

MILNROW, NEWHEY AND FIRGROVE AREA FORUM

Thursday 22 September 2016
Milnrow Cricket Club, Harbour Lane
Milnrow OL16 4HF

MINUTES

Present: S. Lowe (Chair), D. Cranny, Z. Cranny, C. Baron, D. Dawai, S. Knight, I. Bland, M. Thompson, I. Rigby, C. Chadwick, C. Howard, K. Budd, C. Barber, S. Chance, D. Greenhalgh, C. Craven, M. Lawson and G. Lawson

Councillors: Councillors Butterworth and Davidson

Officers: Sgt Glyn Martin, PC Martin Adams (GMP), Heather Mellalieu (RBC Youth Service) and Tracey Knight (Townships)

Apologies: Councillors Blundell, Hussain, Kelly, Mir (RBC), PCSO Broome (GMP), S. Leach, E. Turner and C. Houston

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. PACT - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Police introduced themselves and gave the following updates:

Crime Figures	Current quarter	Previous quarter
Burglaries	17	19
Vehicle Crime	9	10
Anti-Social Behaviour	36	59

Of the 17 reported burglaries, 9 of them were through insecurities and could have been avoided. The forum were encouraged to lock their windows and doors, keep valuables and keys out of sight and leave a light on, don't be an easy target.

A known car thief is currently serving a three month jail sentence; the figures for motor vehicle crime should reduce as a consequence. Residents reported several sightings of a vehicle driving at speed throughout Milnrow and The Cray; the details were given to the Police.

The reduction in ASB figures reflects the recent move, out of the area, of a key offender. Following usual trends, figures should continue to decrease moving into the autumn and winter months.

The Police advised that Operation Dark Nights will soon commence. Residents were advised to leave low energy lights on during the dark nights as it acts as a deterrent for would be burglars. ASB is expected to increase around Halloween and Bonfire Night. Issues can be reported to the Police on 101 or to Rochdale Council on 0300 303 8878.

Off road bikes and quads are still causing a nuisance in Milnrow and Newhey villages. The Police advised that they need to catch offenders in the act to be able to enforce the law; Police Officers are not permitted to chase offenders on their bikes because of the associated high risks. Residents advised that the culprits have been on a community Facebook site condoning their actions.

Sgt Martin and his officers were thanked for their commitment and dedication in their policing of the Pennines area, and they were also thanked for their honesty in their advice and open and frank discussions.

Action 1: Interrogate social media for quad bike offender intelligence (GMP)

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record, and the following action updates were given:

Action 1: Dale Mill Squatters

The Police and Councillors confirmed this is no longer an issue. Security continues to patrol the site.

Action 2: Community Speed Watch – The Cray

The Police advised that Milnrow and The Cray are not currently registered as a Community Concern Area.

Action 3: Request a Traffic Survey of The Cray

The forum was advised that the Township has funded a traffic survey for The Cray; the consultation may still be open for comment via Rochdale Council's website. The area of consultation has already been defined; additional areas cannot be added at this late stage.

Action 4: Princess Road Weed Spraying

An update from Environmental Management was provided. The first weed treatment started in the second week of April and was completed by mid-May. The second treatment started on 22 July 2016 and is still in progress due to poor weather. It should be completed in the next few weeks. The Council are considering starting the third spray as soon as this one is finished which should be sufficient until next season.

Action 5: Grot Spot Rear of Rochdale Road

The resident confirmed the clean-up had taken place.

Action 6: Litter Rear of Kingsway Retail Park

The area had been litter-picked twice since the last meeting.

Action 7: Lack of Speed Limit Signage in Firgrove

Response received from Highways - Rochdale Road, Firgrove has a system of street lamps and therefore the national speed limit of 30mph applies. Signs are only provided where there are street lamps and a speed limit different to that of the national speed limit.

Action 8: Public Footpaths Blocked in Milnrow

The forum was advised that the public rights of way in the area had been walked by John Edge who hadn't found any issue with them being blocked.

4. MILNROW CLOCK

Updates given by Councillor Davidson on behalf of the Friends of Milnrow Clock as follows:

- Andrew Kelly Estate Agents have spoken to the clock owner on behalf of the Friends of Milnrow Clock. The group have now received the conditions by which they need to abide in order to proceed; the conditions are there to protect the nearby residents.

- The group are concentrating their efforts in determining the clock's history; local schools are encouraged to get involved. The Youth Service offered to assist with the young people they work with.
- Once the history had been determined, the next step would be to apply for Heritage Lottery funding to restore/replace the clock.

5. OPEN FORUM

Litter Bin on Canal

A resident made a request for a litter bin to be installed near to the canal at the start of the Barrett's Estate on Rochdale Road.

Action 2: Establish if a litter bin meets the criteria for this area (Tracey Knight)

Chemical Smell on Rochdale Road

The residents updated the forum that the smell hadn't been as noticeable recently. The diary sheets had been completed and returned to the Council but had not been received by the Public Protection Department; the source of the smell has not yet been identified. Other residents complained about a similar smell at Albert Royds Street.

Hollingworth Grange Residents Association

Residents reported issues with the flow of water in the stream on Water Lane, and debris needs clearing to improve the movement. Councillors advised that they have met with the Environment Agency to make them aware of the stream and discuss the issues. Work is ongoing.

There is also an issue regarding gates that have been installed that possibly block a public right of way. Councillor Davidson was aware of the issue and will speak to the Council's Planning Department to raise the concern.

Flooding in Milnrow

A discussion took place regarding the large amount of recent rainfall causing flash floods and the impact of this on local shops, businesses and the community as a whole. It was acknowledged that the drains are not able to cope with the volume of water that falls. Highways are undertaking a project to investigate how to improve the functionality of the surface water drainage system in this area. As part of this there will be a CCTV survey of the drains on Dale Street and Kiln Lane. Gullies are also being repaired ahead of schedule which should improve their performance in this critical area.

Illegal Dumping

The forum was informed that the perpetrator of illegal dumping in the brook has admitted responsibility and is currently awaiting charges.

Planning on Cleveland Drive and Avenue Severn Drive

Residents were concerned that the land in between these two streets was being developed for housing without submitting a planning application and receiving approval. The Council confirmed they hadn't received a planning application for this area. Councillors also confirmed the Planning Enforcement Officer is dealing with the case.

Subway Graffiti

The existing graffiti on the subway walls has recently been painted over and whited out; a resident advised that more graffiti has now appeared. It was discussed that it is impossible to stop it happening but the Council will remove any offensive graffiti.

Firgrove Playing Fields

There are a number of ongoing issues in this area; a resident would like to know what date the Council took over the responsibility of the playing fields.

Action 3: Report the issues to Rochdale Council's Estates and establish the date on the deeds (Tracey Knight)

Local Bus Service Changes

There was a discussion about the impact of the withdrawal and changes of the local bus services. A petition has been handed to First Bus; a response hasn't yet been received. Some residents feel isolated; whilst some are constantly late for work and school because of the changes. There has also been a change to the Ring and Ride buses which has brought about increased difficulties for service users. The Councillors advised that they have met recently with Officers from TfGM to raise all these issues and stress the need for alternative options. Councillors are awaiting the outcome of that meeting.

Action 4: Invite TfGM and First Bus to the next Area Forum (Tracey Knight)

Grounds Maintenance on Hawthorn Lane

A resident wants to establish who is responsible for cutting the grass and trees on Hawthorn Lane, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing or Rochdale Borough Council, as they don't appear to get the same amount of attention as other neighbourhoods causing the area to be overgrown and look unsightly. The trees are also blocking the light from some of the properties.

Action 5: Establish who is responsible for grounds maintenance and report the issues (Tracey Knight)

Garages and Land at Rear of Rochdale Road

A resident reported that cars continue to park, free of charge, on the land at the rear of Rochdale Road that runs parallel to Firgrove playing fields, whilst other residents have to pay for this benefit. It was reported that some of the garages are in a poor state of repair and are unsightly. The resident asked for a further review of the garage sites and ground rents payable.

Action 6: Request Rochdale Council's Estates to carry out a review and inspection of the garage sites and ground rents (Tracey Knight)

Repainting Road Markings

A resident asked whether the current repainting of road markings on Smith Hill would be extended to include Pennine Drive.

Action 7: Establish if Pennine Drive will be included in the road marking repainting work (Tracey Knight)

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further business was raised.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8 December 2016