

# Public Document Pack

## MILNROW AND NEWHEY AREA FORUM

Thursday 16 July 2015  
Milnrow Cricket Club, Harbour Lane,  
Milnrow OL16 4HF

### MINUTES

**Present:** S. Lowe (Chair), D. Cranny, Z. Cranny, B. Greenwood, A. Ashworth, C. Baron, S. Knight, J. Ashley, J. Sampson, C. Barber, I. Davidson, R. Horton, J. Hill, M. Thompson and I. Rigby

**Councillors:** Councillor A. Brett, Councillor N. Butterworth and Councillor A. Kelly

**Officers:** Paul Whiting, Alison Horton, (Environmental Management), Tracey Knight, (Township Management), PC Jenkins and PCSO Harrison (GMP)

**Apologies:** C. Houston, J. Shaw and Philip Berrie

#### 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.

#### 2. PACT - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Police introduced themselves and gave the following updates.

##### **Crime figures**

Milnrow and Newhey crime figures are low in comparison to the rest of the borough.

##### **Distraction burglary**

There has been a recent bogus distraction burglary of a vulnerable person. The offenders were three Eastern European males. The police advised people to be extra vigilant and always ask for identification and report any suspicious activity.

##### **Theft of Motor Vehicles**

There has been a spate of vehicles being stolen where offenders break into houses to steal keys. The increases are across the borough and wider into Yorkshire and bordering authorities. The vehicle recovery figures are not known but are suspected to be relatively low in comparison to the number of vehicles taken, it is suspected that cars are stolen to order by organised gangs. Residents were advised to keep keys out of sight.

##### **Summer Security Advice**

Residents were reminded to lock doors and windows, don't be an easy target for opportunist thieves.

##### **School Summer Holidays**

Instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB) do increase during the summer holiday period. Issues should be reported to the Police on 101.

## **PACT Priority for Milnrow and Newhey – Anti-social behaviour**

Issues raised:

- Reports of off road bikes at Water Lane – residents are advised to report occurrences on 101. PCSOs will increase patrols in this area.
- It was reiterated that the ginnel at Severn Road is a public right of way and unable to be alley-gated or closed off.

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

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

#### **Milnrow Clock**

A discussion took place regarding the reference in the minutes to the ‘...costs of formalising legal entry onto the property’. It was clarified that Pennines Township did allocate funding towards the refurbishment of the clock, however, the costs for structural surveys and to agree, with the owner, long term entry, etc were prohibitive.

A not for profit group has been set up with the purpose of refurbishing the clock. Members of the group explained that they have tried to gain written permission, on a number of occasions, from the clock owner but he is out of the country a lot of the time. This matter is still being pursued. The Chair of this group asked for a meeting to be called so that group members can be updated.

It was discussed and clarified that Rochdale BC sold the building without any agreement or obligation on the new owner to maintain the clock and access point.

**Action 1: Circulate Milnrow Clock report to Z. Cranny, I. Davidson and B. Greenwood (Tracey Knight)**

### **4. DEMENTIA FRIENDS - LUCIE NEWSAM**

Lucie Newsam introduced herself and thanked the forum for the opportunity to raise awareness and understanding of dementia. There are currently a number of local authority ran initiatives to raise awareness and reduce the stigma and misconceptions surrounding this disease.

Forum attendees played an interactive game of bingo which brought about discussions surrounding perceptions, ages, memory loss stages, emotions, etc. It was stressed that getting to know the sufferer will help to increase understanding of the disease.

People were asked to encourage others to become ‘Dementia Friends’ for further information see [dementiafriends.org.uk](http://dementiafriends.org.uk) or contact the **Alzheimer’s Society Care Line on 0845 306 0898**.

### **5. MILNROW ONLINE - JONNY SHAW**

Due to unforeseen circumstances this item was withdrawn.

### **6. NEW WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE - PAUL WHITING**

Paul Whiting (Waste Minimisation Manager) introduced the proposed changes to waste collections and explained that the changes would mean an annual saving of £1 million. Residents were encouraged to have their say via the Rochdale Council’s website.

Rochdale Council needs to increase its recycling rates and bring them in line with other AGMA authorities. The proposal to collect food waste weekly is already established in other authorities. The food waste will be collected either via the garden bin or by a Council supplied free caddy. Compostable bin liners for the caddy will be supplied free of charge. The suggested changes won’t make too much difference to those households that are already keen recyclers. It costs in excess of £300 per tonne to tip general waste; this figure will be offset with the increase in recycled waste collected.

Q. Why can't margarine tubs and yoghurt pots be recycled?

A. These types of plastics are lower grade and may have been recycled a number of times previously, this lowers the value and demand for these product types.

Q. It has been reported that Rochdale Council is paying £30,000 for a consultant to provide advice on this issue. How is this saving money?

A. This has been misreported; this funding is used for the team of door to door advisors.

Q. When Rochdale Council is fined, who received the funds?

A. The funding is collected by the government and is passed on to the European Commission.

Q. When we will expect to see caddies and liners to be delivered?

A. Deliveries are expected in October.

Q. The paper and cardboard bin is too small.

A. You can request a larger paper recycling bin?

Q. Some areas in the borough don't appear to do any recycling, how is the Council dealing with this issue?

A. Excess bins have been removed from households that don't qualify for them; the team of doorstep advisors have been working hard in educating such residents.

Q. Why are the collection vehicles always breaking down and missing collections?

A. The Council are planning to replace the fleet of vehicles once the changes are implemented.

Q. The policy to qualify for larger/additional general waste bins has changed, it was 5 adults per household and now it is 6, why?

A. Rochdale Council is the most generous in size of residual waste bins compared to other authorities. The main criteria for qualifying for a larger bin is whether the household are recycling to the maximum capacity.

Q. Having more bins per household has created a problem for a resident; there is a covenant on the land at the rear of the house that states bin space has to be provided for neighbouring properties.

A. Alison Horton agreed to look at this situation or any other situation to advise on ways in which Rochdale Council may be able to help.

Q. How long can the Council afford to supply free caddy liners?

A. It is cheaper for the Council to buy in bulk amounts. There is no obligation to use the liners or the kitchen caddy.

## **7. OPEN FORUM**

### **Railway Street Parking**

A resident is concerned at the number of Metrolink users that park their vehicles on this and surrounding streets sometimes restricting access for delivery drivers. The resident was advised that if a parked vehicle is causing an obstruction then it is a police matter and nobody has the right to park on the Highways outside their home. Councillors are looking into the options for increased parking at the Coral Mill Site.

### **Traffic Lights on Elizabethan Way**

Residents are concerned about the timing and synchronisation of the lights at Elizabethan Way. The timing of the lights is causing increased delays and queues even in a morning when the traffic used to be free flowing. Apparently there was a recent RTA, following this timing of the lights and the traffic queues have got much worse.

**Action 2: Report concerns to Highways (Tracey Knight)**

### **Kiln Lane Traffic**

A resident complained about the lack of action taken by the Council concerning the level of heavy traffic and the number of road traffic accidents on Kiln Lane. It was explained that the Council can't control the traffic volume and size; this road is part of the strategic network and is a diversion route from the motorway.

The resident reported that there was a sign at the bottom of Kiln Lane advising 'Road unsuitable for HGVs' which would help if returned.

**Action 3: Request advice form Highways regarding installing similar signage (Tracey Knight)**

### **Homeless People in Rochdale Town Centre**

A resident raised concerns regarding homeless people being removed from the Town Centre and asked Councillors their views on this issue. Councillor Butterworth explained that the Police are being lenient and as soon as hostel places become available they are refilled. A new scheme ran by Petrus will be available soon. This scheme will engage with homeless people offering them an opportunity to learn new skills on their community allotment. It was explained that the Salvation Army facility closed due to lack of funding.

### **8. FIRGROVE FORUM PROPOSAL**

Attendees were consulted on their views to incorporate Firgrove into the Milnrow and Newhey Area Forum. Some Firgrove residents already attend the forum and due to the geography of the wards it makes sense for the merge. The forum were in agreement with this proposal. The forum will now be called Milnrow, Newhey and Firgrove Area Forum.

### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was suggested that the Head Teacher from Hollingworth High School be invited to attend the next forum to update the community on developments at the school. The forum were in favour of this suggestion.

**Action 4: Invite the Hollingworth Academy Head Teacher to the next meeting (Tracey Knight)**

### **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17 September 2015 at 7pm in Milnrow Cricket Club

8 December 2015 at 7pm in Milnrow Cricket Club

24 March 2015 at 7pm in Milnrow Cricket Club