

BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

Monday 2 June 2014
Bamford Chapel, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: I. Sturrock (Chair), C. Lord, Steve Williams, Sandra Williams, A. Teuton, J.S. Taylor, J.M. Taylor, B. Colligan, H.M. Colligan, L. Gee, K. Longbottom, G. Sherratt, B. Sherratt, A. Shorrocks, B. Griffiths, R.A. Silverwood, D. Moss, P. Moss, R. Doyle.

Officers: RBC: S. Hay, Township, M. Ball, Environmental Management, PC 4409 C. Wynne, GMP.

Councillors: Pat Sullivan, Ian Duckworth

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introduced PC 4409 Catherine Wynne from GMP as the new Beat Officer for the area. Apologies were received from Councillor Jane Gartside, S. Grindrod, R. Mallinder. Mr. and Mrs Akhtar.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

A copy of the code of conduct was circulated with the papers, and all were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 17 February 2014 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given:

Bamford Way - Surfacing

Highways Maintenance were requested to inspect the stretch of Bamford Way that was recently re-surfaced to below standard and to make good where necessary. There may be ongoing litigation and a progress report will be requested.

Action (1) Obtain Highways progress report. (Stuart Hay)

Pot-holes on Greenvale

Greenvale is on the forward works programme, however, a new contract is to be negotiated and no date is yet available for the works to be done.

Action (2) Establish what the plans are regarding resurfacing of Greenvale. (Stuart Hay)

Blocked drains

The drain near to The Treatment Works was cleared using high technical equipment but is now blocked again as are several on Norden Road and Bagslate Moor Road.

Action (3) Request inspection and clearance of the drains. (Stuart Hay)

Norden Road Re-surfacing

Norden Road resurfacing took place in March 2014 and it was agreed to a high standard but also questioned whether the work is complete as it finished abruptly with work on the pavement opposite the end of Martlett Avenue appearing to be unfinished and still outstanding. The kerbs in that area were replaced but the road surface including the anti-skid surface is badly eroded. It was also asked if and when the stretch down to Bury and Rochdale Old Road would be done because the kerbs along that length have virtually disappeared. It was asked if and whether any delay, if that is

the case, is connected to potential United Utilities works on The Green and if that is the reason why the pavement had not been surface finished, but it was pointed out that access to The Green by United Utilities would be off road via the Bamford Mews Road.

Action (4) Enquire with Highways (Stuart Hay)

Parking on grass verges and burglaries

Parking on the grass verges of Norden Road and burglaries in the Diggles Lane area were updated in the Police and Community safety section.

Bus shelter – Norden Road

Transport for Greater Manchester were requested to assess the suitability for the siting of a bus shelter on Norden Road, they have made two replies one on 21 February 2014 and the other on 6 May 2014, direct to Councillor Ian Duckworth, both of which were read out:

“Before we install a shelter, we consult the Local Authority Highways Department who are responsible for providing and maintaining roads and footpaths throughout the borough and Greater Manchester Police, who ensure that a shelter would not block sight lines or affect traffic flows. We also talk to local residents and local councillors before we make our final decision whether to install a shelter at a bus stop.

Our final decision is based on a number of things including:

- whether the pavement is wide enough;*
- the number of passengers using a bus stop in a 12 hour period;*
- what type of shelter is best for the location;*
- whether the shelter would obscure sightlines for other road users; and*
- whether the shelter would provide a safe and secure waiting place for bus passengers.*

At present, Transport for Greater Manchester has many such requests for passenger shelters but have very few surpluses. Therefore, I shall add your request to our ‘Additional Passenger Shelter Register’ and contact you in due course regarding your request.

The bus stop has been investigated in 2007 for a shelter, however, it failed the minimum passenger count of 40 passengers boarding within a 12 hour period, to enable TfGM to progress with the request. We will re-investigate shelter requests only after a further 5 years and therefore we will firstly ensure that a shelter is physically suitable at the location and if so, undertake a further count”.

The second reply followed the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee on Friday 2 May 2014:

“The site visit has now been undertaken by TfGM’s Route Equipment Manager, along with representatives from GMP and Highways. The representatives have confirmed that the location would be suitable for a three Bay Shelter with no seats and no side panels. The reason we would not be able to install side panels or seat is due to the limited pavement width. The Highways representative is also currently confirming land ownership of the grass verge behind the proposed location to ensure that it is Council owned. Access would be required via the grass verge for maintenance and cleaning of the shelter. In the meantime and in line with our processes, a patronage count would need to be undertaken to also ensure the minimum number of 40 passengers within a 12 hour period is met. I will arrange for a passenger count to be undertaken at the bus stop.

The forum will be given an update following the receipt of the patronage count, however, please be aware this can be a lengthy process.

Pelican crossing – Norden Road

The response as to whether the timing can be changed on the Norden Road Pelican Crossing is:

“Crossings operate to the criteria set down by the Department for Transport, the timings set into the controller are nationally agreed.

Pedestrians should wait until the pedestrian indicator changes to show a green man. Once a pedestrian has pressed the button the controller (via the detectors mounted on the top of the signal heads) looks for a gap in the traffic. There is never an instant change, there is always a minimum of 7 seconds to wait for a green man.

If traffic is approaching the crossing, the controller will not change until there is a gap in the flow, this is to prevent rear end shunts. After 30 seconds and there has not been a gap, the controller will change anyway as by then the approaching drivers can see pedestrians waiting and start to anticipate the lights changing. Pedestrians need to be patient and use the crossing correctly and safely”.

Bamford Green and Copse

Bamford Green and Copse has been cleaned up.

Tree planting

Councillor Duckworth has allocated the £1,000 Ward Funds towards a tree planting scheme at the Forest School Scheme on Roch Valley Way, a really worthwhile scheme where school pupils from around the Borough will benefit. Non-native trees have been cut down and wildlife hedges formed from them, native fruit tree species will be planted, ponds have been made and accessible pathways installed.

Martlett Avenue 20mph zone

Councillor Duckworth advised the Martlett Avenue 20mph is still being looked at and that the result of a recent study showed the average speed to be 24mph.

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Parking on grass verges

Mick Ball has written to residents on Mansfield Road but has no powers to deal with parking on the footpath as some residents on Norden Road are doing. PC Wynne will conduct vehicle checks and visit houses along Norden Road to raise the issue. The Police rule of thumb is that if there is sufficient room to pass with a pram or wheel chair they will not consider it an obstruction and each case is considered individually. Some are parking on Norden Road in contravention of double yellow lines and this issue will be passed on to Civilian Enforcement to visit.

Burglary

Reducing burglaries is a number one priority and recent burglaries have taken place from garages and sheds. Operation Ulysses is pro-actively targeting the eight top offenders with twice daily disruption and intelligence gathering visits and a plain clothed patrolling plan including the use of pedal cycles. There had been no apparent promotion of any Home Watch Schemes since the last meeting at which it was stated one was to be launched. The promotion of Home Watch was to have started this very day but it appears staff were diverted elsewhere. A leaflet had been put out by GMP regarding burglaries with a contact email address to which residents had replied but received no response, which looks bad and questions the purpose of putting it out. The investigation into the violent burglary on Hawthorn Road is still ongoing, but there is nothing further to report as yet.

The Home Watch sign outside 9 Cranbourne Road has never been replaced following the installation of the new street lighting.

Action (5) Request EON replace the sign. (Stuart Hay)

The GMP Force Off Road Unit will be in the area for two days this week to combat anti-social use of off roaders and all were urged to report any instances on the 101 number.

Some statistics were circulated and it was clarified that of two serious crimes on the list, namely a rape and threats to solicit murder which really concerned residents. One was historic and the other of a domestic nature where the public were never endangered. PC Wynne will report to the next

meeting as to whether the crime trend is increasing or decreasing.

PC Wynne is regularly out and about on patrol but gave an assurance that if anyone wants to speak to her they can call 101 and leave a message and she will get in touch.

5. STREETWISE MAGAZINE

This magazine features community news and what's on in the local area. The Bamford and Norden magazine is distributed to 7,000 homes and also includes homes in Cutgate, Oakenrod and Lower Birtle. Free editorial is available to those customers who regularly advertise in the magazine. For further information contact Streetwise on 07976 289967 or 07974 434793 or email sales@streetwisemag.co.uk.

6. OPEN FORUM

Traffic lights at junction Bury Road, Roch Valley Way and Sandy Lane

Drivers are blatantly, persistently and dangerously failing to stop at red traffic lights at the junction Bury Road, Roch Valley Way and Sandy Lane.

Action (6) GMP to enforce. (PC Catherine Wynne)

Norden Road Speed Sign

The illuminated speed sign on the left hand side of Norden Road going towards the precinct from Bamford Chapel is completely obstructed by the overgrown hedge.

Action (7) Arrange cut back of hedge. (Mick Ball)

Bury Road Bus Stop

The bus stop on Bury Road facing Wood Top Avenue was smashed up a while back and has not been repaired as yet.

Action (8) Arrange inspection and repair to shelter. (Stuart Hay)

Norden Road Signs/Road Markings

The Elected Members continue to fully support the installation of slow signs and road markings on Norden Road at its junction with Jowkin Lane adjacent to Bamford Chapel where user groups cross from the large car park, and have asked for them to be progressed.

Action (9) Request progress from Highways. (Stuart Hay)

Spring Bank Lane Pavement

Residents are grateful for the repairs done to the footpath on Spring Bank Lane in the vicinity of number ten but report that the pavement is in a very poor state of repair and is breaking up in several places along the length of it.

Action (10) Request inspection. (Stuart Hay)

Weeds on Spring Bank Lane

The cobbled part of Spring Bank Lane is weed ridden, and it was questioned whether it was adopted or not but the Council have cleaned it previously. Mick Ball explained that the weed spraying programme is currently under way across the Borough.

7. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 September 2014

6:30pm

Bamford Chapel