

Minutes of: BURY EAST TOWNSHIP FORUM

Date of Meeting: 9 July 2013

Venue: Metro Christian Centre, Parkhills Road, Bury

Present:

Councillors: Councillors: D M Cassidy, S Haroon, T Holt, K Rothwell, S Smith and T Tariq

Advisory Group

Representatives: Tan Ahmed (ADAB - Chair), Tim Boaden (Seedfield TRA), , Janet Edwards (Older People's Forum), Harry Reed (Pimhole Residents' Association) and Gemma Philburn (Streetwise 2000)

Public attendance: 15 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies for

absence:

Councillor M Connolly, J Smith and S Walmsley
Darren Durham (Freedom Church, Bury), and
Becky Mayo (Young Person Representative)

BETF.172 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

BETF. 173 MINUTES

Delegated decision:

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 June 2013, be approved as a correct record.

BETF.174 MATTERS ARISING

Tim Boaden referred to Minute BETF.85 – Public Question Time and asked whether anything had been undertaken in relation to the issue he had raised.

It was explained that this issue would have to be discussed away from the Township Forum as it wasn't relevant to the work of the Township Forum.

BETF. 175 BURY PUBLICATION CORE STRATEGY – NOTIFICATION OF FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION

Michael Whitehead, Planning Officer attended the meeting to report on the forthcoming consultation on Bury's Core Strategy.

It was explained that the Core Strategy was a document containing various policies that will be used as the basis for making decisions on future planning applications; sets out how much development the borough needs to accommodate to 2029 and broadly, the locations where these developments could be focused; identifies areas of the borough where built development will be restrained; includes a series of Development Management Policies which will include criteria for assessing specific development proposals e.g. setting out what will be required in the design and layout of new developments; and, includes Township Frameworks which draw out the main areas of the Core Strategy as they affect each Township.

Michael explained that the key issues and aims for Bury East were:-

- Regeneration
- Employment
- Housing
- Retail
- Tourism and Culture

The consultation on the Strategy was due to run from 2 August to 13 September 2013 and all comments would be submitted to the Secretary of State to be considered during an Examination stage.

Copies of the Strategy and the supporting documents will be available at the Town Hall, Planning Office at Knowsley Place and in most public libraries and also on the Council website.

The timescales involved were also explained:-

- December 2013 - Submission to the Secretary of State.
- March 2014 – Examination expected
- September 2014 – Adoption of the Strategy

Those present were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments and the following points were raised:-

- Mr Ainsworth asked how much the whole exercise was costing the Council.

Michael explained that he wasn't able to provide this figure at the meeting but he would make sure that it was reported to Mr Ainsworth and the Forum would be advised at their next meeting.

- Councillor Rothwell explained that the document was very important and he felt that the consultation period was short for such an important issue.

It was explained that the work on the document had commenced a number of years previously and there had been several consultation periods throughout this time. It was also reported that the timing of

the consultation had been pushed back so that it hadn't covered the whole of the summer.

- Mr Ainsworth referred to the number of empty shops in the Town Centre and asked whether this issue was taken into consideration.

It was explained that where possible the empty properties would be offered to any interested parties first before new developments were considered.

- Mr Ainsworth also asked what the percentage was of empty shops in the Town Centre.

Michael explained that he didn't have this information available.

It was agreed:

That Michael be thanked for his presentation

BETF. 176 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS - UPDATE

Dave Thomas gave a presentation setting out the findings from the round table discussions that had been held at the last meeting of the Township Forum in June.

It was explained that those present at the meeting had been asked to split into five themed groups:-

- Employment/Worklessness/Income
- Crime/Perceptions of Crime
- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Cohesion and Integration
- New Priorities

The five groups were each asked to discuss the issues surrounding these topics relating to Bury East and to come up with priorities that were important to the residents of the Township and should be priorities for the coming years.

Employment/worklessness/income

- Explore opportunities to develop more apprenticeships in areas such as engineering and manufacturing
- Ensure women can access the apprenticeships
- Support better work ethics for young people
- Help develop opportunities to re-skill adults over 24 years old
- Digital training
- Township forum digital champions
- Sharing money management and welfare advice through the Township Forum
- Consider setting up a Bury East Business Group

Crime/perceptions of crime

- issues around drugs and alcohol in town centre
- Under age sales of alcohol
- Promote 101 number
- Anti Social Behaviour issues – link with circles of influence, influence peer groups
- Young person's column in Bury Times
- Link Streetwise and young persons forum
- Improve engagement between local residents and Police
- Joint surgeries – police and Councillors – PACT and Township Forum

Health and wellbeing

- Non traditional sports and exercise
- Encourage old fashioned street games
- Tackle childhood obesity
- Promote healthy eating and physical exercise through children's centres
- Encourage links with different groups such as inter faith groups and allotment groups to promote growing fruit and vegetables and cooking with fresh ingredients.
- Explore possibility of Incredible Edible in Bury East.
- Offer support for parents around teaching their children life skills.
- Tackle isolation and loneliness across all age groups

Community cohesion and integration

- Consider religious dates, prayer times and festivals when planning meetings
- Encourage networking between different groups
- Consider establishing a Bury East Business Group
- Increase the use of social media
- Create Community Champions to engage new residents in areas such as Pimhole
- Increase links between the Township Forum and Youth Cabinet
- Encourage more involvement from different faiths – Chair and Co-ordinator to visit local mosques.
- Encourage a role model programme where successful local people visit schools to talk

Dave explained that he would meet with the Advisory Group Members, Councillors and relevant partners to discuss the points raised and develop the priorities for the Action Plan.

The refreshed plan would be reported to the Township Forum at it's next meeting in September.

It was agreed:

That Dave be thanked for his presentation.

BETF.177 BURY EAST ALCOHOL PROSPECTUS SCHEME (BEAPS) UPDATE

Dave Thomas reported that the BEAPS had been launched in September 2012 following a successful bid for funding. A report was attached to the agenda paper which examined the impact of the scheme following its first 6 months.

It was reported that the document examined police recorded anti social behaviour and domestic incidents as well as residents' perceptions taken from neighbourhood surveys which were also conducted by the police.

It was reported that the intervention may be having a positive impact in reducing levels of juvenile rowdy behaviour across Bury East whilst these findings are less clear in other areas.

It was reported that a further evaluations would be carried out over the following 12 months to assess the scheme in more detail.

Dave also reported that the application forms would be sent out to all local providers to invite them to bid for funding for the following year.

Those present were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments and the following points were raised:-

- Mr Ainsworth asked whether licensed premises had been asked to contribute to the funding for the different schemes.

Dave explained that there was currently enough funding left for projects to carry on for a further 12 months but options were being considered to source future funding.

It was agreed:

That the contents of the report be noted.

BETF.178 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.

Tim Boaden, Seedfield TRA, referred to the bus lane at the bottom of Bolton Road and highlighted a number of issues relating to the location of the bottom section of the enforceable area. Mr Boaden explained that this was raising a number of concerns with residents who had received enforcement penalties and had trouble manoeuvring their vehicles due to other vehicles blocking their way.

Dave Thomas explained that he would arrange a meeting with the relevant officers and the residents where all the concerns and issues could be discussed.

Councillor Cassidy explained that the bushes on Primrose Drive had grown over the signs informing people about the residents' only parking.

Mr Ainsworth explained that access from the old Point Blue building onto the Tesco car park had recently been tarmaced. The work had improved the access but was not wheelchair friendly.

Mr Ainsworth asked if information could be provided on the positioning of full bus shelters. Some bus stops had shelters and others didn't, why was this?

A resident referred to issues with anti social behaviour and other types of crime that was taking place from one particular house within Redvales ward. The information was provided to be forwarded onto the Anti Social Behaviour Co – ordinator.

Harry Reed reported that the Party in the Park would be taking place in Openshaw Park on 11 August. Harry explained that a lot of support had been given voluntarily to help organise the event as this was something that the park rangers would have assisted with.

BETF. 179 COMMUNITY FUNDING REPORT

The report was attached for information

It was agreed:

That the Community Funding Report be noted.

BETF. 180 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUNERAL OF FUSILIER LEE RIGBY

The Chair, Tan Ahmed reported that the funeral of Fusilier Lee Rigby would be taking place on Friday 12 July 2013 at Bury Parish Church. Fusilier Rigby would be arriving at the Church on the afternoon of Thursday 11 July and would remain overnight until the funeral on the Friday. It was explained that there would be road closures during these times and it was expected that a lot of people would be attending to pay their respects during the arrival of Fusilier Rigby and following the service.

BETF.181 VENUE, DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Bury East Township Forum will be held on Thursday 19 September 2013 at Jinnah Centre, Bury.

TAN AHMED (ADAB)

Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.10 pm)

