

HALEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the Special Town Council held on Thursday 1st March 2018 (7.00 pm), at the Arncliffe Sports & Community Centre, Halewood, L25 9PA the following Members were:-

PRESENT COUNCILLORS

N Hogg (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)	
Cllr. K Dalton	Cllr A Harvey
Cllr Miss C Rose	Cllr. D Samuels
Cllr Mrs A Farrell	Cllr. I Hamilton
Cllr. S Ball	Cllr. B Swann

Also in attendance:-

Mr. G MacKenzie, Town Manager
L Joyner, Senior Administrator
Members of the Public – 42

153. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs. E Finneran, Cllr. Ms. C Harris and Cllr. D Perry.

154. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. Miss C Rose - Public Forum (Item raised regarding Health Forum)

155. SHAPING THE FUTURE OF KNOWSLEY'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACES – PUBLIC FORUM

Standing Orders were moved to allow questions from the public gallery. It was indicated that the proceeding of this meeting would be recorded.

The Chairperson addressed the public gallery and asked if anyone wished to raise any questions to the Council on the issue of Parks and Open Spaces. It was explained to those present that this meeting had been convened to allow members of the public to address personally the Council on this issue, and that no decisions whatsoever would be made at this meeting.

It was agreed, following several questions from those present, that the Town Manager should make a presentation on proposals made by Knowsley M.B.C., as this may answer a lot of the questions those present may wish to raise.

The Town Manager advised the meeting that a member of the public was seen to be recording the proceedings of the Town Council.

As a preface to his presentation the Town Manager stressed that part of the reason for this presentation was not only to present the facts of the situation, as the Town Council understands them, but to dispel some of the rumours, inaccuracies and potentially scurrilous information recently posted on social media sites. The Town Manager reiterated the Chairpersons statement that no decisions were being taken at this meeting and proceeded to give a presentation covering the following:-

- the reasons behind KMBC's proposal
- the Annual costs of maintaining the public open spaces
- KMBC's proposals to balance their budget over 3 years including an alternative funding and management model to provide a sustainable solution for local parks.
- Why it was necessary for KMBC to do reduce costs.
- The work of Knowsley's Parks Independent Review Board

- KMBC’s Proposal to create a Charitable Trust to protect 144 sites throughout Knowsley
- What the proposals mean for Halewood
- Details of the Parks and Green Spaces being reviewed
- The total space reviewed in Halewood
- Halewood Town Council’s leasehold interests and cost implications
- Options Halewood Town Council has regarding their leases
- Timescales for the proposals

The Town Manager was thanked for his presentation.

The Chairperson invited questions from those present which in summary covered the following points (in no particular order) :-

- Advertisement of this Special Town Council meeting and location of Town Council notice boards.
- Lack of consultation by KMBC regarding the proposals being made.
- The extremely short timescale within which the Town Council is being required to make a decision.
- Why KMBC had advertised for a Development Surveyor for the project, before any of the proposals for the open spaces had been agreed.
- The clarification of any covenants held on land leased by Halewood Town Council.
- General opposition to the proposals being made and the loss of green spaces.
- The financial calculations and in particular the cost of retaining the parks and green spaces in Halewood.
- Flooding, particularly on Doorstep Green.
- Adverse effect on biodiversity and natural wildlife habits.
- Recognition of the need for the Borough Council to reduce costs.
- Acknowledgment of the need for more truly affordable housing within Halewood particularly for our children and young people.
- A representative of Eli Lilly and Company advised that they had recently had a meeting with representatives of Knowsley MBC about the proposed sale of that part of Doorstep Green adjacent to their factory. Various concerns were raised by Eli Lilly at the meeting details of which have been sent to the Town Manager.

The Chairperson, with occasional support from Cllr. Swann, who was the Town Council’s representative on the Review Board, responded to the points raised and confirmed that they would all be taken into account by the Town Council in coming to a final decision on its various lease holdings.

Out with the issue of green spaces a member of the public raised concern regarding the recent decision taken by the NHS to disband the Halewood Health Forum.

In thanking members of the public for their attendance the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed

Date