

# BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

Monday 2 September 2013  
6.30pm at Bamford Chapel

## MINUTES

### PRESENT:

**Residents (35):** I. Sturrock (Chair), J.Pearsall, A. Teuton, C. Lord, B. Bulcock, P. McWilliam-Fowler, A. Kershaw, J. Riley, E. Sweatman, J. Taylor, M. Hunt, A. Shorrock, S. Richardson, J. Warner, B. Griffiths, R. Mallinder, Mr. S. Williams, Mrs. S. Williams, M. Mellor, D. Woodall, D. Payne, D. Ambrister, B. Colligan, H. M. Colligan, D. Moss, P. Moss, W.E. Griffiths, S. Jones, K. Flett, S. Grindrod, I. E. Woodburn, M. Burton, R. Doyle, P. Mooney, J. Bowker

**Councillors:** Ian Duckworth, Jane Gartside, Pat Sullivan and Peter Winkler

**Officers:** Stuart Hay (Rochdale Township), Diane Lodwig (RMBC Community Safety) and PCSO Colin Taylor (GMP)

**Press:** Sam Richardson, Rochdale Observer

### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies have been received from Councillor Colin Lambert and Linda Kerford.

### 2. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair outlined the code of conduct.

### 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given:

#### **Sandy Lane, Bury Road and Roch Valley Way Junction**

The Ward Councillors have continued to request a scheme to make improvements for pedestrians at the junction of Sandy Lane, Bury Road and Roch Valley Way. There are several current outstanding requests in the Borough and at a cost of £240K no scheme is likely in the foreseeable future. GMP will show a presence to deter traffic light jumpers.

GMP has been patrolling Bury Road and War Office Road to deter speeding vehicles and Metro Counters are awaited.

#### **Bins re-siting**

The bins around the football pitch at the rear of Bamford Green have been removed as the club were not emptying them. A copy Lease has been requested to examine responsibilities on the club to clean up and maintain the area and also if parking restrictions apply. The bins were provided by the Ward Councillors and should be re-sited at locations of their choosing, one of which is on Martlett Avenue around the drop zone area of the Precinct.

**Action: Request the re-siting of a bin on Martlett Avenue (Stuart Hay)**

### **School 20mph zone**

The 20mph area around St Michael's School is complete and ready for the new school year. Highways are working with the school to make sure the illuminated signs are used at optimum times including special events and the Casualty Reduction Team are introducing a new Zig Zag campaign this month. Part of the scheme included the continuation of double yellow lines on the east side of Queens Park Road right down to the bridge, opposite the school, still allowing vehicles to park only on the school. The use of the land at the side of the school as a car park has been looked at previously and is not feasible. Community Safety will deploy their liveried enforcement vehicle, fitted with cameras, to combat illegal parking, it is not calibrated to enforce against speeding.

Work on the Bamford Primary 20mph scheme is ongoing now.

### **Water tanks under Bamford Green**

United Utilities have submitted two planning applications in relation to the installation of water holding tanks under Bamford Green and residents are not opposed to the installation as it is intended to ease flooding in the area. However, residents are very concerned that the twelve months work involves the use of heavy plant and equipment to remove 700 cubic tons of earth using the private road dissecting The Green to Bamford Mews and the long lasting damage that may be caused to the road for which the residents are responsible. There is confusion over what United Utilities plans actually are, regards both the installation of holding tanks and the upgrade of the drains down the length of Norden Road, as some residents have been informed work is imminent and yet others received a letter saying that the work will not now proceed due to budgetary constraints.

**Action: Arrange meeting with United Utilities, residents, RMBC Officers and Ward Councillors (Stuart Hay)**

### **Dropped kerb on Martlett Avenue**

A request has been made to Highways to install another dropped kerb on Martlett Avenue near to the Precinct to complete the scheme of the others already installed and allow disabled residents to access the shops.

**Action: Chase up Highways (Stuart Hay)**

### **Potholes**

Highways have repaired all the reported pot holes by the Ward Councillors. Greenvale is in a poor state and Councillor Sullivan will request a Highways inspection.

### **Bury and Rochdale Old Road blocked drains**

The blocked drains on Bury and Rochdale Old Road have been cleared.

## **4. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

One Home Watch Coordinator had received no communication from GMP for a very long time and questioned whether the whole scheme was still operating. They are and are to be developed and PCSO Taylor will address the communication issue. Eon are demanding £100 to put back existing Home Watch signs on new lamp posts that were removed from the old ones. It was felt this is unacceptable and they should be replaced like for like as part of the contract.

**Action: Request Head of Street Lighting to take up with Eon (Stuart Hay)**

A commercial Luton van has been parking on Highlands Road, it was doing legally but a resident contacted the firm and asked them to park elsewhere on the road more sensibly which they have done since.

There has been recent suspicious activity on Crimble Lane. Diane Ludwig has already informed GMP who made some arrests for theft of copper and she will inform GMP of the latest activity.

The cause of the explosion at number 28 War Office Road is still under investigation.

The incident at the Post Office was a failed attempt robbery. There were four male offenders, the glass screen withheld a sledge hammer blow, the Post Master activated the alarm and the offenders fled empty handed.

There have been four burglaries in the Ward in the last month and with the dark nights drawing in a reminder was given to switch on lights and lock up.

## **5. OPEN FORUM**

### **Wordsworth Way resurfacing**

The road resurfacing on Wordsworth Way stopped half way down at Bamford Way, and the pot holes at the junction with Rochbury Close are very bad. Councillor Sullivan will check to see if the resurfacing programme included the whole of Wordsworth Way and report the pot holes in any case.

### **Problem trees**

The trees on Martlett Avenue, some private and some Council, are obstructing the footpath and need cutting back. Mick Ball from the RMBC Enforcement Team has been active in other areas of the Ward in getting residents to cut back their own offending trees and a request made for him to do the same on Martlett Avenue. The trees in the garden of the unoccupied house on the corner of Canterbury Close are blocking the footpath and the Hawthorn tree on Norden Road at the junction with Highlands Road is obstructing the newly installed street light and these also need cutting back.

**Action: Request Environmental Management Enforcement assessment and cut back (Stuart Hay)**

### **Overgrown ginnels**

Overgrown vegetation is obstructing the following ginnels: from Bury Road to Northdene Drive, from Hawthorn Road to Diggles Lane, particularly at the steps, and from Kemp Avenue to Finsbury Street and at the rear of Greenshank Way.

**Action: Request Environmental Management clearance (Stuart Hay)**

### **Mojitos Wine Bar noise pollution**

Complaints of noise pollution from Mojitos Wine Bar were made, loud music till midnight, and noise from people using the tables and chairs outside. Councillor Sullivan will take to Licensing.

### **A6045 Heywood Old Road proposed closure**

Several people have expressed concern over a Birch Village resident's proposal to close the A6045 Heywood Old Road at Birch Village between Langley Lane and Whittle Lane due to Heavy Goods Vehicles, this would be to the detriment of Bamford and Norden commuters. It was stressed that this is a resident's proposal only. A report from Highways is actually being presented to the Heywood Township Committee this night and the Middleton Township Committee this Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013. This report is to request funding for an Origin and Destination Survey to assess if or what the problem is and to come up with a solution. The total cost of the survey would be £45,000 with equal contributions of £15,000 from the two Townships and from Highways. Norden Ward Councillor Peter Winkler is attending Middleton Township Committee. All concerned will be kept updated.

### **Council Tax increase**

A discussion over the increase of over three percent in this year's RMBC Council Tax, due to the Precept, took place.

### **Roch Valley Way No Entry Signs**

A request was made to have No Entry Signs installed on safety grounds at Roch Valley Way at the junction with Manchester Road and Edinburgh Way to support the No Entry road markings already there as vehicles still regularly drive or attempt to drive in to Roch Valley Way against oncoming

traffic.

**Action: Request Highways consider (Stuart Hay)**

**6. BAMFORD WARD NEWS**

Nothing to report.

**7. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

6.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Bamford Chapel