

Minutes of: PRESTWICH TOWNSHIP FORUM

Date of Meeting: 17 July 2013

Venue: Longfield Suite, Prestwich

Present:

Councillors: Councillors P Heneghan (in the Chair); N Bayley; M James; T Pickstone; A Quinn; and A Simpson

Advisory Group

Representatives: Mr D Stanley - Prestwich Clough Centenary Group
Paul Gresty – Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal
Mr C Millington – Young persons representative

Public attendance: 9 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies for absence: Councillor Black; Councillor O'Hanlon; Mr T Gribben; Mr A Smith, Mr S A Husain and Mr F Adam

PTF.224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bayley declared a personal interest in matters relating to parking as he is employed within the Parking Services Department of Manchester City Council.

PTF.225 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 6 June 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the inclusion of a comment from Jim Wood relating to the "lack of attendance of Police representatives at the Township Forum".

PTF.226 MATTERS ARISING

A copy of the Action Checklist was submitted.

PTF.227 PARKLIFE

Following the Parklife Festival, which was held over the weekend of the 8th/9th June 2013, John Drape, Live Director of the event, gave a presentation setting out information in respect of:

- Pre event Planning
- Traffic and Transport Issues
- External Area Controls
- Toilets
- Park Access and Re-instatement

Questions and comments were invited and the following issues were raised:

- Concerns were raised in relation to anti social behaviour in the area of Fairway and the fact that the event was held on a Saturday within a predominantly Jewish area.
- In response to issues raised in a newspaper article relating to the reasons why the event had been moved from Platt Fields, Mr Drape explained that the actual reason for moving to Heaton Park was due to the increased size of the event.
- A number of concerns were raised in relation to a lack of control in managing the crowd flow outside the event; urination in residents' properties and on the streets; street urinals being visible from the road and nearby restaurants; poor signage for toilets; and limited enforcement of anti social behaviour and criminal activity.
- With regard to noise levels and timings, Mr Drape reported that the post concert briefing had highlighted that the conditions of the licence had been met.
- Councillor Quinn reported that he believed more portaloos were required inside and outside the event, which should have been emptied on a more regular basis. Furthermore, a parking scheme should have been looked at; local businesses owners should have been more involved in pre event planning; the hotline should be more widely promoted and Bury officers should have been included within the Control Room. Councillor Quinn also highlighted the positive non threatening atmosphere within the event and the good work of the stewards, security and cleaning teams

Mr Drape thanked those present for their input and highlighted that the points made and views expressed would be taken into account as part of wider post event briefing process, which had already identified the following targeted areas for improvement:

- Review of enforcement operation
- Consideration of a residents parking scheme
- Review of external security provision

It was agreed:

That Mr Drape and representatives of Manchester City Council be thanked for their attendance.

PTF.228 FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION OF BURY'S CORE STRATEGY

The Township Forum received a presentation from Paul Allen, Head of Planning Policy and Projects 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 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.

In response to issues raised by Members of the Forum relating to the Love Prestwich Strategy, Paul Allen highlighted that the Core Strategy does take on board previous Town Centre Strategies and looks to support the guiding principles within the Love Prestwich Strategy.

During discussion of this item, Councillor Quinn highlighted the possible development of a Co-operative and community bakery in the area.

It was agreed:

That the Prestwich Regeneration Group consider the Core Strategy at its next meeting with a view to contributing to the consultation.

PTF.229 PRESTWICH AREA PLAN

Kim Griffiths, Township Co-ordinator, submitted a copy of the Prestwich Area Plan and Equality Impact Assessment. The plan outlines how the Council and its partners will continue to make progress towards the vision for Prestwich 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
- Town Centre Regeneration

During discussion of this item members of the Forum and public present at the meeting raised the following issues:

- Gill Boyle expressed concerns about the poor state and cleanliness of Prestwich Town Centre. Councillor James highlighted the budget pressures faced by the Council and the competing priorities for limited resources such as the protection of vulnerable children and adults.
- Jim Wood highlighted the need for young people to be engaged with and involved more in the development of services.
- With regard to the issue of school parking, Members of the Forum highlighted the need for enforcement and the responsibility of parents to park considerately and to be encouraged to walk children to school.

It was agreed:

1. That the Prestwich Area Plan and Equality Impact Assessment be approved.
2. That the Head of Cleansing be invited to the next meeting to report on issues relating to the cleaning of Prestwich Town Centre

PTF.230 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair, Councillor Heneghan, 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.

- With regard to the problem of large puddles forming outside the White Horse and opposite Martins Bakery, Councillor Bayley reported that works are to be carried out over the summer holidays and should be completed within 2-3 weeks.
- With regard to the damaged wall at the Conservative Club, it was reported that the Principal Officer (Rights of Way) was in negotiation with the Club to rectify the problem.
- Chris Abbott of Marauders Football Club reported on proposed plans to develop the site of the football pitch behind Tesco. Mr Abbott reported on the regular damage to the pitch as a result of anti social behaviour and explained that he has a sponsor willing to erect a fence around the perimeter of the site. Councillor Bayley acknowledged that the ideas of fencing the pitch off seemed a sensible way of protecting it from further damage. With regard to the cases of anti social behaviour, Inspector Kenny explained that incidents should continue to be reported to enable the Police to address them through patrol plans. David Stanley undertook to raise the issue with the Friends of Prestwich Forest Park to seek support.

COUNCILLOR P HENEGHAN

Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.35 pm)