SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM

Thursday 25 February 2016

MINUTES

Present: P. Knowles, A. Mahmood, B. Penty, B. True, Mr & Mrs Fleming, F. Healey, Mr & Mrs Forden, K. Lawrence, J. Ashworth, A. Mahmood, A. Foster, M. Rashid (Chair), W. Mahmood, J. Moss, B. Patterson, C. Dodgson, M. Coats, A. Rawsterne, C. Faulkner, R. Le Monnmier, B. Holden, A. Meek, Mr & Mrs Somerville,

Officers: PC P. Jones, E. Grace (Community Engagement Officer), PCSO M. Giblin, N. Barton (Principal Project Manager) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

Councillors: Councillors S & C Biant.

Apologies: Councillor Shefali Farooq-Ahmed and P. Massey

41 INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

All were welcomed to the Area Forum meeting and the Chair referred all attendees to the code of conduct and asked everyone to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Shefali Farooq-Ahmed and P. Massey.

42 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

PC Jones and PCSO Giblin attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that the following incidents had been reported during the last three months:

Burglary 36 – Rooley Moor Road, Spotland and Grieve were identified as hot spot areas. In a number of cases the rear windows of properties had been smashed to gain entry.

Burglary, other than dwelling 35 – Many commercial properties had been targeted.

Theft from motor vehicle 23

Theft of motor vehicles 16 – vehicles parked on commercial properties had been targeted.

From May 2016 the Ward would be served by a Neighbourhood Policing Team which would represent a significant change to existing arrangements. However the change would result in an additional police officer in the neighbourhood.

It was hoped that by operating a Neighbourhood Policing model, officers would develop a good working knowledge of the neighbourhood and would be in a better position to respond to problems and target hot spot areas.

Residents raised the following issues / concerns:

- Off road motorbikes speeding on Churchill Street / Rooley Moor Road.
- Anti – social behaviour incidents were still a problem in some areas of the Ward.
- Car tax and MOT evasion was highlighted
- Drug dealing in the area
- Criminal damage had been caused to the fence surrounding Meanwood School.

The Forum was reminded that it is important that incidents of criminal activity were reported on the appropriate numbers, as highlighted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The forum was reminded that it is important that Incidents of criminal activity were reported on the appropriate numbers, as highlighted below:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You should always call 999 in an emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call 101 to report a non-emergency incident or make a general enquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You can contact your local neighbourhood team by telephone or email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: 0161 856 9961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rochdalenorth@gmp.police.uk">rochdalenorth@gmp.police.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was also confirmed that contacting the 101 number from land line or mobile costs 15p, irrespective of time of day and duration of the call.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Spotland & Falinge Homewatch monthly update was also circulated at the meeting. A link to this information can be found below.


43 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES
The minutes were approved as a correct record.

The following update was provided.

Gary Finch informed the Forum that the petition presented at the last Area Forum meeting on the 25th February had been passed to the Director of Neighbourhoods.

The Forum was also informed that the list of road junctions monitored in the Borough was unavailable due to data protection issues. However, this would be investigated further.

44 SECTION 106
Nick Barton, Principal Project Manager attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that Section 106 refers to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

This legislation allows local authorities to enter into legal agreements with developers to provide planning obligations as part of their planning permission. Planning obligations are actions that developers must do for their planning application to be valid, this could include providing a children’s play area to an agreed standard, providing affordable housing on the site or carrying out specific highways improvements as part of the works.
Often the obligation required by the local authority cannot be provided on site and in these cases the developer is required to make a payment to the local authority for them to meet the obligation elsewhere.

Section 106 agreements can apply to a wide range of obligations that would benefit the public, but a local authority has to justify any obligation it applies to a development and generally Section 106 agreements will apply to affordable housing, highways improvements and recreational open space.

In addition the principal behind Section 106 recreational open space is that for every 1000 new bedrooms created through development, 2.1 hectares of recreational open space should be created or improved. From October 2014, the government decided that this only applied to developments of ten houses or more.

This recreational open space obligation is split into two distinct categories, local open space and formal sport.

Formal sport provision is for facilities such as football, rugby and cricket pitches and is rarely provided on site. A payment is usually made to the local authority and the provision of public outdoor sports facilities is considered on a Boroughwide basis. The Council is currently working in partnership with Sport England to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy, which will help justify taking money from developers for formal sport and direct that money to where it is needed in the Borough. This may then help in attracting external grants from Sport England and the individual sports governing bodies.

Local open space provision can often be provided, at least in part, on site. This could include a children’s play area or a piece of undeveloped land that can be used for informal play or recreation. However, often local open space provision cannot be provided on site and a payment is made to the Council.

In some cases, developers will make a case for not providing agreed Section 106 contributions, based on viability.

Section 106 monies accrued from developers must be spent within five years of receipt and on a project to create or improve public open space within 20 minutes’ walk of the development. Although some Section 106 agreements will specify exactly how the money must be spent, prior to April 2015 many were more general therefore the decision as to how the money was spent was decided by the relevant Township Committee.

From April 2015, all Section 106 agreements must specify exactly what the money will be spent on.

The Forum was informed that it is not possible to apply for Section 106 money, it is not a grant. However residents can help identify need. For example, if you can think of a park, recreation ground, piece of wasteland, countryside area or footpath that is in need of improvement, raise it with one of your Ward Councillors, contact the Township Office or raise it in this forum. If the suggestion is appropriate for Section 106 works, the project might be attached to money generated by an existing development or it might be identified
to be carried out as part of a future development. Ultimately your Elected Members decide how Section 106 money is spent, but they need residents input to do that effectively.

The following issues were raised by the Forum:

- Concerns were raised about the opportunity developers have in arguing Section 106 monies were not appropriate because of viability issues. The Officer was asked if the Council would challenge developers who make this claim.

  Response: Although this occurrence has not happened as yet, the Council would be prepared to challenge.

- Would bridleways qualify for Section 106 monies?
  
  Response: Yes, as long as it met the criteria.

- Has any money been received from the Seddon site?
  
  Response: No

  What is the process for paying Section 106 contributions?
  
  Response:

  - 50% upon commencement of the project
  - 50% upon completion of the project

  Are any plans in place to develop Section 106 related projects in the Ward?
  
  Response: There is a suggestion for a skate park to be developed on the recreational ground on Ings Lane.

  Some Forum members questioned the consultation that had been undertaken about this issue, raised concerns about the anti-social behaviour and related problems that may occur because of this and why was is not possible for the skate park to be sited in Denehurst Park. Residents also raised concerns about the areas suitability for such a project because the land suffered from poor drainage and it was understood that a covenant on the land was in existence.

  Response: The Forum was informed that consultation had been undertaken with young people about the skate park and it’s siting. Young people had indicated they preferred Ings Lane.

  Denehurst Park had been considered however the siting options within the park where found to be unsuitable because of the proximity to the cemetery and the potential for disruption to burials. The police had also indicated surveillance and visibility problems with Denehurst Park.

HEALTHWATCH ROCHELDALE
Elaine Grace, Community Engagement Officer, attended the meeting to inform the Forum of the role and purpose of Healthwatch Rochdale.
The Forum was informed that Healthwatch Rochdale (HWR) is the local consumer champion of Health and Social Care Services. HWR have statutory powers to ensure that the voice of the general public is heard and can carry out announced and unannounced visits to service providers.

HWR gathers feedback from the general public about their experiences of Health and Social Care services. HWR collate and analyse the feedback received from the general public and report this to the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Local Authority and other service providers both locally and nationally.

HWR provides a signposting service, an independent complaints advocacy service, 1-2-1 conversations with staff and drop in sessions across the four Townships. Forthcoming sessions will be held at Number One Riverside on the 24th March, 28th April, 26th May, 23rd June and 28th July, 10am till 3pm. A session will also be run at Rochdale Leisure Centre on the 1st March and at Spotland Library on the first Thursday of each month.

HWR had recently been involved in projects in relation to GP Surgeries.

A resident did comment that he thought it was a positive step that HWR can carry out unannounced visits to service providers.

Information about HWR can be found on www.healthwatchrochdale.org.uk

46 OPEN FORUM
The following issues were raised during the Open Forum:

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum

The Forum was informed that the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum was now recognised by The Charity Commission and will be formally designated by the Local Authority at the Township Committee on the 9th March 2016.

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum will take place on the 17th March 2016 at Spotland Methodist Church.

Prickshaw & Broadley Fold Conservation Area

The following comment / question was raised (extract below taken from email received prior to meeting)

The Forum was informed that the following issues had been raised with the Council and whilst there have been preliminary discussions with Mark Widdup, there has been no positive outcome that I am aware of. Our plight here has the support of Councillor Cecile Biant (to whom we are very grateful) but we would urge the Council to approach all of these concerns with a positive attitude with the ultimate aim of solving them rather than avoiding them.

1. Help with repairs to the road through from the fishing pond at Healey Dell to the junction with Rooley Moor Road. This is in a terrible state at the moment (particularly from The Waste to RMR) and, frankly, is not fit for use.
Response: The road in question is a restricted by-way and under the terms of the Highway Act the road is fit for purpose.

2. Drainage of surplus water from the land within and adjacent to the Conservation Area. This has been a constant problem and has worsened this year with the much wetter and warmer winter.

Response: It was accepted that this is a problem. However the situation has not been helped with the recent extremely poor weather and the farm land holds a lot of water. It is not easy to divert water. Checks also need to be undertaken to examine how effective existing drainage routes are. It was explained that it may be useful to discuss this issue with the local ranger.

3. Acceptance of responsibility of ongoing and substantial water leakage from Prickshaw Dam (which we believe to be owned by the Council but this is awaiting verification) and rectification thereof.

Response: It was confirmed that the Council does own the Dam. However a visual inspection of the Dam provided no evidence of leakage. It was explained that any further inspection may have to be invasive which could disrupt water distribution to users.

It was suggested that an Officer should speak to the residents.

4. Application for funding from Peel Energy's Habitat Enhancement Fund of £500,000.00 which, at the last accounting, has £160,000.00 in the bank awaiting allocation for projects that help with the drainage and improvement of land within the South Pennines (this, on the face of it, qualifies).

Response: It was explained that the Habitat Fund is more concerned with the re-wetting of bogs rather than drainage.

5. Signage to deter non bridleway users from accessing the bridleway as a short cut from Market St at Healey Corner to Norden thereby avoiding the ‘proper’ roadway amenity and, in the process, adding to the damage to the bridleway and posing avoidable health and safety risks.

Response: It was accepted that this is a problem/nuisance. This issue is currently with Highways.

**Spotland Road Land**

A resident asked why the small pocket of land on Spotland Road had been fenced off.

Action 1: Gary Finch to investigate.

**Churchill Street Litter Bins**

A resident asked if additional litter bins could be placed on Churchill Street.

**Shawfield Wind Turbine**
The following comment / question was raised (extract below taken from email received prior to meeting)

A resident commented that it appears that the Shawfield wind turbine has been constructed in a different location to that consented which represents a failure in the Council process. In addition how do we stop applications like this going under the radar in the future. Perhaps some types of planning application should be part of the area forum process? (I think Norden Area Forum is looking at the planning application process too).

Response: The Officer (Gary Finch) informed the Forum that he was unaware of the Norden Forum looking at the planning application process. However he was willing to make the Forum aware of similar planning applications going forward.

**Suggested Skate Park**

Concerns were again raised about the suggestion to develop a skate park on the recreation ground on Ings Lane.

**Driving Test Centre**

A resident raised concerns about a planning application that proposed to change the use of part of Spotland Stadium to a driving test centre.

Response: The resident was informed that if he wanted to object to the proposals he would need to engage with the planning process.

**Disabled Persons Parking Bay Policy**

A resident asked what the current Council policy was on disabled persons parking bays.

Action 2: Gary Finch to investigate.

Gary Finch to investigate.

**Council Tax**

The following question was asked (extract below taken from email received prior to meeting)

I understand there is a proposal to increase Council Tax and that the council tax calculation is loaded by 5% for those people who don’t pay? If correct, I’d like to ask an open question to understand if there is any incentive for the Council to remove the 5% loading.

Response: The following response had been received from Finance and was read out to the Forum:

‘The Council aims to collect all Council Tax due to the authority. There are rigorous processes in place to maximise the collection of this income, for example reminder notices, attachment of earnings, etc.
The Council Tax calculation when estimating the level of income the Council will receive includes a provision for Council Tax income which will not be collected. The collection of Council Tax is estimated to be 95.8% for 2016/2017. The service collecting Council Tax has collection rate targets and these are reported to Cabinet as part of Collection Fund Monitoring.

**Mons Avenue / Falkland Avenue**

A resident raised concerns about traffic problems in the above area.

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
16 June 2016
Spotland Methodist Church, Rooley Moor Road

PACT meeting commences 7pm, Area Forum meeting commences 7.30pm
These are the main issues affecting the Spotland and Falinge Areas

The top issues affecting your area:

1. DOMESTIC BURGLARY
2. VEHICLE CRIME

For Crime Prevention tips on a range of topics including bogus callers, UV property marking and bike security visit our YouTube channel, GM Police and watch our 60 Second Security videos.

GOOD NEWS
Burglary
Simon Hulme, 44yr was arrested yesterday and has since been with two counts of burglary to dwellings with intent to steal and conveyed to Bury and Rochdale Magistrates Court this morning, 24 February.

Spotland and Falinge
Forum Meeting
Thursday 25 February 2016
7pm
Spotland Methodist Church
Rooley Moor Rd
Rochdale
OL12 7ES

THE FORCE MANCHESTER
#theforcemanchester
Repeat of the Force Manchester has returned to our screens showing the first 10 episodes.
Sky, Pick, Sundays at 12noon, 9pm or 10pm (Pick plus 1 hour)
The next 10 episodes will be aired very soon
DOMESTIC BURGLARY

Marne Crescent: Ground floor living room window left slightly open, unknown offender(s) force lock, gain entry and take items of clothing, leave unseen, unheard
Sandy Lane: Unknown offender(s) gain entry by smashing ground floor window, nothing taken.
Lisbon St: Unknown offender(s) smash window to ground floor door and unlock door with keys left in lock, steal laptop and mobile phone, exit unseen, unheard
Edenfield Rd: Unknown offender(s) use implement from outhouse to smash window and gain entry, cash and jewellery taken, leave unseen, unheard
Edenfield Rd: Unknown offender(s) smash rear window, gain entry and conduct untidy search of property stealing various items within. Exit unseen, unheard.
Rake Top: Unknown offender(s) smash ground floor window with stone, gain entry and search property – nothing taken, leave unseen and unheard
Ings Lane: Known person had recently done some work at the address and takes victim to the rear of property to point out other defects – while victim is distracted other person enters address, takes vehicle keys and leave. Shortly after victim realises vehicle is missing and reports to Police
Rooley Moor Rd: Unknown offender(s) kick and force bottom panel of door, gain entry and make significant damage to property and steal boiler, exit unseen and unheard
Mountain Ash: 3x unknown offenders attempt to remove rotting window frame when disturbed by neighbour, make good their escape
Falinge Rd: Unknown offender uses implement to remove window, gains entry but is disturbed by victim, exits property and makes good his escape
The Vicarage, Clement Royds St: Unknown offender(s) smash rear patio window, unlock door with key left in lock, gain entry, conduct search of 1x downstairs room and steal various items within, exit unseen and unheard
Crimble St: Unknown offender(s) unsuccessfully attempt to gain entry via front lounge window. Damage window, make off unseen, unheard

VEHICLE CRIME

Theft Of Motor Vehicles

Bridgefold Rd: Whilst workers were away from construction hut a sneak thief entered it stealing vehicle keys from key cupboard and making off with one vehicle
Whalley Rd: Secure parked vehicle stolen by means unknown. Offence not captured on CCTV
Brotherod Hall Rd: Unknown offender(s) enter rear garden and steal moped by means unknown
Ullswater Ave: Unknown offender(s) approach insecure vehicle with engine running whilst it defrosts and steal same
Handley St: Unknown offender(s) steal parked motorcycle left on the street for a week whilst victim was making recovery arrangements.
Holmes Rd: Unknown offender(s) steal parked and secure vehicle by smashing window removing same by means unknown

Theft From Motor Vehicles

There have been 9x reported theft from vehicle in this period whereby windows were smashed to gain entry. 2x vehicles were left insecure
The streets of concern were: Marne Crescent, Ings Lane, Willbutts Lane, Amy St, 2x Rooley St, Emma St, Edmund St and Falinge Rd

0161 856 9961 / 0161 856 8574
gmp.police.uk/Rochdale
rochdaLENorth@gmp.police.uk

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/GMPRochdaleNrth
Like our Facebook at www.facebook.com/GMPRochdaleNorth