area as they arise.

Q – Why is the consultation taking place over the summer period instead of September/ October when more people could respond?

The consultation is over a six week period and this is not all within the summer-holiday period.

Q – How do people make a comment on the Core Strategy?

There is an explanatory leaflet which the public can use to write a response to the consultation which is freepost. The Core Strategy is also available on the Bury Council web site and comments can also be made on-line.

The Township Co-ordinator asked the meeting if there was any merit in setting up a representative group to meet with officers and put forward comments and suggestions for the Whitefield and Unsworth area.

David Wiggins agreed to attend the meeting.

Pamela Taylor asked if the comments submitted regarding the village design statement would remain in the Core Strategy. David reported that the comments were still in the Core Strategy.

Councillor FitzGerald referred to the size of the Core Strategy document and suggested that help and guidance was needed to help people find their way around it. In particular, an explanation was required of the language used and the generic phrases.

Q – Where does Whitefield fit in the grand scheme and does Bury have priority over other areas?

Bury has a Sub-Regional category, Radcliffe and Ramsbottom are Town Centres and Whitefield and Unsworth is a District Centre.

It was agreed:

1. That the presentation on the Core Strategy be noted.
2. That David Wiggins be thanked for his attendance.
3. That arrangements be made to hold a meeting to consider the impact on Whitefield and Unsworth within the Core Strategy consultation period and David Wiggins be invited to attend.

WUTF .167 WHITEFIELD AND UNSWORTH AREA PLAN

The Township Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the Whitefield and Unsworth Area Plan following the work of the Township Forum at its previous meeting.

Mr Marshall asked why there was no mention of the Environment in view of the importance of issues such as the old Whitefield Town Hall and Pilsworth sites. Would these be included in the Core Strategy?

Pamela Taylor stated that it was important to protect the environment and there was a strong history of getting involved with successful outcomes when structured arguments were presented.

The Township Co-ordinator stated that Environment issues could be added to the Area Plan.

Councillor FitzGerald referred to the tools that were available to the public such as the Localism Bill that would allow areas and buildings to be listed as community assets. There was also the opportunity of having the first option to purchase a community asset.

Alex Stacey referred to the importance of encouraging the public to invest in the environment in different ways such as viewing waste as a resource.

It was agreed:

That the presentation and Whitefield and Unsworth Area Plan 2012-2015 be endorsed.

WUTF .168 POLICE UPDATE

An update was given by Sergeant Richard Garland (GMP) on Policing issues within Whitefield and Unsworth.

Criminal activity included 2 robberies, 16 burglaries, 3 stolen vehicles, 8 theft from vehicles (including theft of number plates).

An arrest had been made of an individual responsible for a number of burglaries and there had been a number of drug raids in the area.

It was reported that the new Chief Superintendent of the Bury Division is Tim Forber who had been relocated from Oldham Division.

Copies of the 'Big Book of Little Scams' were left for residents to pick up.

A Homewatch meeting would be held on 24 July at 7:30pm at St Georges Church.

It was agreed:

That the update be noted.

**WUTF
.169 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair invited the members of the public present to ask questions or raise items of concern relating to the provision of local services.

Mr Wyatt referred to the road junction at Elms Street/ Morrisons store exit/ Bury New Road and the speed of vehicles turning on to Elms Street and the likelihood of a collision.

It was reported that the 20mph policy was currently being introduced to areas across the borough. The Police were aware that this was a fast junction and would monitor it.

Councillor FitzGerald asked for an update on the old Whitefield House site. It was reported that the site was currently the subject of legal proceedings.

Councillor Wiseman stated that the Council had responsibility for the condition of the pond on the site.

A request was made that an officer attend the next meeting of the Forum to answer questions, provide an update and, where possible, background information on the proposals for site, in view of the legal proceedings that were ongoing.

**WUTF
.170 COMMUNITY NOTICES**

The Chair gave notices of forthcoming events that would be taking place within Whitefield and Unsworth.

**WUTF
.171 COMMUNITY FUNDING REPORT**

A report of the Programme Support Officer was submitted providing details of Ward Funding for 2013/2014.

It was agreed:

That the report be noted.

**COUNCILLOR A Audin
Chair**

(Note: The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 8.30 pm)

