
Officers: PCSO K. Vohra, PC P. Jones, C. Schroder (Community Co-ordinator) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

Councillors: W. Cocks, C. Biant & S. Biant

Apologies: J. Molyneux, M. Rashid, Mr and Mrs Rawsterne and Jason Addy.

83 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that the Forum respect the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from J. Molyneux, M. Rashid, Mr and Mrs Rawsterne and Jason Addy.

Carlo Schroder, Community Co-ordinator introduced himself to the Forum.

84 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING
PC P. Jones and PCSO K. Vohra attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that anti-social behaviour and criminal damage had slightly increased over recent weeks. However this was attributed to the fact that young people were off school due to the school holidays.

Burglaries and incidents of theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicles had reduced.

The Forum was also informed that a recently held ‘off road bike’ initiative was a success. GMP has also established an off road bike team.

More information about off-road bikes can be found via the link below.

Off-road bikes in your community

Residents raised concerns about speeding in the area; Cutgate Road and Longfield Road being identified as problem areas.

85 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES
The minutes of the Area Forum held on Thursday 13th July 2017 were approved as a correct record.

A resident asked for clarification on which residents’ representatives have been involved in the development of the emergency response plan for the TBA site.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this.
The following updates were provided:

1. **Meanwood School Fencing**

   The Forum was informed that Friends of Denehurst Park had declined the offer to install the fencing in the park. As a consequence it would be necessary to identify other appropriate sites within the Ward. Ideas put forward included Spotland Bridge, Catley Lane Head and Beaufort Street.

   The resident who is proposing to restore the fencing asked if it would be possible to obtain a fence panel to undertake restoration work.

   The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

2. **Safety Barrier - Junction of Sandy Lane / Viking Street**

   Following the receipt of a number of complaints about the above safety barrier Highways had provided the following statement;

   **Why was the barrier installed?**
   The barrier was installed as a Township Committee approved safety initiative following a high speed car accident that had occurred at this junction in winter 2016.

   **Was there any public consultation regarding the barrier?**
   The barrier installation was discussed at the Spotland and Failinge Area Forum on at least two occasions and the decision to go ahead with the installation was made at the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Delegated Sub Committee on the 07/03/2017.

   **What type of barrier has been used?**
   Armco barrier has been used in this location due to its ability to absorb impacts and deflect vehicles away from the footpath in the event of an accident. Other barrier types where not suitable at this location due to the high speed of previous accidents.

   **Safety Issues**
   The barrier has been installed to the specification for Armco however we do take on board comments around the exposed blunt edges and we are currently working with the contractor to come up with a solution to eliminate any risks that these may pose to pedestrians.

   **Parking issues**
   In response to the barrier taking up parking spaces, The Highway Code states that motorists should not park on the public footpath unless there are signs permitting this as this can cause obstructions and inconveniences to pedestrians. As the barrier is wholly placed within the footpath it is not deemed that any genuine parking facilities have been lost.

   A local Ward Councillor also advised the Forum that Highways had declined the request to progress the installation of a barrier on the corner of Edenfield Road / Sandy Lane because it would not be suitable on safety grounds.

3. **Section 106 Funds**

   The Township and Engagement Officer circulated information which explained the process for modifying Section 106 agreements. A link to this is below.

   [Policy background](http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57111/Policy%20background.pdf)
It was also explained that the Ings Lane play area development has not progressed because a fully costed scheme is required before Section 106 funds can be sought.

4. TBA Questionnaire

A response to the TBA questionnaire that was submitted at the last forum meeting was circulated. A link to this is below.

Response to TBA questionnaire

5. Cutgate Road

Forum members were informed that financial support for the introduction of traffic calming and a 20mph zone scheme on Cutgate Road was agreed at Rochdale Township Action and Resources Delegated Sub-Committee on the 28th June 2016. It is understood that the consultation process in relation to this scheme will start within the next month.

It was also advised that consultation will take the form of a notice in the press and information posted on lamp posts.

6. Dog Fouling

Alleygated area on Belvoir Street - this had been reported.

7. Trees

Problems caused on Dellar Street because of overhanging trees had been addressed.

8. Pot Holes

Tenby Street – this had been reported.

9. Traffic Regulation Orders and Planning Applications

A resident asked if it would be possible to circulate notification of Traffic Regulation Orders and Planning Applications relevant to the Spotland and Falinge Ward via the Forum database.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this.

86   MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

The Forum was informed that £8000 was available in Ward Funds.

Nigel Morrell, Chair of Norden Area Forum and Chair of Rochdale In Bloom explained the concept of the ‘In Bloom’ competition and the work undertaken by the Rochdale In Bloom Group. Congratulations were offered to the work undertaken in Spotland and Falinge Ward to support this year’s ‘In Bloom’ competition and Forum members were encouraged to join the In Bloom Group. Councillors Cecile Biant and Cocks agreed to this together with residents P. Massey, Monica Oliver and Katie Lawrence.

Following discussion it was agreed to allocate £2000 from Ward Funds to support future ‘in bloom’ projects in the Ward.

Financial support had been allocated to the following projects from 2017/2018 Members Funds:
Councillor Cecile Biant

Rochdale Sports Club - £499  
Spotland Church Fridge Freezer - £401.98  
Spotland Church Sound System - £243.97

Funds remaining - £855.05

Councillor Surinder Biant

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum – Community Consultation Event - £1000

Funds remaining - £1000

Councillor Wendy Cocks

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum – Display Equipment - £1000

Funds remaining £1000

87  COUNCILLOR UPDATES/NEWS

Each of the Ward Councillors provided a written update regarding current work issues. A link to each of these updates is provided below.

Councillor Updates  

The Forum was also informed that an International Food Festival will be taking place on the 9th September in Falinge Park. The event is being organised by Vintage Worx.

The Chair also thanked the local Ward Councillors for the work they undertake in the Ward.

88  OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN THE WARD

Prior to the commencement of the Open Forum the Chair proposed that an additional meeting should be organised to deal with the findings of the TBA perimeter air sampling survey results. The Forum agreed to this.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to organise this meeting as soon as possible.

Residents raised the following issues:

1. Events

The Chair informed the Forum that the next meeting of The Friends of Denehurst Park will be held on Thursday 21st September 2017 at Spotland Library commencing 6.30pm. He also informed the Forum that he had received information regarding events at Spotland Library and Spotland Community Association. It was agreed that this information should be circulated via the Forum database.

2. Overgrown Hedges / Trees

Concerns were raised about overhanging trees / hedges on Beaufort Street and Woodland Road.

3. Meanwood School – Roof Tiles
A resident asked why the ornate roof tiles had not been replaced on Meanwood School following the completion of the building work.

4. Stop Signs

Safety concerns were raised about the junction at Spotland Bridge and if stop signs could be introduced.

5. Barrier

A resident asked if the barrier between Bridgefold Road and Pits Farm Avenue could be re-opened.

6. Installation of gates

A resident asked if gates could be installed within the two perimeter fences that divide Innes Close and the open space on Ings Lane.

7. Alleygates

A resident asked why alleygates could not be installed on land adjacent to his property on Rupert Street.

8. Churchill Street Footway

A resident raised concerns about the condition of the footway on Churchill Street.

It was explained that a two year maintenance programme is in place and it will be checked if Churchill Street is on the list. The Township and Engagement Officer was also asked to provide copies of the maintenance programme for the next Area Forum meeting.

9. Potholes – Cutgate Precinct Car Park

A resident commented that the above had not been repaired.

10. Ings Lane Open Space

A resident asked if monies had been received from the building contractor for the use of part of the above land as a site compound.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

11. TBA

A discussion took place about the lack of information being provided regarding TBA and the lack of progress being made with the site. Residents expressed the view that they were dissatisfied, angry and frustrated with the current situation.

A resident asked if a representative from the land owners could attend the meeting that is to be organised once the perimeter air sampling survey results are known.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to raise this issue.

12. Section 106 Agreement Modification
A resident informed the Forum that he had attended the Planning and Licensing Committee meeting on the 7th August 2017 which agreed to modify the planning obligations contained within the Section 106 Agreement pertinent to the development on the former Alexander Drew Site, Mellor Street, Rochdale.

The resident informed the Forum that by taking this action the Local Authority had significantly reduced the financial contributions of the contractor towards off-site local open space, outdoor sports provision and junction improvement works. The resident also commented that he did not agree with some of the data within the report relating to reduced traffic flow in the area. He also commented that he was disappointed with the level of debate at the meeting and the lack of scrutiny of the evidence presented.

Councillor Surinder Biant who is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee explained that issues of this nature are taken very seriously and a great deal of time and effort is afforded to understand the issues being discussed. It was explained that in making this decision all factors had to be taken into account including the advice provided by Officers at the meeting. Other Ward Councillors present concurred with this view.

89 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of Spotland & Falinge Area Forum is planned for Thursday 16th November 2017 at 7pm (including Annual General Meeting) at Spotland Methodist Church.

The additional meeting of Spotland & Falinge Area Forum requested and agreed at the Forum meeting on Thursday 24th August 2017 will be organised as soon as possible.
Tackling the problem of off-road bikes, including quad bikes, creating a nuisance and being a danger in communities is challenging, for the police and for the people who live in the area.

A quick guide to the laws around what's legal and what's not when it comes to off-road bikes can be found on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk

However, you can help us tackle the issue by monitoring the situation before contacting us. The guide below provides some steps that we encourage you to take before calling for police assistance.

**REMEMBER:**

If it is an emergency and lives are at risk please contact the police immediately on 999.
STEP 1

MAKE A NOTE

Use the record sheet to keep note of what’s happening and when.

Keeping a record helps you get a clearer picture of what’s going on, and puts all of the information in one place should you need assistance.

DON’T FORGET:

Photographs or video can help support work to tackle the problem, but make sure you are not putting yourself at any risk by taking one.
STEP 2
THE MORE THE BETTER

The more information you have, the better.

You’re probably not the only person who’s noticed a problem or, if you are, others can certainly help keep an eye out for you.

Get in touch with your Neighbourhood Watch and speak to other neighbours about any information they have.
STEP 3

SPEAK TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES

If the problem keeps happening or if there are aggravating factors e.g. if the bikes are being driven on public roads, if they are causing a direct danger to members of the public or if the driver isn’t wearing a helmet, you can ask for support.

Where there is not an immediate threat to life, your local authority or housing provider might be able to help. All of these organisations work together with the police to tackle the issue, but they need information from people who are experiencing the problem.

They can help with antisocial behaviour associated with off-road bikes and will work with local policing teams to tackle the issue.

Find out how to contact your local council or housing provider at www.gmp.police.uk
STEP 4

CALLING THE POLICE

If the problem continues after you’ve exhausted all of the options you should get in touch with your local neighbourhood policing team.

We have powers to seize off-road bikes if they are being used illegally, taking them off the streets for good.

Under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act a bike that is repeatedly being used to break the law can be seized.

Details of who they are can be found here on the GMP website at www.gmp.police.uk
OFF-ROAD BIKE RECORD SHEET

Print this sheet off and keep it to hand for when you notice issues with off-road bikes

When?
(Date and Time)

Where?
(Be as exact as possible)

What's happening? (what's the bike doing, why is it causing a nuisance, are there any aggravating factors)

What does the bike look like? (Colour and any markings)

What does the rider look like?
(Hair colour, height, age, description of clothing)

Where were they headed?

Anything else you need to remember?

DON'T FORGET:
Photographs or video can help support work to tackle the problem, but make sure you are not putting yourself at any risk by taking one. If you have any photos or video to share with us please send it to DROPBOX
THE LAW

RIDING A MOTORBIKE ON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY

THE RIDER

- Must be over 16
- Must wear an approved crash helmet
- Must hold a valid driving licence
- Must have appropriate motor vehicle insurance

THE VEHICLE

- Must be built for road use
- Must be registered
- Must comply with MOT regulations
- Must be taxed
THE LAW

RIDING A BIKE OFF-ROAD

THE RIDER

- Must have permission from the person who owns the land (council or private)
- Must not use the off-road bike on a public highway to get to the private land
- Must not cause alarm, harassment or distress to local residents and the wider community
Policy background

The Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 set out the procedure for applications to amend planning obligations, including standard forms. The principles for modifying an obligation are that it 'no longer serves a useful purpose or would continue to serve a useful purpose in a modified way'.

In considering whether a planning obligation can be justified, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advises that in all cases, the local planning authority must ensure that the obligation meets the relevant tests for planning obligations in that they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development (paragraph 204). Planning obligations should therefore not be sought unless they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.

The NPPF also advises that to ensure viability, the costs of any requirement to be applied to a development, such as requirements for affordable housing, standards, infrastructure contributions or other contributions, should, when taking into account the normal costs of development and mitigation, provide competitive returns to a willing land owner and willing developer to enable the development to be deliverable (paragraph 173).
**TBA site — questions from the Spotland and Falinge Area Forum Meeting July 2017**

**What communications have council officials had with the owners in 2017?**
None

**What communications have councillors had with the owners in 2017?**
Council officers do not hold this information

**What communications have council officials had with representatives of the owners in 2017?**
Council officers have made contact with both the site owner’s representatives and the site owner’s contractor in relation to resident’s concerns about fly-tipping, people inside the buildings and broken bore-hole coverings on site.

**What communications have councillors had with representatives of the owners in 2017?**
Council officers do not hold this information

**What are the results of the survey?**
The Council commissioned monitoring of airborne asbestos fibres around the perimeter of the site. The Council expects to receive the final report late August / early September. This written report when received by the Council, will be made available to the public.

The site owner commissioned an intrusive site survey undertaken by their contractor - RSK. The site owner’s representatives have indicated that they will share the survey results with the Council. The results when received by the Council, will be made available to the public. The site owner’s representatives have not provided a timeframe when the results will be provided to the Council.

**Have these been made available to:**
- Council officers: As above
- Councillors: As above

**Will they be made available to the public?**
Yes

**Will this be the full report?**
Yes but in line with data protection rules, any personal details of individuals will be redacted

**What would the council prefer to happen to the site?**
The Council would like to see a sustainable solution for the whole site.

**Illegal dumping**
Have the council asked for an update from the Environmental Agency with regard to their prosecution of the owners for illegal dumping of rubbish on site?
Yes

**What is the feedback?**
The Environment Agency (EA) have informed that they have a duty to investigate all avenues of enquiry. Unless new avenues of enquiry come to light, the EA have indicated that they are coming to the end of their investigation.

**Have the owners told the council when they will remove the rubbish?**
No

**Stripping of site buildings**
Buildings on site have continued to be stripped of materials (eg roofs of buildings)

**What action have councillors and council officers taken to deal with this?**

**Have they contacted the owners?**
Yes, Council officers have notified the land owners representatives

**Other concerns remain including the results of air testing (and also the vandalising of equipment) and the effects of recent fires.**
Comment noted
Councillor’s Report to Spotland and Falinge Area Forum - Cecile Blant  
24 August 2017

I have read Wendy’s report, so shall try not to duplicate what she has written.

For the year 2017/8, I shall be attending meetings of Full Council, Rochdale Township, the Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Homelessness Study Group, the Leader’s Meeting with Pensioners’ Representatives, the Borough Regeneration Group, Rochdale Township Regeneration Group (Vice Chair), the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Pennine Care, and Rochdale Township Action and Resources Committee (Chair), which deals with all the Township funding and other issues. I am also on 10 other committees/groups related to my Council work and the community. I am a Trustee of the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF), and Vintageworx which is regenerating activities and facilities in Falinge Park, a Trustee on two Charitable Boards, and Vice Chair of the Friends of Denehurst Park. We have made considerable advances in the park, with more to come.

I was re-elected as Chair of the Rochdale Action and Resources Committee so have been able to sanction more grants and schemes for our ward, including:-

- A safe zone scheme for some streets around Spotland Stadium
- A speed survey on Rooley Moor Road
- Environmental improvements on Spotland Road and elsewhere
- Repair of the railings near the Mitchell Street/Edenfield Road junction
- Re-surfacing of footways
- Repairs to Cutgate shops car park
- A barrier to prevent further house damage by speeding cars on Sandy Lane
- Grants to the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)
- Grants to community groups based at Spotland Methodist Church, Spotland Community Centre and Greave Community Centre (now called the Passchendaele Centre)
- A stair lift for St Edmund’s Church for disability access
- Equipment for the Rochdale Cricket Club

I have also dealt with about 60 items of casework since we last met, and have encouraged two extra groups of Spotland Pride to do regular clean-ups of their areas on Spotland Road and the Somerset Grove area. These people are true heroes of the community. They don’t just complain, they roll up their sleeves and get on with it!

I was able to persuade influential Elected Members that the Council should do the major repairs to the community centres it owns, which resulted in a refurbishment of the Spotland Community Centre.

I was invited to nominate some football groups for special support and free tickets from Rochdale Football Club, and am delighted that the Lantern Club based in our ward was the successful group.

On 13 August we had two splendid events in the ward organised by the RMNF at Catley Lanehead, and ‘It’s a Knockout’ at Falinge Park, organised by Vintageworx.

Both of these excellent organisations as well as the Friends of Denehurst Park, work very well with the Council. Most of the work is done by volunteers, and all three have transformed their areas. It is a real pleasure working with these positive people.
I have read Cecile’s and Wendy’s reports, so I shall not duplicate what they have written.

Wendy has now been part of our team of three Labour Councillors for this ward for over a year. She has proved to be an excellent Councillor, bringing with her expertise on Housing and ageing issues, her organisational skills and most importantly her optimism, kindness and humanity which have been much appreciated by residents seeking her help. She has an overall wisdom and good common sense.

We have also been working well with Tony Lloyd, who became MP for Rochdale in June, winning with a massive majority. He has already attended events in our ward.

This year, I am on 11 committees and outside groups. The most demanding of these is the Planning and Licensing Committee as we meet more regularly than most other committees, and do site visits as well as reading all the applications.

**We hold surgeries on the second Saturday in every month as follows:-**

**9-10am Spotland Community Centre. 11-12 Spotland Library**

I often visit residents in their homes if they prefer this to attending a surgery.

I deal with a lot of casework, some in connection with school placements/issues, housing and more complex family issues as these are my main area of expertise and experience.

The sessions at Greave were stopped as they would not open up on a Saturday, and stopped at the Brotherod Tenants Association (BTA) due to lack of demand. This centre has now been closed.

I also Chair the Norman Barnes Fund Committee which gives grants, mainly to the elderly.

I have enjoyed helping with the progress of work in Denehurst Park as a member of the Friends of Denehurst Park Group.

After my first year in office, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow ward councillors, Cecile and Surinder Biant for their guidance and support. I have much to learn and they have been excellent mentors. Thank you.

As you may know, as well as sitting on the Full Council, I also attend Rochdale Township meetings and represent our ward on the ‘Clean and Green’ and ‘Community Cohesion’ committees. Both of these make small grants to local groups so if you have a community group with an idea, please apply.

I’m also a Council representative on RBH’s Representative Board so am involved in their review of ‘Independent Living Schemes’ (sheltered housing) as well as College Bank and Lower Falinge plans which will impact on our ward also.

I am also making connections for Rochdale with Greater Manchester Ageing Hub with a view to the Borough becoming an Age Friendly Borough over the next 5 years. You may hear more about this later in the year.

I also sit on the steering committee for Ambition for Ageing in Rochdale. This is a lottery funded project tackling loneliness amongst older people. While this is currently limited to three other wards in the Borough it is hoped that the learning from them will be spread across the rest of the Borough and Greater Manchester.

I spent my ward funds last year on Rochdale in Bloom. It was great fun planting at Spotland stadium and the new planters on Spotland Road help to improve the neighbourhood. I hope the RHS judges appreciated it.

Casework continues to come in and I had a lot of complaints about the proposed traffic order affecting parking outside Spotland Library which has now been averted. Other requests for information or assistance have been over TBA, Japanese Knotweed on open ground, dropped kerbs, neighbour disputes, anti-social behaviour, adult safeguarding, potholes and older people who were looking for some support – not care – which I have been able to help them find. While some are quickly responded to, others take longer to resolve.

I know some people have been anxious since the Manchester bombing and during the far right demonstrations so my conversations with residents and neighbours have been about trying to reassure people from all backgrounds that we have more in common than divides us and we are stronger when we stand together.

To this end, I would encourage as many as possible to attend an International Festival in Falinge Park from 11.00 am on Saturday, 9th September when Rochdilians from Ukraine, Guinea Bissau, France, Iran, South Asia and Lancashire will be making crafts and food and dancing in national costumes. It will be a wonderful celebration of all that we havetogether.

Wendy Cocks