

# **BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM**

**Monday 5 December 2016**  
**Bamford Chapel, Norden Road, Rochdale**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** I. Sturrock (Chair), B. Colligan, H. Colligan, W.L. Brown, A. Teuton, S. Grindrod, D. Stevenson, J. Stevenson, S. Amin, M. Spiteri, B. Woodburn, L. Reid, C. Reid, K. Smith, A. Smith, R. Doyle, R. Mallinder, D. Armbrister, B. Taylor, S. Nangle, S. Bleakley, P. Bleakley and S. Cresswell

**Councillors:** Ian Duckworth

**Officers:** Rochdale Council: S. Hay (Township), D. Lodwig (Community Safety) and T. Buckley (Finance) and GMP: PCSOs Colin Taylor and Lauren Whelan

**Apologies:** Councillor Jane Howard, Councillor Pat Sullivan (both at Planning and Licensing Committee), Graham Morris, David Moss, Patricia Moss and Brenda Griffiths

### **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

### **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 5 September 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given.

#### **Blocked drains**

The Officer dealing with the Bury Road culvert made contact with the complainant direct.

#### **Murrayfield Potholes**

The pot holes on Murrayfield and at its junction with Norden Road have been repaired but the road remains uneven with dips in and will be further reported to Highways.

#### **Mojitos**

Head of Licensing tasked out visits to Mojitos Wine Bar to deal with drinking outside, on the pavement and the resultant noise.

#### **Bamford Green**

The cost of installing matching bird beak fencing around the remainder of Bamford Green would be £5,650. Other cheaper and less aesthetic alternatives could be considered such as wooden bollards at £25 each or boulders at £100 each but these as previously reported have maintenance liabilities and been discounted.

#### **Northdene Drive, Rochbury Close & Bury Road Footpath & Street Light**

The footpath from Northdene Drive to Rochbury Close to Bury Road has been cleaned and the street light at the end of the path repaired.

#### **4. POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

The Police advised there is an ongoing investigation, following a very recent Police pursuit, into a road traffic collision on Sandy Lane involving a stolen motor vehicle in which two females were injured.

Burglary dwelling continues to be the Ward Police And Community Together meeting priority as is speeding motor vehicles.

In the last three months there have been eleven burglaries in September, mostly committed between 1300 to 1630 hours, ten in October mostly overnight and twelve in November. The method of entry is via forcing rear patio doors and windows with the hotspots being along the Bury Road corridor. Operations are in place to tackle the issue and Patrol Plans will cover the hotspot areas. There have been six burglars arrested recently and current intelligence suggests offenders are a mixture of locals and out of towners. All were urged to report any suspicious circumstances.

Speeding initiatives took place on Norden Road on 22 September in which three offenders were prosecuted for not wearing a seat belt, four for using mobile phones and twenty one advised for speeding. On 13 October five were prosecuted for not wearing a seat belt, ten for using mobile phones and ten advised for speeding. There was a strong opinion that drivers using mobile phones for any reason should be severely punished with an example given of a lorry driver receiving a twelve year custodial sentence for killing a pedestrian whilst using a phone.

A Community Speed Day took place in November on Bury Road and there was a request to conduct further speeding initiatives on Bury Road preferably during the evening. PCSO Taylor will look into this matter. Publicity after speeding initiatives is conducted via social media.

The 20mph speed limit at Bamford Academy School is permanently in operation and is not restricted to school times.

Police advised where vehicles are parked near to junctions the Police could consider prosecuting for causing an obstruction; each case is decided on its own merits. Rochdale Council Enforcement Officers can only take action where parking restrictions are in place.

Police reported there have been some thefts from persons at Heywood Morrison's where shoppers are distracted by one offender whilst another does the stealing from handbags. There was a theft of motor vehicle at Aldi where the owner was distracted at the back of the car and another offender drove off in the vehicle.

A user of an Automated Cash Machine was distracted by being told he had dropped some money, whilst his actual money was stolen. Watch word is stay vigilant.

Vehicles parked on a cycle lane can only be enforced by Rochdale Council Enforcement Officers if a Traffic Regulation Order is in place; in the absence of an Order the lane is advisory. PCSO Taylor will check the GMP policy on prosecuting for an obstruction and enquiries will be made with Highways as to whether any cycle lanes in the Borough are covered by a Traffic Regulation Order.

#### **5. POSSABILITIES HOMESHARE**

Mathilde Vautier from PossAbilities Homeshare outlined the three year Lottery funded scheme launched on 17 July 2016. Homeshare is a householder who has a spare room plus a home sharer who provides support in return. The householder is willing to let someone live with them in return for ten hours of personalised social support which might be shopping, cleaning, going out for a meal, gardening or whatever the householder thinks would give them a better quality of life. The home sharer benefits from access to cheap accommodation and providing activities that can enhance their C.V. Household and home sharers pay a small monthly management fee for the arrangement to be supervised and ensure the safety of both parties. A first match has been made

in Heywood and it is reported to be going very well with a second imminent. The scheme covers the whole of Greater Manchester and any home owner is eligible. Safety is paramount and all parties are checked, interviewed and two references required before clearance. The first meeting of the parties is supervised and all arrangements are monitored. For more information visit the website [www.possabilities.org.uk](http://www.possabilities.org.uk), telephone 01706 626747 or email [homeshare@possabilities.org.uk](mailto:homeshare@possabilities.org.uk)

## **6. ROCHDALE COUNCIL BUDGET CHALLENGE**

A presentation on Rochdale Council's current savings proposals was given by Tim Buckley, Rochdale Council Finance Manager. The proposals can be viewed on the Council's website [www.rochdale.gov.uk/savings](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/savings) and comments can be submitted to [consultation@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@rochdale.gov.uk) or post to Freepost RTKH-UCCB-JSJU, Rochdale Borough Council, Public Consultation, PO Box 100, Rochdale OL16 9NP. Consultation closes at 1700 hours on Monday 9 January 2017.

## **7. OPEN FORUM**

### **Green belt land**

Serious concerns were expressed at the last forum about a resubmitted planning application to build a house approximately sixteen times larger than an average sized house on green belt land at the back of land at the junction of Norden Road and Bury and Rochdale Old Road. Comments were made about the loss of Rochdale's green belt land and precedent setting for further developments. A hand out was made available to all giving further detail and location. There was an overwhelming consensus that this development does not fit any of the criteria to allow it to proceed on green belt land. The original application was supported by a Planning Officer but was refused at Committee. Councillor Duckworth put forward a very good case against the development. The resubmitted application saw a minimal reduction in size only to approximately fifteen times the size of an average sized house. Field number 574 on the plan is not currently used but does support wildlife. Any development is a matter of taste, but some considered this proposal resembled a large pre fab and it is totally out of character for the area.

Two hundred and fifty people attended a meeting in November at Bamford Chapel about the Spatial Framework proposals following The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government promoting the sale and use of green belt land. At this meeting it was very clearly stated by all that the development of green belt land is not wanted in Bamford and that precious green space must be protected.

Another meeting took place last Friday at the Bowling Club when an Action Committee on the development of green belt land was set up and they agreed a full and comprehensive objection report on all points will be submitted. All were urged in any case to submit individual objections and comments and the importance of so doing stressed to protect the area for our children and our children's children. There will be media coverage of the campaign. Councillor Duckworth attended a Greater Manchester Conservative Council Leaders meeting last week at which Tory Mayoral candidate, Sean Anstee, was present. Councillor Duckworth made very clear his views against the acquisition of green belt land.

All Spatial Framework documents can be views on the Council's website or in Libraries and the Council's Spatial Framework consultation events are being held between 3.30pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday 7 December 2016 at The Phoenix Centre, Heywood, Thursday 8 December 2016 at Milnrow Cricket Club and Monday 12 December 2016 at Middleton Library.

Consultation ends at 5pm on Friday 23 December 2016. Comments can be submitted to [strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk), telephone 01706 924252 or write to Strategic Planning, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU.

The Ward Councillors hold a surgery from 10am to 11am on the first Thursday of each month here in Bamford Chapel (although they often go beyond 11am). Ward Councillors contact details are available on the Council website:

Councillor Ian Duckworth  
Telephone: 01706 648393  
Email: [ian.duckworth@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:ian.duckworth@rochdale.gov.uk)

Councillor Jane Howard  
Telephone: 07870 172144  
Email: [jane.howard@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:jane.howard@rochdale.gov.uk)

Councillor Pat Sullivan  
Telephone: 0161 762 1129 or 07967 985240  
Email: [patricia.sullivan@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.sullivan@rochdale.gov.uk)

Rochdale Borough Council Officers:  
Stuart Hay, Township Officer  
Telephone: 01706 922230  
Email: [stuart.hay@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.hay@rochdale.gov.uk)

Diane Lodwig, Crime & Anti Social Behaviour Prevention Officer, Community Safety  
Telephone: 01706 922226  
Email: [diane.lodwig@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:diane.lodwig@rochdale.gov.uk)

**8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**  
Monday 6 March 2017 at 6.30pm in Bamford Chapel