NORDEN AREA FORUM

Wednesday, 12 June 2013

MINUTES

CHAIRLED BY
Nigel Morrell

SERVICED BY
Valery White

RESIDENTS PRESENT

COUNCILLORS
Wera Hobhouse, James Gartside, Peter Winkler

PRESS
None present – Apologies received

INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining that the aim of the forum is to keep residents updated and to act as an interface with the Council around any issues or concerns.

Apologies were received from B & A Paulinski, C. McHugh, M. Ball, K. Fitzpatrick, and M. Hollindrake

A number of changes have occurred since the last meeting. Following the funeral of Cllr. Ann Metcalfe, a By-Election took place which saw Peter Winkler elected as Ward Councillor, this has also led to changes at NEEVA. The path around Whittaker Moss/Quarry area has re-opened, and the Friends of Jubilee Park held a very successful St. George’s Day celebration.

CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chair referred to the code of conduct, copies of which were circulated with the papers, and asked all present to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Heap Road
This has now been passed as a bridleway, signage to be installed soon.

Village Plan
Martin Newnham has had discussions with Littleborough Civic Trust and is progressing with the plan.

Black Pits Chimney
No update has been obtained.
Action (1) Chase update on Black Pits Chimney

Val White
**Nutters Restaurant**
The Council has taken legal action and Mr & Mrs Davison wished to thank the forum for their continued support.

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record, after which a brief summary of actions taken since the last meeting was given.

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE**
There was nobody in attendance from Greater Manchester Police, and no apologies had been received. There were concerns about this, and whilst the reduction in GMP resources was acknowledged, the forum asked that their disappointment in the lack of commitment to Norden be conveyed to Insp. Khan.

It was pointed out that during the last PACT meeting the possibility of a rise in incidents of crime and disorder was discussed, and members of the forum were asked to continue to be vigilant in order to assist the Police.

**Action (2) Write to Insp. Khan to express disappointment at lack of Police attendance**  
Val White

**OPEN FORUM**

**Possible Abandoned Vehicle**
It was reported that a vehicle had been left unattended for some time on Edenfield Road. The resident was advised to contact GMP on the 101 number with the registration to see whether it was taxed and insured, and whether it had been reported stolen.

**Parking on Hutchinson Road recreation area**
There were concerns that an increasing number of vehicles are parking on the rec, particularly on sunny afternoons, but it was unclear which agency has the power to act.

**Action (3) Request enforcement action from relevant agency**  
Val White

**Parking in Norden**
The issue of lack of parking availability/inconsiderate parking was again raised. A discussion took place during which it was acknowledged that this is a problem, but it was also made clear that much time has been spent on trying to find a solution, without success. There is a need to satisfy the needs of residents whilst encouraging people into the Village, and it was agreed that the main challenge is to persuade drivers to park considerately.

It was felt that the village plan that Martin Newnham is working on may provide an opportunity to address the parking problems in some way.

**Action (4) Arrange to meet Nigel Morrell, Cllr. Hobhouse and Martin Newnham to discuss parking issues**  
Val White

**Friends of Jubilee Park**
The St. George's Day event was a great success despite the inclement weather. Plans are underway for an event in August.

The FoJP will have an annual chosen charity – this year’s charity will be Rochdale Macmillan Nurses.

**Wishing Tree**
The tree will not now be in situ in time for the Norden Carnival, as the project is more complicated than first thought and a decision was taken not to rush the design and build. It is hoped that this unique structure will be erected in time for the In Bloom judging.
Horse Riders/Responsibilities
Following the letter sent to Rochdale & Bury Bridleways Association, and the response received, a discussion took place around the responsibilities of riders. Points made included:

- Stables should all have an adopted code of conduct
- Horse muck does not wash away easily as claimed by RBBA
- The RBBA response referred to fly-tipping being a bigger problem than horse muck was disputed, and the forum felt that this was a moot point anyway as both fly-tipping AND horse muck are a problem, and both should be addressed.

Woodhouse Lane Litter Bin
Removal of the litter bin near the car park at the top of Woodhouse Lane (just past the cattle grid) was again mentioned (RQ3496). It was explained that previous enquiries had been made where the Council had stated that the land belongs to United Utilities and that they would be responsible for installing/servicing any litter bins.

Action (5) Establish ownership of land at top of Woodhouse Lane
Action (6) Enquire as to possibility of installation of litter bin

Val White

Norden Carnival
Rachel Blackburn attended to inform the forum of details of the carnival on 15th June. It wasn’t clear how much involvement the Police intended to have, or whether they were planning to bring the ‘Pod’ as in previous years.

The Chair thanked Rachel for her continued commitment and hard work for the people of Norden.

Action (7) Contact GMP to confirm level of commitment

Cllr. Hobhouse

Norden In-Time Taxis – Cigarette Butts
There were two reports relating to these premises:

1. Litter/Cigarette Butts on the pavement
2. Two old vehicles ‘abandoned’ on the land

Action (8) Write to company and ask that they a) install cigarette bins, and b) clean up existing litter
Action (9) Request removal of unsightly vehicles, and enquire regarding enforcement possibility if unsuccessful

Val White

Pippin Hill/Whittaker Lane
Approximately 6 acres of land at this location is owned by Peel Holdings. Cllr. Winkler informed the forum that there may be a possibility of acquiring the land at a peppercorn rent for community use. Peel are happy to meet and discuss options, and the forum were unanimously in favour of pursuing the idea. Despite the optimistic response to the proposal, Cllr. Winkler was advised to proceed with caution given the history between the people of Norden and Peel Holdings.

Township In Bloom
The village is participating fully once again and the judging is to take place on July 25th.

Norden Old Library
The building has recently been awarded runner up in the ‘Community Benefit’ category of the RICS awards. The Chair offered thanks to Reed Lewis Architects and Parker Wilson Consulting Engineers.

WARD FUND UPDATE
It was confirmed that there is £6,000 available for each ward in Rochdale Township for 2013/14. However there has been a change to the allocation of funds which now require the full amount to be committed to Capital schemes only. A brief explanation of the type of schemes that can and cannot
be funded was given. Any potential schemes would be considered by the sub-group, membership of which will remain the same as last year.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
Wednesday 18th September 2013
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Norden Community School