

Minutes of: PRESTWICH TOWNSHIP FORUM

Date of Meeting: 30 July 2015

Venue: Longfield Suite, Prestwich

Present:

Councillors: Councillors Councillor N Bayley, J Black (in the Chair), P Heneghan, E O'Brien, M D'Albert, A Simpson, and A Quinn

Advisory Group

Representatives: Mr D Stanley - Prestwich Clough Centenary Group
Mr F Adam - Manchester and District Jewish Representative Council
Mr J Barrett - Prestwich and Whitefield Heritage Society
Mr E Finch - Patients Council
Mr S Hughes - Simister Village Community Association

Public attendance: 9 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies for absence: Councillor M James and T Pickstone

PTF.241 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair, Councillor Black, declared a personal interest in respect of Minute PTF.245 below, Town Plan Update, in relation to cross township funding as a member of the Prestwich Book Festival Committee.

PTF.242 ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Delegated decision:

That the following Advisory Group Members be appointed to serve on the Forum for a 2 year period:

Mr E Finch - Patients Council
Mr S Hughes - Simister Village Community Association

PTF.243 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 12 March 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PTF.244 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION CHECKLIST

In respect of Action Point 3 it was reported that 5 people had been hospitalised as a result of legal highs during the Parklife Festival

Members of the forum and the public present at the meeting stressed the need for young people to be educated on the issue. Mark Jones, Phoenix Centre Manager, referred to the work done by the Centre and explained that they were looking for funding to carry out outreach work in this area.

In respect of Action Point 4, Mr Finch highlighted the lack of progress with regard to pot holes along the pedestrian walkway through to the car park in the Longfield Centre. The Township Forum placed on record its concern over the lack of action on this matter and requested a date for the works to be undertaken.

In respect of Action Point 1 Mr Stanley reported that there had been no response from Legal concerning the Barn Countryside Centre.

In respect of Action Point 1 Councillor Heneghan reported that midwife services would resume at Children's Centres from September.

In respect of Action Point 6 an update was requested on the Old Plough public house.

In respect of Action Point 7, Councillor O'Brien referred to the £40,000 spent on Kershaw Park. It was reported that there were broken swings within St Mary's Park which required repair.

PTF.245 PRESTWICH TOWNSHIP PLAN UPDATE

Ruth Shedwick, Township Co-ordinator, referred to the outcome of the consultation process on the Township Forums and highlighted the new arrangements in terms of funding awards and the planned reduction in formal meetings.

It was reported that a Community Funding Sub Group had been formed comprising the following Members:

Councillor D'Albert
Councillor Heneghan
Councillor O'Brien
Councillor Quinn
Mr P Gresty

A report was submitted setting out details of funding applications for the June round of funding that had been approved by the Small Grants Panel. The Panel had considered the applications as there had not been time to form a the Sub Group of the Township Forum before the applications required approval. During discussion of this item, a request was made for the membership of the Council's Small Grants Panel.

It was agreed:

That the update be noted.

PTF.246 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair 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.

- Sarah Goodwin whether there had been any progress in improving the lighting on the Longfield Centre. Councillor Quinn undertook to refer the matter to the Group Engineer for Lighting.
- Jay Lieberman referred to the resurfacing of Butterstile Lane and highlighted that more was needed. Councillor Heneghan highlighted the reduction in the Council's highways budget. Councillor O'Brien suggested that pot holes in the road could be looked at as work progresses on the 20mph zone.
- Mark Jones requested a Police presence at St Mary's park to prevent anti social behaviour.
- Sarah Goodwin expressed concern over a shop in the precinct selling spray paint and it was reported that Trading Standards had been made aware of the matter.
- With regard to encouraging young people to participate in Forum meetings, Mark Jones highlighted the need to look at the format of the meetings.
- Eddie Finch highlighted that the lift in the Library was not accessible due to a lack of trained staff. Councillor Heneghan undertook to raise the issue with Head of the Library Service.
- Sian Crosby reported that on occasion the car park at St Mary's park had been locked. An undertaking was given to look into the matter.

COUNCILLOR BLACK

Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.20pm)