PRESENTER: Councillors Cecile Biant and Surinder Biant, S. Whitworth, B. Holden. Mr
& Mrs Kay, M. Oliver, L. Midgley, S. Ashworth, A. Milburn, R. Crabtree, Mr & Mrs
Somerville, M. Rashid, Mr & Mrs Forden, J. Moss, T. Le Monnier, C. Dodgson, G.
Mann, P. Massey (Chair), Mr & Mrs Fleming, P. Knowles, R. Heap, M. Coates, K.
Lawrence, C. Robinson, R. Le Monnier and C. Faulkner.

OFFICERS: PC P. Jones (GMP), G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer) and J.
Molyneux (Public Realm Inspector)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Cocks, , Mr and Mrs Ashworth, Karen and
Paul Salisbury, J. Addy, A. Meek, B. Patterson and Mr and Mrs Rawsterne.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that the Forum respect
the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Cocks, Mr and Mrs Ashworth, Karen
and Paul Salisbury, J. Addy, A. Meek, B. Patterson and Mr and Mrs Rawsterne.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

PC Phil Jones, GMP attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that crime incidents in relation to burglaries, theft of motor
vehicles, theft from motor vehicles and anti-social behaviour had decreased over the
past three months.

Residents raised the following concerns:

- Speeding vehicles (cars and mopeds) – Rooley Moor Road, Cutgate Road,
  Edenfield Road, Tenby Street, Mellor Street and Trengrove Street where
  identified as problematical areas.

- Off – road motor bikes – The top of Rooley Moor Road was identified as a
  particular hot spot for this type of activity.

Residents where encouraged to report incidents of this nature. However the
Forum was informed that GMP currently has a no pursuit policy. In response
to a question the officer informed the Forum that the use of drones was being
considered to assist in combatting this particular nuisance.

It was also reported that Operation Dragster is being funded again which will
hopefully help to address this problem.

- Problems accessing 101 – A number of residents stated that reporting
  incidents on 101 was difficult therefore it was viewed as not a particularly
  effective service.
PC Jones did state that residents could use his email address to report incidents or use 0161 856 8549.

- In response to a question the officer confirmed that it was impossible to investigate all reported incidents and that prioritisation took place.

- Drug dealing – Residents reported incidents of drug dealing – Churchill Street, Spotland Road and Tenby Street being identified.

  The Forum was informed that reducing drug dealing activity was difficult to address because of the size of the problem. However residents were encouraged to report incidents via the usual methods.

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) – Residents raised concerns about ASB in the Ward – Phoenix Street, Ings Lane, Spotland Road (near phone box), Denehurst Park, Churchill Street and Woodstock Street being identified as troublesome areas.

  The officer advised he would report the above. He also encouraged residents to continue reporting such incidents via the usual methods.

It was agreed that the PACT priorities for the following three months will be:

Off road-bikes, ASB (Phoenix Street, Churchill Street and Woodstock Street) and Speeding (Cutgate Road)

The Chair thanked GMP and all emergency services for all their efforts during the recent terrorist attacks. This was endorsed by the Forum.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES
79
The minutes of the Area Forum held on Thursday 30th March 2017 were approved as a correct record subject to the following change:

Minute 73:

Remove – The placement of a planter at the corner of Churchill Street.

Insert – The planter at the corner of Churchill Street / Rooley Moor Road to be replanted.

The following updates were provided:

- Meanwood School Fencing

  The Forum was informed that two meeting had taken place between Jason Addy and Township Officers and both parties were hopeful that further progress could be made.

  A meeting of the Friends of Denehurst Park was due to be held on the 20th July which would determine if the fencing could be sited in the park. If the Friends Group did not want the fencing an alternative site would need to be identified as would a third party who satisfied Rochdale Township terms and conditions to sponsor the project.
- Hedges on Ings Lane

The Township and Engagement Officer informed the Forum that he had visited the site and understood the concerns raised regarding the condition of the fencing. Following discussion it was agreed that this issue was not considered a priority for financial support at this time.

- Land at the Junction of Edenfield Road / Ings Lane

It was reiterated that a decision had been made to sell the land, therefore it could not be leased. It was expected that a ‘for sale’ sign would be positioned on the land soon.

- Safety barrier – junction of Sandy Lane / Viking Street

The Forum was informed that this project was being progressed. Discussions had also taken place about the possible placement of a safety barrier near to 147 Edenfield Road (corner of Edenfield Road / Sandy Lane)

- Section 106 Funds

It was reported that the Section 106 Funds available to the Ward had to be committed by June 2020 and that the support offered by the Forum for the development of Ings Lane play area had been relayed to Environmental Management and the Section 106 Officer.

A resident then raised concerns about the recent report that had been presented to Planning and Licensing Committee on the 3rd July requesting the Committee to modify the Section 106 Agreement that relates to the former Alexander Drew Site, Mellor Street, Rochdale. The request sought to remove the requirement to make financial contributions towards off-site local open space, outdoor sports provision and junction improvement works.

Following an exchange of views about this proposal and residents questioning the reliability of some of the narrative within the report the Forum was reminded that a decision on this request was deferred by the Committee pending further information.

The Township and Engagement Officer was requested to find out what the process was for initiating Section 106 Agreement modifications.

MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS 2017/2018 AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED DURING 2016/2017

The Forum was informed that for 2017/2018 financial year funds allocated to the Ward were as follows:

Ward Funds - £8000
Members Funds - £6000 (Each Ward Councillor had an allocation of £2000)

Information was also presented to the meeting which identified the projects / initiatives that were supported in the Ward during 2016/2017. This information can be accessed via the link below.

Spotland & Falinge Ward supported projects/initiatives
OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN THE WARD

The following issues were raised by residents:

1. **TBA**

In response to a number of questions raised at the last Forum in relation to TBA the following statement from Rochdale Council was circulated:

- *The RBC commissioned air sampling – we have met with our contractor who is currently preparing the report for us. As soon as we get the report we will make it available to the public.*

- *The site owner’s intrusive site survey – work has finished on site and the contractor is preparing the final report for the site owner. The site owner has said they will share the report with the Council. We have no timeframe on this.*

- *Large scale fly-tipped materials on site – the Environment Agency are undertaking a criminal investigation into the waste/disposal chain. They have said they will not provide any information which may compromise their investigation. All regulators have a duty to pursue all avenues of investigation and this can be seen as protracted. However the Environment Agency have confirmed that they are now drawing towards a conclusion, unless any new avenues are opened up.*

- *Small scale fly-tipped materials onto site in the Woodlands Road area (tyres and household materials) – all this waste material has been cleared by the site owner.*

With regards to the question about the safety of the buildings; as the site is privately owned the site owner is responsible for the site and the buildings contained within. The Council is aware of the concerns of residents and has worked with partner agencies (GMFRS and GMP) and residents representatives and have developed an emergency response plan specifically for this site should anything happen (like another fire).

With regards to physical safety, people should not be trespassing onto site or into the buildings. The owner has 24 hr site security to prevent unauthorised access.

The above statement prompted a lengthy discussion on the way in which the Council has handled the ongoing TBA situation with the following concerns / comments being raised:

- What action has been taken regarding the illegal tipping that has taken place on the site?

- Will survey results be made available to the public?

- What responsibility does the local authority have with regards to the building’s safety?

- Lack of openness and transparency between the local authority and residents in discussions about the TBA site.
- The Local Authority has a duty of care.

A resident also circulated a questionnaire which the Township and Engagement Officer agreed to pass to the appropriate Officer within the Council. A link to the questionnaire is provided below.

**TBA Site Questionnaire**

The Forum also expressed the view that they were dissatisfied with the way in which the Council had dealt with the TBA situation and angry and frustrated with the amount of time it has taken to publicise survey results.

2. Cutgate Road

A resident asked what had happened to the Cutgate Road traffic survey that was completed sometime ago.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

3. Agenda Packs

The Chair reminded the Forum that agenda packs would no longer be distributed in the mail. He encouraged everyone to cascade promotional material sent to residents via email about the Forum.

4. Ings lane TRO

The Chair thanked residents for raising objections to the recently advertised Ings Lane Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

Although an official response has yet to be received from the Council it is understood that the TRO will be significantly amended.

5. Denehurst Park

The Forum was informed of the extensive works that were planned for Denehurst Park and that the Chair would be having a meeting in the near future with the Officer responsible for developing the projects in the Park.

6. Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF)

The Forum was informed of two events associated with the above:

- Sunday 23rd July 2017 – Catley Lane Head clean up
- Sunday 13th August 2017 – RMNF Community Event

More details about these events can be found on the RMNF website - [http://www.rmnf.org.uk/](http://www.rmnf.org.uk/)

7. Public Realm Inspector

John Molyneux, Public Realm Inspector attended the meeting and explained that his role was concerned with responding and subsequently investigating / monitoring
incidents in the Ward that relate to environmental management / community safety.
John can be contacted on John. Molyneux H @ Rochdale.Gov.uk or 01706 922066.

8. Thank you to EM – recycling rates

The Forum congratulated Environmental Management on the work they had undertaken to increase recycling rates within the Ward and Borough generally.

9. Dog fouling

A resident complained of the dog fouling that occurs within the alleygated area at the rear of Belvoir Street.

10. Churchill Street – weeds and nettles

Concerns were raised about the number of weeds and nettles surrounding the edge of the school playing fields on Churchill Street. It was stated this had been reported to the school.

11. Volunteering

A resident urged others to come together to address some of the issues within the Ward. It was acknowledged that the Council could not act alone.

12. Trees

The Public Realm Inspector agreed to visit 73/75 Primrose Street and 9/15 Dellar Street in relation to problems being caused by trees.

13. Spotland & Falinge Ward Environmental Improvements

A resident raised concerns about the time it had taken to introduce the environmental improvement projects into the Ward which were agreed some months ago.

It was explained that the projects for the Ward are only part of a number of ‘in bloom’ type initiatives that had been commissioned from a number of Townships / Wards across the Borough. All these individual tasks have to be planned and the logistics of introducing the schemes in time for the ‘In Bloom’ competition was time consuming. It was also explained that the Spotland and Falinge requests were put forward later that other schemes therefore a degree of rescheduling had to occur.

The Forum was informed that it was hoped that all the projects should be introduced before the ‘In Bloom’ competition in August. It was also mentioned that a number of planters had been placed on Spotland Road.

14. Water Safety & Stay Safe

The Chair circulated a leaflet on water safety in response to the recent tragic death of a young person in Greenbooth Reservoir.

The Forum was also reminded of basic household safety precautions in preparation for the summer months / holiday period.

15. Rochdale Online
The Chair informed the Forum that he had arranged for the Spotland & Falinge Forum to be advertised on Rochdale Online.

16. Next Area Forum

Residents were reminded that the next Forum would take place on Thursday 24\textsuperscript{th} August 2017 at Spotland Methodist Church, commencing 7pm and anyone wanting to place an item on the agenda should do so as soon as possible. The Chair or the Township and Engagement Officer should be contacted in the first instance.

17. Pot Holes

A resident asked if the pot holes on Tenby Street could be filled in.

18. Additional Bollard

An additional bollard was requested at the end of Trengrove Street to stop mopeds accessing the area.

19. Removal of Graffiti

A resident asked if the graffiti on Spotland Methodist Church wall could be removed.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 24\textsuperscript{th} August 2017, commencing 7pm, Spotland Methodist Church.