

# MILNROW, NEWHEY AND FIRGROVE AREA FORUM

Thursday 10 December 2015  
Milnrow Cricket Club, Harbour Lane, Milnrow OL16 4HF

## MINUTES

**Present:** S. Lowe (Chair), D. Cranny, Z. Cranny, I. Rigby, J. Sampson, J. Ashley, M. Thompson, A. Turner, R. Horton, C. Chadwick, C. Baron, D. Dawai, I. Bland and B. Greenwood

**Councillors:** Councillor Brett

**Officers:** Tracey Bland (Corporate Finance), Tracey Knight, (Township Management) and PCSO Broome (GMP)

**Apologies:** Councillors Blundell, Butterworth, Hussain, Kelly, Mir (RBC) C. Houston, I. Davidson and J. Edge

### 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.

#### **Milnrow and Newhey Crime Update**

There has been a significant decrease in burglaries, vehicle crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour which is usual for this time of year and, following the usual trend, is likely to increase over the festive period.

#### **Kiln Lane**

A resident expressed his concern that nothing has been done to address the traffic and road safety issues faced by the residents on Kiln Lane. A discussion took place which tried to explain the difficulties that the Police and Council face, there is no easy solution. There are no prohibitions for traffic, HGVs are permitted to use the roads and it is a motorway diversion route. It was acknowledged that GMP does not have the resources available to man the junction every day to enforce the speed limits. The majority of drivers do observe the speed limits and drive courteously, it is the minority of motorists that cause the problems but this is very difficult to resolve given the lack of budget and resources for both GMP and the Council.

**Action 1: Arrange a partnership meeting with GMP, Rochdale Borough Council and the resident to explain the limitations in order to manage residents' expectations (Tracey Knight)**

#### **PACT Priority for Milnrow and Newhey**

- Burglaries
- Vehicle Crime

#### **Firgrove Crime Update**

The crime figures for Firgrove have also decreased since the last quarter, again due to the time of

year. Operation Dark Nights is working in the area to advise vulnerable looking households to leave a light on or use light timers to discourage potential burglars.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record. The following updates were given:

#### **Kiln Lane request for speed humps**

The section of Kiln Lane not already covered by traffic calming forms part of the B6225 and is part of the strategic network linking the M62 to Littleborough and beyond. As such it carries a considerable amount of traffic. Highways would not place traffic calming on this section of Kiln Lane for this reason. Also placing speed humps on inclines such as Kiln Lane causes real issues for vehicles travelling up hill, especially in the winter.

#### **Hollingworth Academy - Clarify planning errors**

The Planning Manager confirmed there was confusion about the purpose of the extension initially and this was clarified during the course of the planning application. This issue arose as the applicant's agent had described it as a 'pupil referral unit' on the planning application form submitted to the Council and this description was used on the letters that were sent to members of the public inviting comments on the application. This element of the description of development was subsequently changed to 'pupil inclusion unit'.

#### **Hollingworth Academy parking enforcement**

Hollingworth Academy is already identified as a priority one; this means it receives the maximum enforcement level possible. It is difficult to patrol every school every day, but the Parking Enforcement Manager will ensure the area remains a priority one for the foreseeable future.

#### **Broom Street Rat Run**

Response from Highways - We have reviewed the residual effects of the new traffic signal installation at the junction of Huddersfield Road and Newhey Road. An in-depth safety audit and analysis of the changes has been completed. The recommendation in the report was: "Sever the Broom Street route to prevent the 'rat running' problem."

Severing the route would be the most effective solution but would require funding. This process involves the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and consulting those affected. This may result in objections, in which case a decision would be made on the introduction of the TRO. As Broom Street and Garden Street already have a prohibition of driving, Highways will also pass these concerns on to the Police who have the ability to enforce the restriction.

#### **Silver Hill blind bend**

Highways confirmed that they continually monitor all recorded personal injury collisions within the borough to identify collision hotspots where we can target our limited resources. They have interrogated the collision database and results show that there has been only one recorded personal injury collision in the Silver Hill estate since our records began in 2002. This incident was at the junction of Croft Head Drive and Silver Hill. As such this would place the area low on our priority list for action.

#### **Princess Road/Willows Lane one way system**

It is a recognised fact that there is an increase in vehicle speeds on 'one way' streets; this is down to drivers knowing that they will not be opposed by oncoming traffic. Introduction of such a lengthy one way system in a residential area would also prove unworkable as residents at the start of the one way system (2 to 22 Princess Road) would be reluctant to go all the way round the system to exit onto Rochdale Road. The temptation would be to contravene the one way, resulting in conflict.

#### **Princess Road chemical smell**

Residents are advised to keep a log as directed and report instances to Environmental Health on 0300 303 8871.

### **Rochdale Road pavement pot hole**

The pot hole was inspected but didn't meet the 22mm depth criteria for filling.

### **School Crossing Patrol, Crossgates School**

The post has been filled and operational since 7 December.

## **4. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET CHALLENGE - VICKY CROSSLAND**

The forum was shown an animation detailing the savings the Council needs to make over the next two years. The forum was asked to forward their ideas and suggestions in the freepost envelope provided on how to help the Council deal with the financial challenges they are currently facing.

### **Facts and Figures**

A resident asked what the percentage savings meant in monetary terms, it is difficult to understand the impact a percentage cut will have without knowing the overall budget and the figures.

It was agreed that this was a valid point and it will be fed back and incorporated, where possible, into future consultations. A large proportion of the Council's annual budget is protected for schools, the remaining budget is very small in comparison.

### **Waste and Recycling**

A discussion took place regarding recycling processes (these were addressed in the open forum). It was noted that a small percentage of residual waste now goes to landfill, resulting in savings for the Council.

### **Staff Reductions**

A resident acknowledged the huge financial implications that the savings will have on the Borough and asked the following –

- If Council staff has reduced by 1,000, how many of the 60 Councillors posts have been reduced?
- Why is the Council spending 2 million on the river re-opening in such austere times?
- Why has Rochdale Market been moved out of the centre, which adversely affects traders' business?

It was explained that the posts that have been deleted were mainly back office staff and that by changing the way in which we operate has improved our efficiency and resulted in these savings, the priority is to protect front line staff.

The Council haven't spent 2 million on the river re-opening; external grants have funded much of the work.

The Council isn't responsible for the market relocation; this is the responsibility of the Exchange Shopping Centre.

## **5. MILNROW CLOCK UPDATE**

An update was provided by Councillor Kelly which detailed the progress made to date with the restoration of the clock. The update was presented by the Chair as follows:

- Conversation with owner in October and permission for access granted.
- Access to clock tower gained last month, visual inspection and photographs taken.
- Information passed on to Keith Mellor at Horological Society for comment.
- Original quotes and reports obtained and contact made with clock makers/menders.
- New quotes to be obtained.
- Meeting with Heritage Lottery Fund in December to ascertain grant programme and scope of works and activity plan/ audience education, etc.

**Other info:**

2017 will commemorate 50 years since the clock was last worked on and provides a good target for completion of work.

The owner has requested that the bell not be restored as the building is now a residential dwelling. This gives us the possibility of re-siting the actual bell for display?

HLF have been welcoming of the project although this is no guarantee of funding at this stage.

An application to be worked up in 2016 once new quotes have been obtained.

The Chair of the Friends of Milnrow Clock was present at the meeting, along with other committee members, and they expressed their concern and disappointment at not being aware of the progress made and of the Milnrow Clock meetings that had taken place. They are keen to be a part of the restoration project and would like to be invited to attend the Heritage Lottery meeting in December as referred to in the update.

**Action 2: Pass on these concerns to Councillor Kelly and request the Chair and Members are invited to future meetings including the Heritage Lottery meeting (Tracey Knight)**

**Milnrow Library Access**

Residents asked for an update on the progress made to install a lift at Milnrow Library. It was explained that because the Library is a listed building with internal wall tiles of particular historical interest and value that an internal lift wasn't feasible. Following a number of site meetings and discussions with Historic England, Planning Officers and building surveyors, an exemption to DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) was applied for. This status would allow use of the room providing certain conditions are met including making sure that whatever Council activities are on offer upstairs they are also made available in an accessible room elsewhere. It was confirmed that the room will be available to the community for hire.

**6. OPEN FORUM****Recycling Kerb Collections**

A Rochdale Road resident is concerned that she has been instructed to leave her food waste caddy at the kerb edge. She is concerned that the bin will be blown or knocked over and the contents spill on to the highway.

**Action 3: Seek advice from Environmental Management (Tracey Knight)**

**Rochdale Road issues**

Further fly-tipping is present including household items and building materials.

**Action 4: Report to Pennines Township Clean and Green Team (Tracey Knight)**

Waste bins are being left out at the rear of properties due to the erection of a double garage. Environmental Management deliver letters to residents instructing them to take their bins in once they have been emptied but some residents aren't able to do this now.

**Action 5: Speak with Estates and Environmental Management for advice (Tracey Knight)**

Some cars are parking at the back of Rochdale Road without agreement and therefore without paying.

**Action 6: Report to Estates and request action is taken (Tracey Knight)**

A resident complained about the state of the water logged area at the rear of 208 Rochdale Road. The resident was advised that the road is un-adopted; the Council doesn't have responsibility for the maintenance of it.

**Sheppards Memorial Funding**

Residents understand that there was funding made available by this local business in memory of

their brother. It is believed that the money was for Firgrove playing fields but the details are unknown.

**Action 7: Establish the details of the funding provided and how this was used (Tracey Knight)**

#### **East Street Fencing**

A resident reported that her fence is being continually knocked down by footballers using Firgrove pitches.

**Action 8: Establish with Environmental Management if there is a solution to this issue (Tracey Knight)**

#### **Aldi Car Park**

A resident referred to a recent Rochdale Observer article claiming that the opening to the new Aldi store in Milnrow is too close to Buckley Hill Lane turning. The resident was advised that the plans for the car park had been through the planning process and agreed which indicates that in planning terms it isn't deemed an issue.

#### **Councillor Attendance**

Residents expressed their concerns at the lack of Councillors attending the meetings; this was the same for the previous meeting when there were no Councillors in attendance. It was explained that the meeting is for residents to raise their issues and report Council matters that concern them. Residents would, however, like Councillors to be in attendance as they know the history of issues and have more local knowledge. They appreciate that they can raise issues with the Township Officer but would also like Councillors input at the meetings.

#### **Railway Street Parking**

A resident informed the forum that parking is still an issue in this area; cars are double parking and causing obstructions. The problems are worse at weekends and at peak times, Monday – Friday.

**Action 9: Request parking enforcement for this area (Tracey Knight)**

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

No other business was raised.

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

Thursday 24 March 2016 at 7pm in Milnrow Cricket Club