

HEALEY AREA FORUM

Thursday, 8 October 2015

MINUTES

Present: B. Cumpstay, A. Evans, M. Fraser, G. Walczak, H. Connely, R. Connely, R. Butterworth, J. Kennedy, S. Acton (Chair), G. Bowden-Watts, D. Barnett, L. Durrant, A. Rawstron, J. Hayes, J. Ashworth, H. Butterworth, K. Butterworth, G. Mills, E. Walton, J. Walton. N. Dixon, A. Neilson and J. Murphy

Officers: G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer) and PCSO Martin Smith

Councillors: Councillor O'Neill

Apologies: Councillors Heakin and Wazir.

36 PACT MEETING

PCSO Martin Smith informed the Forum that over the last three months the following incidents had been recorded:

- Twenty Six reported incidents of burglary.
- Twenty Six thefts from motor vehicles.
- Seven motor vehicle thefts.

It was also reported that a number of the burglary's had taken place following diversionary tactics and many of the above incidents were of an opportunistic nature.

The PCSO also reported that a number of arrests had been made.

The following issues were raised by the Forum:

- Lack of communication from the Police.

There was general agreement from the Forum that communication from the Police to residents via Homewatch Co-ordinators in the Ward was poor.

Response: It was accepted that communication from the police had been poor and that it needed to improve.

It was explained that reductions in resources did not help the situation, however it was understood that communicating with residents in the Ward was crucial. It was also agreed that the profile of Homewatch should be raised and communication between the police and this group be improved.

Action 1: PCSO Smith will investigate and attempt to improve this situation.

- Travellers

A number of residents raised concerns about the way in which the police managed and behaved with travellers during the recent encroachment onto the Common.

Anecdotal evidence presented at the meeting suggested that Police Officers appeared to be too friendly with the travellers; sitting in caravans and riding on quad bikes. In general residents were of the opinion that the police were giving the wrong impression and were not policing the incident in the appropriate manner.

In addition residents commented that they had received information that the police had diverted the travellers onto the Common.

Response: The PCSO in attendance could not comment on any of the above allegations.

Action 2: Gary Finch to contact GMP requesting feedback on the above comments.

Action 3: Gary Finch to invite Peter Maynard (Strategic Housing) to the next Area Forum meeting to discuss the process involved in dealing with unauthorised traveller encampments.

It was agreed that the PACT priorities for the next three months would be improving communication between the Police and Homewatch Co-ordinators, burglary and motor vehicle crime.

37 **OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO RAISE CONCERNS**

The following issues were raised during the Forum:

- Cronkeyshaw Common Trench.

Concerns were raised about the unsightliness and potential effectiveness of the trench taking into consideration the recent encroachment by travellers onto the Common. It was stated that the trench fills with water and rubbish has been thrown into it. Questions were raised about how the area around the trench will be maintained in the future.

Response: It was explained that a meeting had been held recently at Syke Base to discuss many of these issues.

Although it was accepted that the trench is not a particularly attractive feature its main purpose is to act as a deterrent and stop unauthorised encroachment onto the Common. Residents had been keen that something should be done to deter travellers and action to do this has now been taken.

It was explained that the recent traveller encroachment was arguably an opportunistic incident in that the trench development is work in progress and access onto the Common was at the time still possible.

The Forum was also informed that work on the trench has now ceased following requests from residents. Work will recommence if travellers revisit the area. This situation will be monitored.

Action 4: Gary Finch to invite an Environmental Management representative to the next meeting of the Area Forum to explain how the trench will be maintained in the future.

- Parking on the Common

Concerns were again raised about parking on the common particularly the area close to the Hunters Rest Public House.

Response: Although an earlier meeting of the Area Forum had agreed for the placement of a number of bollards near to the public house to deter parking on the Common a subsequent meeting had agreed to defer this work until the 'road with no name' project and the traffic study in the area had been completed.

However it was agreed that a number of 'No parking on the Common' signs be placed at appropriate spots around the Common.

Action 5: Gary Finch to investigate the cost of placing 'No parking on the Common' signs around the Common and secure funding for this initiative.

- Syke Road

The Forum was informed that the survey to investigate traffic problems around the Syke Road area had been commissioned and was likely to be completed within three months.

- Parking Bays on the Common

The Forum was informed that Environmental Management / Highways had been asked to investigate if the parking bays that have been available on the Common historically are still in operation.

A number of residents expressed their thanks with the work that had recently taken place on the Common in relation to the footpaths.

40 UPDATES ON ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS - SEE ACTION SHEET

The following updates were provided in relation to the issues on the action sheet:

Dog Fouling: Concerns over dog fouling on the Common.

Ongoing. Arrangements to be made for 'no dog fouling signs' to be placed around the Common.

VE Day: Query over the siting of beacons across the borough.

Resident contacted regarding query.

Parking on the Common

Ongoing. Arrangements to be made for 'no parking on the Common' signs to be placed around the Common.

'A' Board on Common

Removed.

Grass Verges

The Forum was reminded that contractors have six months to carry out any remedial work for damage caused during planned work.

Syke Pond

The work previously carried out on the pond was completed as requested.

Defibrillator: Query over the siting of a defibrillator at Syke Methodist Church / Syke Base.

Ongoing.

Graffiti & Street Sign

Graffiti removed and sign improved

Hawley Green Bushes

Ongoing

Healey Hotel Road Surface

Ongoing

Shawclough Road / Dell Road Pot Hole

Ongoing

Redcross Street / St Mary's Gate: Motorist cutting across dual carriageway.

Ongoing

Whitworth Road (Gale Street) Shops Parking: Cars regularly blocking the bus stop.

Ongoing

'A' Boards Policy.

Ongoing

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2015

Apologies had been received from Councillors Heakin and Wazir.

The minutes of Healey Area Forum held on Thursday 16th July 2015 were approved as a correct record.

42 MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS AGENDA ITEMS

The following matters were commented upon:

- Concerns were raised over speeding cars on Height's Lane.

Response: A speed survey has been commissioned to investigate this issue.

- Clean and Green Team drive on the Common when emptying bins.

Response: Will be reported to the appropriate service.

- How can we control the stealing of recycling waste bins.

Response: Difficult to control, however please report to Environmental Management.

- The grass opposite the Healey Public House has been cut, however the to-let sign remains on the land.

Response: Will be reported to the appropriate service.

- The footpaths near to Minky Mill need to be repaired.

Response: Will report to the appropriate service.

43 **COUNCILLORS' NEWS**

The Forum was informed that:

- The work of the Clean and Green Teams may be extended into the winter months.
- The contractors working on Townhead will be working through the night over the next couple of weeks.

The Chair also informed the Forum that the latest news regarding the Townhead Project had been posted on the Council's website.

44 **GOOD NEWS FROM PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND SYKE COMMUNITY BASE**

The Chair informed the Forum that:

- An autumn fair will be held at Syke Chapel on the 19th October 2015, 11am till 2pm.
- A Harvest Breakfast had recently been held.
- A coffee morning had recently been held in support of Macmillan Nurses, £450 had been raised.
- A wide range of short accredited courses are available at Syke Base.

45 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING - 28 JANUARY 2016**

Syke Methodist Church

28th January 2015

PACT meeting to commence 6.30pm, Forum 7pm.