

MILNROW, NEWHEY AND FIRGROVE AREA FORUM

Thursday 16 March 2017
Milnrow Cricket Club, Harbour Lane,
Milnrow OL16 4HF

MINUTES

Present: C. Baron, D. Dawai, A. Turner, M. Hopkinson, I. Bland, M. Thompson, B. Greenwood, J. Edge, D. Greenhalgh, I. Rigby, Z. Cranny, D. Cranny, E. Thorpe, C. Barber, J. Sampson and J. Ashley

Councillors: Councillor Butterworth

Officers: Sgt Mark Hebron, PCSO Catherine Harrison, PCSO Angela Smith, (GMP) and Tracey Knight (Townships)

Apologies: Councillors Blundell, Davidson, Hussain, Kelly and Mir (RBC), Sgt Glyn Martin (GMP), S. Leach, C. Houston, S. Lowe (Chair) and D, Hannant

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Butterworth agreed to chair the meeting, everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. PACT - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Future of Policing Presentation

Sergeant Mark Hebron gave a presentation on the Greater Manchester Police Citizen's Contract and explained that the public are being consulted on the future of policing. He highlighted how crime is changing, funding is stretched, resources are reduced, the need for making best use of resources, five areas of priority and how neighbourhood policing will be central. A scenario based on problems caused by inconsiderate, bad neighbours was presented and discussed as to what Police involvement, if any, there should be which concluded that various Council Officers should deal with the matters. The questionnaire can be found using the following link

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/citizenscontractsurvey>

A discussion took place about the lack of local police resources, and residents were advised on the importance of reporting crime. Without the statistics it is unlikely that additional resources will be made available. A resident expressed her concern at the cost of the phone calls to 101, although residents are encouraged to report crimes. The resident was charged £4 to report a crime she had witnessed, which seems excessive.

Action 1: Concerns about the cost of 101 phone calls will be passed to GMP (Councillor Butterworth)

A resident raised the issue of HGVs parking on Station Road. It was explained that Parking Enforcement Officers can only take action where contravention of a parking restriction or condition enforced by a valid Traffic Regulation Order and indicated by the road markings or signage is observed. Whilst the use of an authorised parking area may not be convenient to other motorists, this does not constitute a contravention.

Action 2: Advise the HGV driver of the residents views regarding parking (PCSOs)

The following updates were provided:

Crime Figures:

	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017
Vehicle crime	3	6	1
Domestic burglary	12	6	1
Burglary other	2	3	1
Theft from person	0	0	0
Theft from dwelling	0	0	0
Theft cycles	0	2	2
Theft from vehicle	6	2	6
Shoplifting	3	6	4
Arson	1	0	0
Criminal damage	9	9	5
ASB	16	20	16

Kiln Lane Burglary

The offender who burgled the property, which has raised at the last meeting, has now been sentenced to four and a half years in prison for this and six other offences.

Dale Mill

The mill has now been made secure and ASB issues have decreased. It is believed the property has been sold.

Traffic Operation on Huddersfield Road

Residents thanked GMP for carrying out the operation; the Police advised that 33mph was the highest speed recorded. It was acknowledged that the high visibility of Officers resulted in cars reducing their speed.

Kiln Lane

Excessive speeding was raised again as was the need for improved anti-skid road surface in certain areas of the lane. Residents also requested school warning lights to advise motorists and to encourage them to take extra care.

Action 3: Pursue anti-skid surfacing and school warning lights (Councillor Butterworth)

Huddersfield Road Parking

It was reported that cars are parking on Huddersfield Road and causing an obstruction.

Action 4: Pass issue on to the Traffic Police (PCSOs)

Ice Cream Van in Milnrow Memorial Park

Concerns were raised regarding suspected drug dealings in the park.

Action 5: Pass on the information to Sgt Martin (PCSOs)

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

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

The following action updates were given.

Action 1: Speeding on Kiln Lane

Pennines Township have funded a speed traffic survey for Kiln Lane. The results will be brought to a future meeting.

Action 2: No Right Turn on Ladyhouse Lane

A meeting has been held with Highways about this issue and they have agreed to cost out two

options 1) to sever the route and 2) to make it a one way system. These options will then be presented to Pennines Township for Members to consider. Funding has yet to be identified for the project.

Action 5: Road Markings - Egremont Road, Elizabethan Way and Beechfield Road

The advice provided by the Department for Transport is that give way or stop lines should only be considered where a minor road intersects with a major road. Where no markings are provided then no one has priority and the junction should be treated as courtesy junction by all motorists. Experience has shown that where junction markings are provided then the speeds on the route given the priority increase. Additionally National policy requires us to reduce to the minimum the use of signs and lines on the public highway thus reducing the clutter caused by them. A further consideration we must give is that of future maintenance costs. An investigation of the residential estate around Egremont Road, Beechfield Road, etc has been carried out and it is clear that the lines have not been maintained for many years and are currently almost non-existent and hence ineffective. Records show that there have been no recorded accidents at any of the junctions in the last three years. It has therefore been determined that the lines are unnecessary. As Elizabethan Way is a major road an Engineer will visit the site and determine whether it requires immediate attention or can be added to the list of planned lining maintenance.

Action 7: Parking on Railway Street

A response has been received from Highways. Residents' parking zones are introduced where there is competing demand for parking spaces within a residential area caused by an adjacent factory, shopping area, etc, so as not to simply pass the problem on to the next available street. Zones are identified of sufficient size to deter use by non-residents. There needs to be full support for the introduction of a scheme by the majority of the residents and the policy criteria must be met.

4. OPEN FORUM

Rochdale Road Pot Hole

A resident advised that a pot hole has appeared on Rochdale Road which was resurfaced in the middle of last year. A discussion took place regarding the quality of works and value for money.

Action 6: Report pot hole and issue to Highways (Tracey Knight)

Highways Contract

The forum was advised that the current contract is being examined, neither the contractor nor the Council are fulfilling their role. It is hoped that through the Council's procurement service the Council will, in the future, be able to utilise smaller local companies to carry out Highways work.

West Street Pot Holes

A resident was advised that West Street is not an adopted highway, however, Pennines Township have a grant fund called 'Friends of My Backyard' which can be used for match funding improvements on unadopted land.

Litter Bins on Kiln Lane

A resident reported the litter bin had been removed, a while ago, from outside Crossgates Primary School. A replacement bin has been requested.

Elizabethan Way Speed Limits

A request was received to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on this stretch of road. There is increased traffic due to Aldi and it is perceived there is an increased risk of traffic accidents. Also there is a concern regarding the ability of vehicles being able to stop at the pedestrian crossing when travelling at 40mph.

Action 7: Seek Highways' advice regarding the speed limits (Tracey Knight)

Weir Road Road Surface

A resident again reported the deterioration of the road surface and requested that the road be considered for resurfacing.

Action 8: Request inspection of the road (Tracey Knight)

Rear of Rochdale Road, Firgrove

A number of issues were raised regarding garage rents, potholes, fly-tipping, ownership and responsibility for the land.

Action 9: Arrange a meeting with the appropriate officers to discuss the resident's issues (Tracey Knight)

Motorway Fencing

A resident reported that the fencing at the back of Water Lane is deteriorating and needs replacing.

Action 10: Report the issue to Environmental Management (Tracey Knight)

5. MILNROW CLOCK UPDATE

Update from the Chair of The Friends of Milnrow Clock – Joe informed the forum he provided funds to set up the group originally. The group do not have meetings. The group now have access to the clock tower but it is full of pigeon droppings. The clock has been stopped for a number of years; the firm that made it is still in existence. There is permission to restore the clock but funding the work is the issue. It may be possible for the engineers at Ellenroad to assist with the restoration work.

Update from Councillor Kelly - With regards to the clock tower, we have a representative from the Heritage Lottery Fund coming to visit the village at the start of April and we are looking at a handful of heritage projects and listening to advice on what needs most work, what is feasible and which projects should be submitted in which order. One of the key pieces of work with the clock tower will be about education and ownership which we are seeking clarification on.

6. FUTURE MEETING INVITES

Due to Council efficiencies, invites to future meetings will be mainly sent via email, hard copies will still be mailed out to those that don't have access to email.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further business was raised.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

Police Contact Details:

Rochdale East

Tel: 0161 856 8549

Email rochdaleeast@gmp.police.uk

Facebook GMPRochdaleEast

Twitter @gmprochdaleeast

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Police non-emergency calls 101

Emergency calls 999

Sgt Glyn Martin

Mobile: 07393 009233

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