

BALDERSTONE AND KIRKHOLT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday 20 June 2017
St Mary's Church, Oldham Road,
Balderstone, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: C. Mottershead, K. McBride and K. Ho

Councillors: Richard Farnell, Daniel Meredith and Kathleen Nickson

Officers: PCSO R. Adams (GMP) and R. Hudson (Rochdale Council - Townships)

Apologies: T. Lloyd MP, P. Colclough, B. Bergin and D. Holt

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attention was drawn to the code of conduct, a summary of which was read out. All attendees were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

2. PACT MEETING - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Crime

Priorities raised at the last meeting included off-road bikes. A resident again raised questions regarding any planned operations to reduce off-road bikes. A PCSO advised GMP Rochdale had requested figures from the Police Data Analyst on stats of locations and times and occurrences, etc and once this information is received a co-ordinated plan/operation to tackle the problem will be put together. A resident expressed concerns as he stated that mini motors had been a problem now for more than 4 years on Balderstone Park and he stated he had not witnessed any form of Police presence at prolific times. A PCSO noted all of the concerns and advised she would escalate to her Sergeant. Local ward Councillors advised that they had recently had a meeting with another local Sergeant regarding this very matter. The Councillors were advised that GMP experience frustrating problems because they cannot make chase to stop offenders due to safety. GMP rely on members of the public to witness these incidences and note details and descriptions of the riders and their bikes and always report it to the Police. Also if residents know where the bikes are stored it should be reported – even anonymously – so that GMP can seek to seize the bike and arrest the offenders. The problem with off-road bikes occurs in other wards all over the Borough.

Councillor Nickson stressed the importance of 'crimes against a person' also being reported to GMP so that vulnerable groups in the community like the elderly or those experiencing domestic violence, grooming, etc are protected.

GMP warned residents of recent occurrences of a female individual entering local elderly residential homes under pretence of being a 'carer' and being buzzed through the door or tail-gating those who were already entering. Premises are being visited by officers to warn staff and residents to be mindful. Distraction burglaries have also been an issue across the Borough recently, whereby

individuals have been targeting elderly residents' individual private properties.

Strand businesses have expressed concerns over excessive parking occurring outside their premises which are due to building works to the new 'hub'. GMP advised they can assist in getting vehicles moved if necessary and have done so recently with abandoned cars.

GMP reported that because of recent events in Manchester, local Police officers have been called upon to support divisions in Greater Manchester, resulting in a reduction in staff.

PACT Priorities agreed were;

1. Off-road motors
2. ASB/Youths Causing Annoyance (Balderstone Park and Library)
3. Reassurance for the elderly/vulnerable

Surgeries are held alternatively at the Kirkholt Drop-in Centre and Balderstone Library fortnightly on a Friday at 10-11am. Dates of surgeries are displayed on GMP's website (Rochdale North), Facebook and Twitter.

Statistics for the ward (past three months and compared to last year)

Anti-social behaviour	29	34
Robberies	2	3
Domestic burglaries	18	13
Burglary (others)	10	19
Theft of vehicle	4	5
Theft from vehicle	15	21
Criminal damage	35	36

3. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Councillor Meredith

Dean Farm, Balderstone – A planning permission was recently submitted and is awaiting an outcome. He has asked for an update regarding the drainage and management and of the noise-cancelling fence.

Pothole issues – A recent request for filling in of potholes at the Shell Garage site has now been sorted.

The Strand Health Centre – Building works are still to commence. The requisition of land to be used for the construction of the new Strand Health Centre has been agreed at Township Committee.

Recent casework has involved Hartley Lane and traffic management concerning residents' complaints. Parking services have assisted too.

Councillor Nickson

A project called 'A Sense of Place and Community' will be held this year in the ward which will enable residents to celebrate and share their cultural heritage. It will involve bringing together 22 nationalities in the ward.

A Christmas event involving a switch-on for the tree is also under discussion.

Councillor Farnell

Weekly surgeries are held at Balderstone Library on Saturdays at 10am and Kirkholt Drop-In Centre on Tuesdays at 2pm.

The Strand – Redevelopment works are underway for the new community centre and shops. The health centre has been agreed.

Hilltop Drive – New houses are being built as part of a large redevelopment phase. Works are moving forward with the former Balderstone School site including the addition of a new road.

Sandbrook School – Parking issues due to expansion of the school. Working with Parking Services and Police.

Kirkholt grass cutting – Complaints have been received about the quality of the actual cutting. Matter is being addressed with RBH.

Platting Lane – Works to be carried out at the junction.

Bulky Waste Amnesty – If residents live in the ward and they have bulky items they wish to get rid of, an amnesty is planned in July involving the collection of large items of waste for FREE. This bulky waste amnesty is to be funded by Balderstone & Kirkholt Ward Councillors using Ward Funds. Where possible, unwanted bulky items will be recycled. Good quality items fit for reuse will be collected and set aside for people who are looking for affordable furniture in their home. Dates of collection on 24 July, 31 July and 7 August 2017.

Fit, Feed & Read – This initiative was run last year at Smallbridge Library with tremendous success. Fit, Feed & Read will be rolled out across the Borough to several other sites including Balderstone Library and it will commence 24 July 2017. Sessions will be held on Mon/Thur/Fri from 11am to 2.30pm and on Tue from 11am to 12.30pm.

4. PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

Kirkholt Million

No one in attendance as B. Harrison has now moved out of the area. C. Mottershead gave a brief update. A new spending plan has recently been submitted which detailed plans for the next three years (years 1 and 2 were successful spent). Public engagement is still needed along with funding. Two members of staff are still employed as caseworkers at present.

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

No officers in attendance. A resident expressed disappointment at the lack of attendance stating it is getting to be a regular occurrence at the meeting. Councillor Meredith to address this issue with officers.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

6. OPEN FORUM

HMR Circle

A short presentation was given by K. Ho. Tea and Toast Sessions are still operating from Balderstone Library on the third and fourth Thursdays of each month at 10.30am-11.30am and they are a chance for residents to hear from different local health and well-being services, meet new people and enjoy a drink of tea or coffee and a biscuit for completely free.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 6.30pm

Venue: Kirkholt Community Church, Daventry Road, Kirkholt, Rochdale

Agendas and minutes of the meetings are available on the Council's website www.rochdale.gov.uk/councilmeetings under heading 'Councillors and committees' and 'Agendas, reports and minutes'.