

BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

**Monday 8 June 2015
Bamford Chapel, Norden Road
Rochdale**

MINUTES

Present: I. Sturrock (Chair), J. Crean, DR. K. Longbottom, D. Moss, P. Moss, G. Sherratt, B. Sherratt, M. Akhtar, T. Akhtar, L. Kerford, B. Griffiths, C. Lord, A. Shorrocks, J.S. Taylor, J.M. Taylor, M. Burton, I. Plant, J.L. Pearsall, A. Teuton, P. Barrett, D. Kinsella, S. Grindrod, K. Flett, P. Power, B. Merron, J. Merron, A. Rowson, W. Griffiths, P. Richardson, J. Howard, Steve Williams, Sandra Williams and R. Doyle

Officers: Rochdale Council: S. Hay (Township), D. Ludwig, (Community Safety), GMP: PC 01833 R. Ibbotson and PCSO 62312 C. Taylor

Councillors: Ian Duckworth, Jane Gartside and Pat Sullivan

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor James Gartside, B. Bulcock and P. Fowler.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

A copy of the code of conduct was circulated with the meeting 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 9 March 2015 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given:

Bamford Way Surfacing

Bamford Way is included in this year's (2015/16) Highways Maintenance Programme for micro asphalt surfacing. This work is likely to take place during the second quarter of the financial year (July to September 2015). There has been no litigation over previous re surfacing.

Potholes on Green Vale

Green Vale is definitely on the forward work programme but at this moment the timescale is dependent on adequate funding and the selection of the scheme by the Township Committee. The Ward Councillors will seek priority as the condition of Greenvale Road surface is so poor.

Norden Road Resurfacing

The junction of Norden Road and Martlett Avenue has been resurfaced and lined.

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

Highways response to the request for an investigation in to acceptable safety measures that could be taken at the junction of Bury Road, Roch Valley Way and Sandy Lane is that they continually monitor all recorded personal injury accidents within the Borough with the emphasis on key junctions and strategic link roads. Every year they draw up a priority list which highlights accident hotspots. This year's process is being finalised and the Sandy Lane and Roch Valley Way junction is currently 10th

on this list due to the two recent accidents (last year it was 24th). Once all the hotspots are identified Highways systematically carry out an accident investigation process to determine causation factors and where possible, look at appropriate remedial measures to address any problems. This process is currently ongoing but it must be recognised that there isn't always a solution to all problems.

Rumble strips are not used within 250m of residential properties due to the noise generated, especially at night.

The pedestrian island at Pegasus Court is still to be installed and will be chased up again.

The offending driver responsible for the fatal road traffic collision on 9 November 2014 has been sentenced to six years imprisonment and may come under review to have the sentence increased. Speeding enforcement has taken place and will continue. Councillor Sullivan has requested all the road markings at the junction be repainted.

Action: Request urgent installation of pedestrian island (Stuart Hay)

Roch Valley Japanese Knotweed

Rochdale Council's Environmental Management is treating the knotweed on Council land at River Roch Valley and prioritising any knotweed near properties. The rear of Oakenrod Hill is not Council land, but United Utilities informs the land does appear to be that of United Utilities and will pass on to their Security Desk for action. An example was given where the Council will treat knotweed on private property if it has spread from Council land.

Treatment near the water course is ongoing and a further application to DEFRA to permit further treatment near the water course is to be submitted.

Enquiries made as to the location being a Site of Biological Interest (SBI) and whether any funding, resources or special measures apply. Some of the valley is covered by SBI, specifically from the vicinity of Chadwick Hall Road to the vicinity of Crimble Lane, Meadowcroft Woods and Springfield Woods. Also Greater Manchester Ecological Unit who oversee SBIs may well have some thoughts in terms of funding sources, although SBIs don't automatically attract additional resources, but the designation increases the chances of success with funding bids. The Council's Principal Planning Officer will raise the issue at the next meeting about the Roch Valley and future funding bids, and will certainly try to include the issue in future bids (for example, from DEFRA through the Irwell Catchment Partnership).

Japanese knotweed on bridleway near Tyrone Drive

Complaints were made about knotweed growing on the bridleway from Tyrone Drive in to the valley and in the void left after United Utilities severely cut the trees down to create a pathway for the power lines. Both areas will be reported for treatment.

Action: Report all locations for treatment and liaise with United Utilities (Stuart Hay)

Norden Road and Highlands Road Blocked Drains

Blocked drains on Norden Road were cleaned and jetted within 10 working days from 11 March 2015. Clay Lane near the Treatment Work was allocated to an engineer to investigate which requires excavating and repair. The drains on Norden Road and on Highlands Road are blocked again and some need resetting.

Action: Report to Highways (Stuart Hay)

Land off Swift Road

Councillor Sullivan continues her ongoing work to keep the land off Swift Road as a protected open space. A site visit is still to take place and Councillor Sullivan will invite residents to attend in addition to any Planning letter invite which may not capture all interested parties.

Norden Road Pedestrian Crossing

The faulty timing on the pedestrian crossing was reported but has actually gone worse and will be looked at again.

Action: Request further inspection (Stuart Hay)

Street light faults

The defective street lights on Bell Meadow Drive and Highlands Road were tasked for repair to the EON Maintenance Team to resolve. All issues have been resolved with the exception of the light on Highlands Road near the junction with Caithness Avenue which is still defective and EON will be asked to re-attend.

Action: Request EON fix the one outstanding faulty light (Stuart Hay)

Additional street light on Highfield Road

Katie Moore from the Rochdale Township Office has asked Street Lighting to draw up a scheme and costs for additional lighting on the path between numbers 10 to 12 Highfield Road.

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PC 01833 Ibbotson and PCSO 62312 Taylor made a May 2015 monthly Homewatch Update and Crime Statistics from March to June 2015 available to all. Copies of the monthly Homewatch Updates will in future be left at The Chapel for anyone wanting one or not able to access via computer.

GMP has had good results recently with five prolific burglars arrested, some of whom have been remanded in custody and a large amount of stolen property recovered. One offender caught stealing from motor vehicles was badly bitten on the calf by a Police dog, arrested and a substantial amount of stolen property recovered. PCSO Taylor thanked all for giving information and urged everyone to keep calling in anything suspicious to build intelligence which generates these results.

Twenty eight residents attended the last PACT Meeting and PCSO Taylor had personally visited all and given crime prevention advice, and improvements are already in place.

A five percent reduction in burglaries compared to last year was reported. The need for windows and doors to be locked and vehicle keys not left on show was stressed as in a large number of offences access was gained through insecurities and offenders target vehicle keys.

It is the Norden Carnival this Saturday so expect delays in that area.

5. ROCHDALE CIRCLE

Debbie Kinsella outlined the work of the Rochdale Circle Members Organisation for anyone over fifty years of age. The organisation currently has over 500 members. The Bamford and Norden area is a pilot scheme funded by Rochdale Council's Adult Care Service as it has a higher percentage of older people living alone and a higher number of under seventy fives suffering from strokes. One of the objectives is to improve services and a newsletter was made available to all.

Wellbeing events are being held on 18 June 2015 at Bamford Chapel, 26 June 2015 at The Red Butterfly Bakery in the Old Norden Library and on 9 July 2015 at St George's Church, Oakenrod. Some forum attenders described the Rochdale Circle as a terrific community to be commended and outlined many events it puts on. Debbie is very keen on outreach work such as the wellbeing events, use of Community Navigators, and referrals from numerous sources to reach those who may not be as receptive. Throughout this summer she will be at the Old Norden Library from 5pm to 7pm every Monday for anyone wanting to find out more.

6. OPEN FORUM

Equalities Listening Event

The borough wide Equalities Listening Event is on Tuesday 16 June 2015 from 10am to 2pm at Middleton Arena with registration from 9.15am, admission is free and a light lunch will be served. The event is a chance for people to give their views about how Rochdale Council's services are being delivered in the borough and suggest ideas for improvement. To book a place either telephone Sally Atueyi on 01706 925631 or email equalitieslisteningevent@rochdale.gov.uk.

Bagslate Moor Road Speeding Vehicles

Speeding on Bagslate Moor Road near the golf course is occurring at all times of day and night. PC Ibbotson is aware of the problem and will show a presence to act as a deterrent and request

enforcement action. A speed survey has been carried out previously but the average speed is low no doubt due to the periods when traffic is at a standstill.

Planning Application to extend the Dentists and Mojito's Wine Bar

The proposed extensions to the Dentists and Mojito's Wine Bar on Bamford Precinct is of real concern on grounds of severe noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour, parking problems and safety of drivers and pedestrians. The planning application will be on the agenda of an upcoming Rochdale Township Planning Sub Committee, possibly on 7 July 2015, although the agenda is not yet set. Check on the Council's website, under the Council and Democracy link, any meeting dates and view the agenda and public papers to be presented to the meetings. Residents can access online The National Planning Policy Framework or the Unitary Development Plan for guidance. Councillor Sullivan has instructed the Council's Licensing Service Manager to complete a report.

Residents want to hold a meeting of their own prior to this application being considered to pull all views together and pick a spokesperson to represent them at the Planning Sub Committee meeting. The residents meeting date was set at 6.30pm on Monday 22 June 2015 at Bamford Chapel.

Footpath off Bamford Way Clearance

The signed public footpath off Bamford Way between Martlett Avenue and Winchester Close going towards Teal Court is impassable due to overgrown vegetation and needs clearing.

Action: Request Clean and Green Team to clear the area (Stuart Hay)

Bamford and Norden Post Offices

The potential relocation of both Bamford Post Office in to the Premier Store and Norden Post Office in to the newsagents was discussed. A letter sent by the Post Office was made available to all that contained details of the consultation which is open from 29 May 2015 to 10 July 2015. It was accepted that relocation is better than a complete closure and loss of service and that in the case of the Premier Store opening hours could actually be longer.

War Office Road Tree and Diggles Lane/Dixon Fold Planters

Councillor Gartside has requested the tree in the roundabout at the top of War Office Road be replaced and it was clarified that responsibility to plant up the planters on Diggles Lane and Dixon Fold is that of the residents. Councillor Sullivan will speak with them.

Ward Councillors Surgeries

The Ward Councillors hold a surgery from 10am to 11am on the first Thursday of each month in Bamford Chapel (although the surgery often goes beyond 11am).

Ward Councillors contact details are available on the Council website:

Councillor Ian Duckworth - telephone 01706 648393 or

email: ian.duckworth@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Jane Gartside - telephone 01706 658443 or 07812 228281 or

email: jane.gartside@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Pat Sullivan - telephone 0161 762 1129 or 07967 985240, or

email: patricia.sullivan@rochdale.gov.uk

Township Officer Stuart Hay - telephone 01706 922230 or

email stuart.hay@rochdale.gov.uk

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 21 September 2015

6.30pm

Bamford Chapel