

BALDERSTONE AND KIRKHOLT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday 19 September 2017
Kirkholt Community Church, Daventry Road,
Kirkholt, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: C. Mottershead, D. Holt, M. Matthews, H. Sutcliffe and C. Lord

Councillors: Richard Farnell, Daniel Meredith and Kathleen Nickson

Officers: PCSO R. Holland (GMP), R. Hudson (Rochdale Council - Townships) and N. Morris (Rochdale Boroughwide Housing)

Apologies: B. Bergin, P. Colclough and Rev. A Bryan

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

R. Holland (GMP) thanked the forum for its support over the last 11 years before her imminent departure to work in Manchester. The Chair thanked her for her commitment to the area and also the forum and wished her well on behalf of everyone.

The priorities at the last forum included off-road bikes. GMP has now developed an off-road motorbike team who can be requested as and when required but cannot pursue riders due to danger. Reassurance visits have been made to the elderly/vulnerable residents regarding ASB in Balderstone Park/Library and PCSOs have been patrolling hot-spot areas at evening. Statistically on figures from last year, domestic burglary is down 20%, non-domestic burglaries is down 75% and anti-social behaviour is also reduced. GMP are recording a lot more crimes so that provides even better figures.

Officers attended the Kirkholt Million event held in Balderstone Park in August. GMP's 'problem solving car' was taken to the event and it received a positive response from children.

Rochdale PCSOs have been involved in a pilot exercise where repeat call-out addresses were visited in order to investigate the root problems of matters, ie domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, and consider the actual causes and see if any partnership agencies can assist. Referrals are made and a reduction in demand has been noted at certain addresses due to this new approach. GMP has now assigned one PCSO to this initiative for the borough of Rochdale each day which is being piloted for the next few months.

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

Anti-social behaviour	21	29
Robberies	2	2
Domestic burglaries	15	18
Burglary (others)	2	10
Theft of vehicle	4	4
Theft from vehicle	18	15

Residents raised concerns about anti-social behaviour by students from St Cuthbert's High School around the Crompton Avenue area along with littering issues. It was reported GMP had allocated a PCSO, R. Adams, who had given talks to pupils on ASB. Councillor Nickson commented she had been recently impressed by local children at the skate park event who came to her and reported an issue of concern, ie finding empty drugs bags. The children clearly want their park enhanced so it is a safer place and respected. Another matter raised direct with GMP concerned an issue of verbal abuse to a resident at the Springhill playing fields.

PACT Priorities agreed were:

1. Skate Park
2. ASB
3. Oldham Road/Crompton Road – St Cuthbert's pupils

GMP surgeries are held at the Kirkholt Drop-in Centre, Kirkholt every second Tuesday 10-11am with the next one on 20 September 2017. One or two PCSOs are always in attendance. Dates of surgeries are displayed on GMP's website (Rochdale North), Facebook and Twitter.

3. HMR CIRCLE TEA & TALK SESSIONS

Update provided by HMR Circle was read out by the Township Officer. Tea and Toast Sessions are still operating from Balderstone Library on the second Thursday of every 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. Leaflets detailing next sessions were available for information.

4. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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

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 through local exhibitions. It will involve bringing together 22 nationalities in the ward. Workshops will be held at The Strand with free transport provided to Touchstones Museum.

A community event with a 'Western' theme will be held on Monday 20 November 4-6pm at St Thomas' Church and it will incorporate the Christmas tree switch-on at The Strand (start at 4pm). The event will be completely free to all residents offering food (Halal & vegetarian included) and activities for children along with singing and dancing to entertain.

An appeal to all residents was made by Councillor Nickson to look out for one another and take an interest in their neighbour's health and well-being to ensure all is ok after the death of a young child on the estate whose family may have benefitted from a greater sense of community spirit.

Sandbrook Park residents along with the school head teacher have arranged a meeting to discuss concerns about parking issues.

Councillor Meredith

Dean Farm, Balderstone – A planning permission was submitted. Councillors opposed this due to factors of flooding and noise issues for residents. The matter will be going to consultation.

Pothole issues – An extra £2million investment. Lower end of Queensway is in the pipeline to be resurfaced.

The Strand Health Centre – Building works nearly finished.

Recent casework has involved traffic management working with residents on Queens Drive regarding motorists driving onto ends of gardens. Parking Services have been involved. Other involvement is with the homelessness committee of the Council regarding sofa-surfing and universal credit issues with what we can do as a Council along with other partnership agencies to alleviate these problems.

Councillor Farnell

Councillor Farnell stated it was good to see regeneration and investment across the ward along with road surfacing.

Daventry Road new flats are now occupied. 11 were constructed for the elderly/disabled.

Hill Top Drive development is also selling the houses very well and other developments are in the pipeline at the former Balderstone School site and a planning application in for a new extension to the library and school fields.

Fit, Feed & Read event held at Balderstone Library throughout the school summer holidays was a huge success with plans to repeat this initiative next year.

Discussions are being held between the Council and Rochdale Boroughwide Housing regarding maintenance of grounds on the estate. Agreement will be made for one of the two organisations to lead on this which will hopefully aid productivity, time and cost.

5. PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

Kirkholt Million

C. Mottershead gave a brief update. The Balderstone Park event held in August was a great success and a feedback meeting to reviews comments made about the event will be arranged.

The document detailing the second phase to deliver the plan will be presented at the next meeting.

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

N. Morris (who manages the community partnership) in attendance. She advised the forum that the community hub will be on target to open late spring 2018. A public drop-in session will be held on Thursday 28 September 5-7pm where the public will have access to the plans and an exhibition and they will be able to leave comments. The hub will be a state of the art community centre with full Wi-Fi and it will continue to provide support services with a full problem solving team housed inside.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

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

7. OPEN FORUM

Grass cutting

A resident raised concerns about the quality of the grass cutting at the Oldham Road and Crompton Avenue areas in Balderstone. Councillor Farnell said he will escalate the matter with the Council's Environmental Department.

Meeting attendance

The meeting discussed the reducing attendance numbers and suggestions were made to increase advertisement and awareness of the meeting. Ideas were more social media advertising by the Council and GMP, more posters in churches and community buildings, and residents to reach out to others and advise of the services available.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 6.30pm

Venue: St Mary's (Balderstone) Church, Oldham Road, Rochdale

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