

# MILNROW, NEWHEY AND FIRGROVE AREA FORUM

Thursday 24 March 2016  
Milnrow Cricket Club, Harbour Lane,  
Milnrow OL16 4HF

## MINUTES

**Present:** S. Lowe (Chair), D. Cranny, Z. Cranny, B Greenwood, I. Davidson, S. Knight, M. Thompson, J. Edge, C. Baron, A. Turner, I. Rigby, C. Craven, J. Hill, N. Bruckshaw, R. Frost, D. Hannant and D. Hambler

**Councillors:** Councillors Brett, Butterworth and Kelly

**Officers:** PCSO Broome (GMP), Karen Tyner (RBC Youth Service), Tracey Knight, (Township Management) and Elaine Grace (Health Watch Rochdale)

**Apologies:** Councillors Blundell, Hussain and Mir (RBC), D. Dawai, I. Bland, C. Chadwick, C. Houston, J. Wilkinson and S. Wilkinson

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, Councillors and Officers. Everybody was asked to abide by the code of conduct for the duration of the meeting. The apologies were noted.

### 2. PACT - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Police introduced themselves and gave the following updates.

#### **Crime Figures**

The forum was advised that there had been little change in the crime figures since the last quarter, however, with the summer months approaching anti-social behaviour is likely to increase. Safe4Summer campaign will run again this year and it will provide positive diversionary activities for young people.

#### **Uniformed Presence**

The current ways of Police working will change in May resulting in an increased Officer presence in the community. GMP are reverting back to the old ways of working which will increase visibility and cover.

#### **Off Road Bike Nuisance**

In response to reports of off road bikes at Newhey Quarry, the Police advised that Operation Camenca is dedicated to dealing with off road bike nuisance. It is a small team that is in big demand; residents need to report every instance to ensure resources are deployed to problem areas. Due to Health and Safety risks, Police Officers are unable to chase the offenders. A number of Section 59 warnings have been given out and if the same bike continues to be used illegally it will be seized.

## **Priorities**

The forum agreed the priorities as follows:

- Burglary
- Anti-Social Behaviour

A resident has raised an issue in advance regarding a number of vehicles parking up allegedly smoking drugs on Kingsway Business Park and Lower Lane. The full details have been provided to PCSO Broome who will pass to the Police Officer for that area for further investigation.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

The following action updates were given.

### **Kiln Lane Traffic Issues**

A meeting has not yet taken place due to the poor health of the resident concerned.

### **Milnrow Memorial Clock Update**

It was clarified that the meeting with the HLF, referred to at the previous meeting, was a general meeting to discuss a number of projects not solely about Milnrow Clock.

In the absence of the Chair of Friends of Milnrow Clock, Irene Davidson gave the following updates:

- Smith of Derby (bespoke clock makers) have said that they would like to be a part of the clock restoration; they have been back to take additional photos. They initially reported that the clock is in a good condition, however, the access steps do have rot in the joists.
- The owner has now given the group and Smith of Derby permission to access the clock tower at any time. Irene has been given a key.
- As part of the project the security door needs to be replaced.
- There are seven levels in the tower which need to be made safe. The metal ladder has rusted and rotted away at parts.
- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has indicated that they would be interested in the project. They have suggested that there is an element of education which could possibly include working with the library to produce story boards.
- HLF has advised that the appropriate grant fund would be Your/Our Heritage which is for grants up to £100,000.
- The 1960's clock is electric, and the existing bell won't chime because it is in a residential area. As the bell will be redundant, the forum was asked for suggestions on how to re-use it. Some suggested it was used to chime at 11 o'clock on Remembrance Sunday.
- The forum were advised that the new clock can be programmed and can be set to chime on Remembrance Sunday.

It was reiterated that the Friends of Milnrow Clock Group have written permission, via email, from the clock tower owner to unrestricted access to the clock tower. Councillor Kelly agreed to share this information with the other Ward Councillors.

**Action 1: Circulate email confirming clock tower access to Milnrow & Newhey Ward Councillors (Councillor Kelly)**

### **Recycling Kerb Collections**

Environmental Management have been in contact with the residents directly.

### **Rochdale Road Fly-Tipping**

The fly-tipping was reported to Environmental Management.

### **Garage and Wheelie Bins on Rochdale Road**

The resident was advised that there has never been provision for wheelie bin access in between the

garages.

#### **Car Parking Rear of Rochdale Road**

The resident who was parking his car on the back, free of charge, has been written to and advised against parking in this area.

#### **Memorial Funding for Firgrove Playing Fields**

A number of Officers have been spoken to about this matter, but none are aware of any such funding.

#### **Damaged Fencing on East Street**

Pennines Township Funds have now funded a replacement fence.

#### **Parking Issues on Railway Street**

The residents were advised that Railway Street itself does not have any parking restrictions on it, other than the yellow line which extends around the junction of Huddersfield Road onto Railway Street, therefore, as a local authority there is no restriction we are able to enforce. Double parking or causing an obstruction on the Highway is a matter that the Police may act upon. Civil Enforcement Officers do patrol the area regularly and Penalty Charge Notices are issued to vehicles where there are restrictions in force.

#### **4. HEALTH WATCH PRESENTATION - ELAINE GRACE**

Elaine Grace introduced herself to the forum. She explained 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.

HWR gathers feedback from the general public about their personal experiences of health and social care services. The information is then reported back to partners for analysis and utilised to shape services for the future.

Community hubs now offer residents seven day access to a GP or nurse. Littleborough Health Centre is the hub for Pennines.

Residents are encouraged to talk about their experiences, whether they are good or bad, and have their say about health and social care at one of the regular drop in sessions at Milnrow Library. For details please contact 01706 249575 or email [info@healthwatchrochdale.org.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchrochdale.org.uk)

#### **5. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT 'GUIDELINES & STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)'**

Residents were provided information about making comments on the Guidelines & Standards for Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document. The consultation ends on 1 April 2016.

#### **6. OPEN FORUM**

##### **St George's Day**

Residents asked whether the Council had any plans to celebrate St George's Day. The forum was advised that the annual flag raising will take place on Saturday 23 April at 10am outside Rochdale Town Hall. There will also be free family activities at Touchstones until 1pm. Also happening on the day, Milnrow Cricket Club will be hosting the Charity Shield match between Norden and Saddleworth from 12.30pm. For further information contact the Cricket Club on 01706 647930.

##### **Former Coral Mill Site**

A discussion took place concerning the planning application for 69 dwellings on this site. The properties will be private rentals and it is not anticipated that it will be a DSS scheme but instead aimed at higher earners. If approved, this development could help to increase the amount of parking available for the Metrolink.

### **Pavement Improvements on Wildhouse Lane**

It was clarified that the grass verge is being removed to improve the sub-standard shared pedestrian/cycle route by increasing the available width to 3m. Additional bollards will also be erected along the route with signs on indicating the shared status. This scheme was funded from Cycle City Ambitions Grant 2 from Transport for Greater Manchester.

### **Bealcroft Walk Signage**

A resident expressed their dismay when a street sign was incorrectly placed on private land.

**Action 2: Establish who paid for the sign relocation (Tracey Knight)**

### **Road Sweeper on Weir Road**

A resident complained that the road sweeper only moves the grit/debris on the highway, it does not collect it.

**Action 3: Report issue to Environmental Management (Tracey Knight)**

### **HGVs on Bridge Street**

It was reported that HGVs are blocking the right hand filter lane on Bridge Street when they are turning left on to Elizabethan Way. A discussion took place as to whether this was legal or not.

**Action 4: Seek Highways' advice regarding HGV manoeuvres at this junction (Tracey Knight)**

### **Water Lane Tractors**

A resident reported tractors driving up and down Water Lane during the night leaving a trail of bricks and mud on the highway.

**Action 5: Make enquiries to establish the work being carried out (Tracey Knight)**

### **Aldi Traffic Issues**

It was reported that vehicles are backing up, along the Elizabethan Way, when trying to turn into Aldi. The amount of queuing traffic appears to have increased since the store opened. The forum was advised that the speed limit at the crossing will be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

### **Thank You**

The forum thanked Karen Tyner (Youth Service) for her hard work and dedication over the past 10 years in Milnrow and the Borough. Karen was wished every success for the future.

### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

### **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be advised.