

**Minutes of: BURY WEST TOWNSHIP FORUM**

**Date of Meeting:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013

**Venue:** Bolton Road Methodist Church, Bury.

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Councillor M Hankey (In the Chair);  
Councillors J. Frith, S. Nuttall, S. Southworth, J.  
Walton and R.E Walker

**Advisory Group Representatives:**

Philip Jones -- Brandlesholme Residents Association  
Catherine Baker – Young Persons Representative

**Public attendance:** 5 members of the public were in attendance

**Apologies for absence:** Sue Eckersley and Shelly Flitcroft, Police Community Support Officers.

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#### **BWTF.208 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were detailed above.

#### **BWTF.209 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **BWTF.210 MINUTES**

**It was agreed.**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 would be approved as a correct record.

#### **BWTF.211 OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SITE – BURY**

The Bury West Township Forum considered a verbal presentation from Peter Riley, Borough Manager and Alan Topping, Greater Manchester Fire Service with regards to the proposed development of an operational training and community safety site near Wellington Street Bury. The presentation contained the following information:

It was reported that the Fire and Rescue Service had been looking for a suitable site for a number of years. The Wellington Street site that had been identified was an historic industrial site that had stood empty for 10 - 15 years.

The presentation set out the proposed layout of the site and gave information relating to access. The facility would cost around £8.5m to develop and it

would be used by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue and other fire services as a training and community facility.

The Borough Manager reported that the fire service would work with residents to address concerns in relation to disruption caused by building work, smoke and fire issues and noise.

The Borough Manager reported that indoor and outdoor interactive activities would be provided for schools and community groups.

Members of the Bury West Township Forum wanted to place on record their commiseration to Greater Manchester Fire Service following the tragic death of fire fighter, Stephen Hunt.

Questions were invited from those present at the meeting and the following points were raised:-

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, Alan Topping reported that the Fire service would work with stakeholders, including the canal society, to ensure that the canal adjacent to the operational site would be protected.

In response to a question from a member of the public, the Borough Manager reported that the training facilities would be available for use by other fire authorities. The proposals would be submitted to the planning department for consideration at the Planning Committee before the end of 2013. There are no plans currently to include a residential facility within the site; this may be re-visited at a later date.

In response to a members question Alan Topping reported that they would not envisage an increase in the number of cars entering and exiting the site as a result of the development.

In response to a question from Councillor Nuttall, the Borough Manager reported that GMF&R consists of approximately 1500 uniformed officers and other additional officers including community safety staff all of whom would benefit from the new operational site.

It was agreed:

The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service be thanked for their attendance.

## **BWTF.212 FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION ON BURY BURY'S CORE STRATEGY**

The Township Forum received a presentation from David Wiggins, Principal Officer, Development Planning, 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.

Questions were invited from those present at the meeting and the following points were raised:-

The Principal Officer reported that the information relating to the Borough's digital infrastructure would not be contained within the Core Strategy but would be developed separately by officers working within economic development.

The Principal Officer reported that the Core Strategy would not amend the Council's green infrastructure and the open spaces, canal corridors, recreational spaces and green belt would remain as already defined.

**It was agreed:**

That the Principal Officer be thanked for his attendance and members of the public were encouraged to get involved in the consultation.

**BWTF.213 BURY WEST AREA PLAN 2013-14**

Christine Maksymowski, Township Co-ordinator, provided an overview of the Bury West Township Forum Area Plan. An accompanying Equality Impact Assessment had been submitted to the Township Forum. The plan outlines how the Council and its partners will continue to make progress towards the vision for Bury West to promote better outcomes for the social, health, economic and environmental wellbeing of people in the community.

The Township Co-ordinator presented the ongoing actions within the Plan which related to following outcomes:

- Improved health and Wellbeing
- Improved Employment Opportunities
- Improved Educational Attainment/Learning
- Improved Community Safety
- Community Pride and Belonging
- Improved Road Safety and Public Transport

The Township Co-ordinator reported that the current number of residents claiming Jobs Seekers Allowance in the Bury West area was 254 in Elton ward an increase of 10% and 172 in Church ward and increase of 6.4%.

The Township Co-ordinator reported that the Council had been awarded an £1.8 million grant from the National Lottery to support and develop the provision of sport for women in the Borough.

**It was agreed:**

1. That the Bury West Area Plan and Equality Impact Assessment be approved.
2. A representative from Environment and Development Services be invited to a subsequent meeting of the Bury West Township Forum to

discuss the how the National Lottery funding from Sport England will be spent.

#### **BWTF.214 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair, Councillor M Hankey, 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. The Township Forum Co-ordinator undertook to obtain a reply to matters which could not be dealt with at the meeting.

- A member of the public reported that there continues to be a number of maintenance issues in relation to Dow Lane Park. The grass is overgrown and concerns were expressed in relation to dog fouling on the land, broken fences, eroded footpaths and the misuse of bridal paths.
- Councillor Walton reported that work had been undertaken on Bury/Bolton Road to repaint the signage, whilst no work had been undertaken to repair pot holes. Councillor Walton has raised this issue with highways officers within the Council and has not yet received a response. Councillor Southworth as Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment committed to take the matter up on Councillor Walton's behalf.
- A member of the Public raised concerns with regards to parking on Calville drive, a particular concern was the repeated blocking of access to residents' property. Councillor Nuttall agreed to write to the resident in question.
- In response to a question from a member of the Public, Councillor Walker confirmed that the Lidl development would be considered by the Council's Planning Committee before the end of 2013.
- Catherine Baker, Young Persons', Advisory Group Member reported that five Bury Council apprenticeship vacancies are currently being advertised on the Council's website.
- A member of the public reported that the Forces and Forties weekend would take place, on Burrs Country Park from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Members of the Township Forum were encouraged to get involved.
- Philip Jones, Advisory Group Member reported that a Scarecrow Competition would be held in the Brandlesholme area on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at St. James Church and the 29<sup>th</sup> September at All Saints Church.
- A member of the public reported that the pot holes on Throstle Grove had been identified for repair, but as of yet, had still not been repaired.
- Councillor Walker reported that he had raised concerns with Ian Lord, Engineering Manager in relation to residents cycling in pedestrian areas.

#### **It was agreed:**

The Bury West Township Forum resolved to consider as an agenda item, Dow Lane Park and invite the Cabinet member and the Head of Parks to the next meeting of the Township Forum.

**BWTF.215 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business reported.

**COUNCILLOR M HANKEY**  
**Chair**

**(Note: The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 9pm)**

