

# **SPOTLAND & FALINGE AREA FORUM**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWED BY ORDINARY MEETING**

**Thursday 16 November 2017 at 7.00pm  
Spotland Methodist Church, Rooley Moor Road,  
Rochdale OL12 7ES**

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies and Code of Conduct
2. Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair and Area Forum Sub Group
3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of 29 September 2016
4. Greater Manchester Police including PACT meeting
5. Minutes of the area forum meetings held on 24 August 2017 and 2 October 2017, matters arising and updates
6. Members/Ward Funds
7. Councillor Updates/News
8. Open Forum
9. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 8 February 2018 at 7pm  
Spotland Methodist Church

# Agenda Item 1

## Rochdale Township Area Forums Code of Conduct

It is established by and for the Rochdale Township Area Forums that the following code of conduct will govern the behaviour of their members. The code of conduct will be enforced by the Chair of this meeting.

### **Conduct at meetings**

Members will at all times observe accepted practice while taking part in discussions to:

- Be courteous to each other and support and assist other members in finding the best possible solution to problems being discussed
- Allow each other the opportunity to speak and comment
- Attempt as far as possible to stick to the agenda and assist each other to reach effective conclusions
- Operate within the constitution where applicable
- Aggression, violence, threats, harassment, intimidation and other disruptive behaviour in the forum will not be tolerated
- The term 'members' applies to all those present at the meeting

### **Confidentiality**

- Members will refrain from mentioning specific individual cases which may cause embarrassment or identification of an individual
- Any information or item shared that is of a confidential nature will not be disclosed to anyone else apart from members of the Forum in order to allow the business of the meeting to proceed.

### **Dignity at meetings**

- All those who attend Forum meetings have the right to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their race, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, gender, marital status, age, sexuality, religion or any other matter which causes people to be discriminated against
- The meeting will do all that is in its power to oppose all forms of harassment and bullying

### **Individual Members**

- Should disclose any personal interest that they consider may affect or influence their approach to the matter being discussed
- Must show respect in all their dealings by observing reasonable standards and courtesy, and by not seeking to take unfair advantage by virtue of their position

### **Political Affiliation**

- Even though individual members may be affiliated to/or be members of a political party, they may not represent a political party in their role as individual members of this Forum
- Elected Members attending meetings outside the ward they represent may be allowed to speak, at the discretion of the Chair.

### **Breach of Code of Conduct**

- If anyone attending the Forum meeting does not abide by the code of conduct, the Chair will have the discretion to decide on an appropriate course of action. The Chair may either issue a warning, ask the person to withdraw from a particular agenda item or exclude that person from the meeting.
- Where a person is asked to leave a meeting, the Chair will have the discretion to decide whether or not that person is welcome to attend future meetings.
- The Chair at his/her discretion, may close the meeting if he/she deems it necessary

# Agenda Item 3

## SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM

Thursday, 29 September 2016

### MINUTES

**Present:** B. Holden, A. Foster, S. Ashworth, D. Clayton, J. Moss, A. McDermott, D. Phillips, Mr & Mrs Forden, Mr. Le Monnier, P. Massey (Chair), F. Nissar, U. Rahman, M. Rashid (Vice Chair), S. Whitworth, P. Barker, V. Sommerville, A. Sommerville, S. Mitchell, D. Holden, J. Ingham, A. Bibby, E. Phillips, K. Massey, R. Le Monnier, D. Hallows, K. Salisbury, J. Addy, J. Nawaz, Mr & Mrs Ashurst, K. Lawrence, B. Penty, M. Oliver, D. Kay, H. Kay, M. Coates, P. Salisbury, A. Rawsterne, S. Hussain, N. Hussain and E. Chadwick.

**Officers:** PC Butterworth (GMP), G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer) and N. Rogers (Service Manager – Rochdale Borough Council)

**Councillors:** C. Biant, S. Biant and W. Cocks

**Apologies:** Mr & Mrs Fleming, C. Faulkner, J. Newcombe and A. Meek

#### 55 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Township and Engagement Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was explained that the meeting would be in two parts; part one would be the Annual General Meeting which would see the election of the Area Forum Chair and Vice Chair for the next twelve months. Part two would be the ordinary meeting, concentrating upon the PACT and Open Forum.

The Forum was reminded about the Code of Conduct and asked to comply with the code throughout the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Mr & Mrs Fleming, Carl Faulkner, John Newcombe, R. Le Monnier and A. Meek.

#### 56 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Following nominations and voting the following residents were appointed Chair and Vice Chair of the Area Forum for the next twelve months:

Chair – Mr Philip Massey

Vice Chair – Mr Mohammed Rashid.

#### 57 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 20 AUGUST 2015

P. Massey took the Chair at this point.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

#### 58 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

PC Butterworth attended the meeting for this item.

The following information was reported:

- A prolific offender in the Ward had recently been sentenced to prison.

- During the last three months incidents of crime in relation to theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles had reduced.
- An operation in relation to off-road biking would be taking place in the Ward on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Residents raised a number of concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in the Ward. Holmes Street was identified as particularly problematical. GMP acknowledged they were aware of this and stated they had visited the abandoned vehicle that had been reported in the street.

#### 59 **MINUTES OF LAST AREA FORUM MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES**

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were approved as a correct record.

The following updates were provided:

- Pocket of land on Spotland Road

Following a query raised by a resident about a pocket of land on Spotland Road that had been fenced off which the resident believed obstructed the right of way the Forum was informed that the desire line across the piece of land was not a right of way. The area has been enclosed because it is not a footpath and the Council had received claims from members of the public who had allegedly injured themselves whilst crossing the land.

- Additional bins – Churchill Street

Financial support had been agreed for the placement of additional bin and the request was being progressed.

- Prickshaw Dam

A resident informed the Forum that the Council had been contacted regarding a leak at the Dam. Consultation was ongoing.

- Churchill Street bollards

Financial support had been agreed for the placement of additional bollards near to Meanwood School to improve safety. This request was being progressed.

- Hedges on Ings Lane

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

- Ullswater Avenue – Ings Lane – Alleygates

The Forum was informed that this particular section is not suitable for alleygates. The area is also owned by Rochdale Boroughwide Housing.

- Hudson Walk – Double yellow lines

The Forum was informed that the resident who raised this issue had subsequently attended Rochdale Township Committee to express her concerns.

- Meanwood School Fencing

The Township and Engagement Officer informed the Forum that agreement had been reached with Health and Safety regarding the safety concerns raised in relation to the removal of the final points. An estimate had now been received for the restoration work and it was planned to seek financial support for the project at the next Rochdale Township Action and Resources Sub-Committee in November 2016. Environmental Management had also identified a proposed site in Denehurst Park for the re-siting of the fencing.

- Dellar Fold / Dellar Street – introduction of a barrier / bollards

The Township & Engagement Officer informed the Forum that the covenant could be removed from the accessway on Dellar Street. However the process to remove can be lengthy, time consuming, complex and potentially expensive. In addition at any time during the process the application to remove the covenant can fail if an objection to its removal is received. Financial support to progress this proposal would more than likely have to be sought from already limited Township funds.

The Forum was also informed that based on the feelings expressed at the last Area Forum meeting and the fact that the school did not believe that installing a barrier / bollards would improve safety for children no further progress would be made with this request.

A traffic survey for Dellar Street / Churchill Street was also being progressed.

- Proposed skate park suggestions

The proposed skate park suggestion made at the previous Area Forum meeting had been passed to Environmental Management.

- Members / Ward Funds

The Forum was informed that at the beginning of the financial year (April) there was £8000 in Ward Funds and each Ward Councillor had an allocation of £2000.

At the time of the meeting the following amounts were available:

£7387.72 remained in Ward Funds (Churchill Street bollards - £297.28 & Churchill Street litter bin - £315).

Councillor C. Biant had £1574.68 remaining (Greave Play Scheme - £425.32)

Councillor S. Biant had £1050 remaining (Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum Launch Event - £950)

Councillor W. Cocks had £2000 remaining.

The Forum was encouraged to put forward ideas for projects / initiatives that could be supported from Ward / Member funds.

The Chair asked if anyone from the Forum wanted to join the Forum's Sub Group. The purpose of this group is to scrutinise Ward funding applications.

Mr S Ashworth agreed to join the group.

## 60 OPEN FORUM

Due to the fact that an Officer from Rochdale Borough Council was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the Turner Brothers Asbestos site it was agreed to organise the open forum in two parts. The first section would deal with general open forum issues, the second section would concentrate on TBA specific issues.

### **General open forum issues**

- A resident raised concerns about recent Traveller encroachments at a variety of sites within the borough and the costs that are incurred by the local authority in dealing with issues of this nature.
- Concerns about speeding on Spotland Road, College Road and Primrose Street were raised.

The Forum was informed that speeding is a police issue and residents should report any incidents of this nature with as much detail as possible. However speeding is a difficult issue to control in that the police need to be in the right place at the right time to apprehend offenders.

Introducing speed calming measures is an option that can be considered by the local authority, however the process can be lengthy and costly.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate if cameras can be fitted at specific locations to assist with reducing incidents of speeding.

- A resident informed the Forum that the next Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF) would be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October at Spotland Methodist Church commencing 7pm.

The Forum was informed that the primary purpose of the RMNF was to share a common purpose and objective to protect and enhance the neighbourhood and to make it an area that is vibrant, socially inclusive, and generally the greenest, safest place to live, work and play that it can possibly be.

- A resident asked if an Environmental Impact Report had been / could be produced for the land that is adjacent to Dellar Fold / Dellar Street and at the junction of Edenfield Road / Ings Lane that had recently been sold.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

- A Youth Worker introduced himself to the Forum advising that youth workers worked in the area every Thursday, 6pm – 9pm.
- Residents expressed concerns about the lack of consultation that had been undertaken regarding the removal of the kick pitch on RBH owned land.
- Concerns were raised about flood concerns on Holmes Street.

The Township & Engagement Officer agreed to forward these concerns to the Community Flood Resilience Officer.

- Residents raised concerns over the amount of dog fouling on Churchill Street.

The Township & Engagement Officer agreed to report this and request that Enforcement Officers visited the area.

### **TBA open forum issues**

Nicola Rogers, Service Manager Rochdale Borough Council attended for this item.

The Forum was informed that although the Council does not own the Site, it wants to work with the owner (Renshaw Properties Limited) to find a solution for its future.

The landowner in consultation with the Council is carrying out a site investigation which is looking at potential environmental issues and the future of the site.

The Officer also gave the background to the air quality assessment that commenced in August 2015 and is currently ongoing. The monitoring exercise will hopefully be completed in October 2016. The results of this exercise will be made public although no time frame on this can be given at present.

The following questions/concerns were raised:

Does the Council own any land within the TBA site?

Response: It was confirmed that the Council owns a small strip of land within the boundary of the site, although it was unknown how this was acquired.

What are the future plans for the site?

Response: This is unknown at present. Until the results of the current site investigations are known it would be inappropriate to speculate on the future use of the land.

What are the next steps if the land is deemed safe?

Response: This cannot be answered at present. The current site investigation will enable the landowners to understand the site better in terms of any remediation required and the options available. It was accepted that there is asbestos on the land, however a statutory determination had not been given to confirm this.

Concerns were raised about the lack of monitoring on the land in the past.

Response: Although these concerns were understood the site had not been categorised. There was no evidence that asbestos was leaving the site and harming the health of residents. However the current site investigation on the land and air quality monitoring will help determine the land's current state and possible future use.

Will the land owner make the survey results known to the public?

Response: This cannot be answered at present. The survey has been commissioned by the landowners therefore they will decide upon this.

What is the purpose of the project team that has recently been set up?

Response: The purpose of the project team is to facilitate communication between the landowners (Renshaw Properties Limited), their representatives and residents in relation to the proposed site investigations.

Residents also commented that:

- During 2001 the Unitary Development Plan had identified the site as an area of opportunity including housing and shops.
- If the land is eventually abandoned it would become the responsibility of the Crown.
- The Project Team does not include any Elected Members or Area Forum representatives. In addition no minutes or notes are made public.
- There is the need for openness and transparency

61 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 @ 7pm.

Spotland Methodist Church

## SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM

Thursday, 24 August 2017

### MINUTES

**Present:** D. Kay, H. Kay, K. Rickards, John & Jennifer Fleming, N. Morrell, M. Oliver, S. Ashworth, H. Barlow, K. Lawrence, J. Moss, Mr & Mrs Forden, B. Fitton, D. Holden, P. Massey (Chair), M. Coats, R. Le Monnier, R. Heap, Mr & Mrs Somerville, B. Patterson, C. Dodgson, A. Thomas, N. Brierley, J. Brierley, John & Jacqueline Ashworth, J. Heap, C. Faulkner, B. Holden and J. Hayes.

**Officers:** PCSO K. Vohra, PC P. Jones, C. Schroder (Community Co-ordinator) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

**Councillors:** W. Cocks, C. Biant & S. Biant

**Apologies:** J. Molyneux, M. Rashid, Mr and Mrs Rawsterne and Jason Addy.

#### 83 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that the Forum respect the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from J. Molyneux, M. Rashid, Mr and Mrs Rawsterne and Jason Addy.

Carlo Schroder, Community Co-ordinator introduced himself to the Forum.

#### 84 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

PC P. Jones and PCSO K. Vohra attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that anti-social behaviour and criminal damage had slightly increased over recent weeks. However this was attributed to the fact that young people were off school due to the school holidays.

Burglaries and incidents of theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicles had reduced.

The Forum was also informed that a recently held 'off road bike' initiative was a success. GMP has also established an off road bike team.

More information about off-road bikes can be found via the link below.

[Off-road bikes in your community](http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57110/Off%20Road%20Bikes%20Information.pdf)

<http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57110/Off%20Road%20Bikes%20Information.pdf>

Residents raised concerns about speeding in the area; Cutgate Road and Longfield Road being identified as problem areas.

#### 85 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

The minutes of the Area Forum held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were approved as a correct record.

A resident asked for clarification on which residents' representatives have been involved in the development of the emergency response plan for the TBA site.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this.

The following updates were provided:

1. Meanwood School Fencing

The Forum was informed that Friends of Denehurst Park had declined the offer to install the fencing in the park. As a consequence it would be necessary to identify other appropriate sites within the Ward. Ideas put forward included Spotland Bridge, Catley Lane Head and Beaufort Street.

The resident who is proposing to restore the fencing asked if it would be possible to obtain a fence panel to undertake restoration work.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

2. Safety Barrier - Junction of Sandy Lane / Viking Street

Following the receipt of a number of complaints about the above safety barrier Highways had provided the following statement;

Why was the barrier installed?

The barrier was installed as a Township Committee approved safety initiative following a high speed car accident that had occurred at this junction in winter 2016.

Was there any public consultation regarding the barrier?

The barrier installation was discussed at the Spotland and Failinge Area Forum on at least two occasions and the decision to go ahead with the installation was made at the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Delegated Sub Committee on the 07/03/2017.

What type of barrier has been used?

Armco barrier has been used in this location due to its ability to absorb impacts and deflect vehicles away from the footpath in the event of an accident. Other barrier types were not suitable at this location due to the high speed of previous accidents.

Safety Issues

The barrier has been installed to the specification for Armco however we do take on board comments around the exposed blunt edges and we are currently working with the contractor to come up with a solution to eliminate any risks that these may pose to pedestrians.

Parking issues

In response to the barrier taking up parking spaces, The Highway Code states that motorists should not park on the public footpath unless there are signs permitting this as this can cause obstructions and inconveniences to pedestrians. As the barrier is wholly placed within the footpath it is not deemed that any genuine parking facilities have been lost.

A local Ward Councillor also advised the Forum that Highways had declined the request to progress the installation of a barrier on the corner of Edenfield Road / Sandy Lane because it would not be suitable on safety grounds.

3. Section 106 Funds

The Township and Engagement Officer circulated information which explained the process for modifying Section 106 agreements. A link to this is below.

[Policy background](http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57111/Policy%20background.pdf)

<http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57111/Policy%20background.pdf>

It was also explained that the Ings Lane play area development has not progressed because a fully costed scheme is required before Section 106 funds can be sought.

#### 4. TBA Questionnaire

A response to the TBA questionnaire that was submitted at the last forum meeting was circulated. A link to this is below.

#### [Response to TBA questionnaire](http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57112/Response%20to%20TBA%20questionnaire.pdf)

<http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57112/Response%20to%20TBA%20questionnaire.pdf>

#### 5. Cutgate Road

Forum members were informed that financial support for the introduction of traffic calming and a 20mph zone scheme on Cutgate Road was agreed at Rochdale Township Action and Resources Delegated Sub-Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016. It is understood that the consultation process in relation to this scheme will start within the next month.

It was also advised that consultation will take the form of a notice in the press and information posted on lamp posts.

#### 6. Dog Fouling

Alleygated area on Belvoir Street - this had been reported.

#### 7. Trees

Problems caused on Dellar Street because of overhanging trees had been addressed.

#### 8. Pot Holes

Tenby Street – this had been reported.

#### 9. Traffic Regulation Orders and Planning Applications

A resident asked if it would be possible to circulate notification of Traffic Regulation Orders and Planning Applications relevant to the Spotland and Falinge Ward via the Forum database.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this.

#### 86 MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

The Forum was informed that £8000 was available in Ward Funds.

Nigel Morrell, Chair of Norden Area Forum and Chair of Rochdale In Bloom explained the concept of the 'In Bloom' competition and the work undertaken by the Rochdale In Bloom Group. Congratulations were offered to the work undertaken in Spotland and Falinge Ward to support this year's 'In Bloom' competition and Forum members were encouraged to join the In Bloom Group. Councillors Cecile Biant and Cocks agreed to this together with residents P. Massey, Monica Oliver and Katie Lawrence.

Following discussion it was agreed to allocate £2000 from Ward Funds to support future 'in bloom' projects in the Ward.

Financial support had been allocated to the following projects from 2017/2018 Members Funds:

Councillor Cecile Biant

Rochdale Sports Club - £499  
Spotland Church Fridge Freezer - £401.98  
Spotland Church Sound System - £243.97

Funds remaining - £855.05

Councillor Surinder Biant

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum – Community Consultation Event - £1000

Funds remaining - £1000

Councillor Wendy Cocks

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum – Display Equipment - £1000

Funds remaining £1000

#### 87 **COUNCILLOR UPDATES/NEWS**

Each of the Ward Councillors provided a written update regarding current work issues. A link to each of these updates is provided below.

##### [Councillor Updates](http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57113/Councillor%20Updates.pdf)

<http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s57113/Councillor%20Updates.pdf>

The Forum was also informed that an International Food Festival will be taking place on the 9<sup>th</sup> September in Falinge Park. The event is being organised by Vintage Worx.

The Chair also thanked the local Ward Councillors for the work they undertake in the Ward.

#### 88 **OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN THE WARD**

Prior to the commencement of the Open Forum the Chair proposed that an additional meeting should be organised to deal with the findings of the TBA perimeter air sampling survey results. The Forum agreed to this.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to organise this meeting as soon as possible.

Residents raised the following issues:

##### 1. Events

The Chair informed the Forum that the next meeting of The Friends of Denehurst Park will be held on Thursday 21st September 2017 at Spotland Library commencing 6.30pm. He also informed the Forum that he had received information regarding events at Spotland Library and Spotland Community Association. It was agreed that this information should be circulated via the Forum database.

##### 2. Overgrown Hedges / Trees

Concerns were raised about overhanging trees / hedges on Beaufort Street and Woodland Road.

##### 3. Meanwood School – Roof Tiles

A resident asked why the ornate roof tiles had not been replaced on Meanwood School following the completion of the building work.

4. Stop Signs

Safety concerns were raised about the junction at Spotland Bridge and if stop signs could be introduced.

5. Barrier

A resident asked if the barrier between Bridgefold Road and Pits Farm Avenue could be re-opened.

6. Installation of gates

A resident asked if gates could be installed within the two perimeter fences that divide Innes Close and the open space on Ings Lane.

7. Alleygates

A resident asked why alleygates could not be installed on land adjacent to his property on Rupert Street.

8. Churchill Street Footway

A resident raised concerns about the condition of the footway on Churchill Street

It was explained that a two year maintenance programme is in place and it will be checked if Churchill Street is on the list. The Township and Engagement Officer was also asked to provide copies of the maintenance programme for the next Area Forum meeting.

9. Potholes – Cutgate Precinct Car Park

A resident commented that the above had not been repaired.

10. Ings Lane Open Space

A resident asked if monies had been received from the building contractor for the use of part of the above land as a site compound.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

11. TBA

A discussion took place about the lack of information being provided regarding TBA and the lack of progress being made with the site. Residents expressed the view that they were dissatisfied, angry and frustrated with the current situation.

A resident asked if a representative from the land owners could attend the meeting that is to be organised once the perimeter air sampling survey results are known.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to raise this issue.

12. Section 106 Agreement Modification

A resident informed the Forum that he had attended the Planning and Licensing Committee meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 which agreed to modify the planning obligations contained within the Section 106 Agreement pertinent to the development on the former Alexander Drew Site, Mellor Street, Rochdale.

The resident informed the Forum that by taking this action the Local Authority had significantly reduced the financial contributions of the contractor towards off-site local open space, outdoor sports provision and junction improvement works. The resident also commented that he did not agree with some of the data within the report relating to reduced traffic flow in the area. He also commented that he was disappointed with the level of debate at the meeting and the lack of scrutiny of the evidence presented.

Councillor Surinder Biant who is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee explained that issues of this nature are taken very seriously and a great deal of time and effort is afforded to understand the issues being discussed. It was explained that in making this decision all factors had to be taken into account including the advice provided by Officers at the meeting. Other Ward Councillors present concurred with this view.

**89 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Spotland & Falinge Area Forum is planned for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7pm (including Annual General Meeting) at Spotland Methodist Church.

The additional meeting of Spotland & Falinge Area Forum requested and agreed at the Forum meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017 will be organised as soon as possible.

## **SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 2 October 2017**

**PRESENT:** N. Morrell, J. Hayes, K. Lawrence, K. Salisbury, P. Salisbury, R. Down, A. Rawsterne, F. Healey, C. Forden, , L. Thomas, T. Le Monnier, R. Hudson, R. Watkins, C. Faulkner, J & J Ashworth, D. Bale, S & S. Davison, J. Brierley, D. O' Brien, A & V Somerville, D. Phillips, R. Le Monnier, K. Riclardsi, N. Brierley, , B. Holden, S. Ashworth, H. Barlow, M. Knight (Rochdale Online), P. Massey (Chair), B. Fitton, M. Burnside, N & L Wild, J. Sherlock and J. Addy.

**OFFICERS:** N. Rogers (Rochdale Borough Council), J. Carrington (Bureau Veritas), S. Hodge (Bureau Veritas), W. Meston (Rochdale Borough Council) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

**COUNCILLORS:** Councillor W. Cocks and Councillor M. Holly

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE;** Councillor Surinder Biant, Councillor Cecile Biant, Councillor J. Gartside, Tony Lloyd MP, B. Penty, Barbara and John Oliver and Ian Sturrock.

#### **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

90

The meeting was chaired by Phil Massey who welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the Forum of the purpose of the meeting.

It was explained that because of the location of the TBA site Councillors and residents from Norden and Healey Wards had also been invited to the meeting.

The Forum was asked to abide by the Code of Conduct throughout the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Surinder Biant, Councillor Cecile Biant, Councillor J. Gartside, Tony Lloyd MP, B. Penty, Barbara and John Oliver and Ian Sturrock.

#### **PRESENTATION ON THE FINDINGS OF THE TBA PERIMETER AIR SAMPLING SURVEY FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS**

91

Nicola Rogers (Rochdale Borough Council) and two representatives from Bureau Veritas, Simon Hodge and John Carrington attended the meeting for this item.

Because residents had been provided with a link to the report prior to the meeting The Forum was provided with a brief overview of the monitoring exercise, which included details of;

- The scope of the monitoring exercise
- The rationale for choosing sampling locations – permanent and variable
- The purpose of the preliminary sampling exercise

- The strategy considered for long term data collection (phase 2) of the exercise
- Sampling methodology adopted
- The total number of samples taken
- Findings

It was also commented that although it is accepted that there is no safe level of airborne asbestos the World Health Organisation states that fibre levels below 0.0005 fibres per millimetre are not a significant risk. The level of detection for phase two of the exercise falls into this category. As a consequence there does not appear to be any evidence to suggest there is any significant risk to health of those living or working in the area around the TBA site. The report has also been shared with Public Health England.

The report will also be shared with Senior Elected Members of the Council tomorrow.

The following issues were raised by residents;

A resident commented that at this moment in time the land is settled, however should disturbance occur how many fibres would be released? An example of motor bikes using the land was given.

*Response – It is accepted that any land disturbance could potentially release asbestos fibres into the air, however it is very difficult to quantify.*

Several residents raised concerns about the validity of the monitoring exercise. Residents were of the opinion that additional monitoring was required, more sampling locations should have been identified and more data should have been collected. In reality the monitoring exercise accounts for a very small window of time. As a consequence clarity was sought about the extent of the monitoring that took place.

*R - A series of monitoring locations were established around the former TBA site which determined airborne fibre concentrations at monthly intervals over an eighteen month period. The monitoring network comprised of four permanent stations which were selected due to prevailing wind direction, with additional sites selected for monitoring depending on the wind direction on the survey date. Air monitoring used two different types of analysis – Phase Contrast Optical Microscopy (PCOM) and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). Monitoring was not continuous but administered over a 2 hour period. In total 103 samples were taken. One asbestos fibre was found during phase one at Harridge Avenue, no fibres were found during phase two including Harridge Avenue.*

A resident asked if sampling frequency had been changed during the monitoring exercise?

*R – Yes. The following events occurred during the course of the survey which required adjustment to the planned sampling frequency;*

- *A few months were missed due to prolonged bad weather which prevented air sampling;*

- *Illness of the consultant attending the site;*
- *Unauthorised dumping occurred on the TBA site which resulted in an increase in the number of variable sampling locations on Woodland Road immediately adjacent to the dumped waste piles.*
- *An intrusive ground investigation was conducted by the site owners own consultants (RSK Group) during November 2016 to January 2017. Phase 2 monitoring was subsequent extended to ensure any ground disturbances were covered.*

A resident commented that damp conditions can significantly reduce fibre detection. Therefore is it possible to identify when samples were detected to understand the weather conditions at the time.

*R – Yes*

It was asked if the raw data from the survey could be made available?

*R – Yes*

Was the monitoring station at Harridge Avenue re-visited following detection of the fibre at the monitoring station?

*R – Yes and nothing else was found.*

A resident commented that a report drafted in 2005 suggested using more sensitive methods to aid sampling because certain types of air sampling methods are poor at detecting low levels of asbestos exposure. It was asked if the content of this report had been taken into consideration?

Another resident cited a further incident where information from the Secretary of State was available, however he doubted this information would have been taken into account.

*R – It was acknowledged that the content of the 2005 draft report had not been taken into consideration. It was agreed that this report should be forwarded to the Council.*

*It was also accepted that technically it would have been possible to increase sampling volumes, however increasing sample volumes eventually becomes self-limiting because of other particulates. It was commented that the techniques used – PCOM and SEM are accepted industry standards.*

A resident commented that he had spoken to RSK Group representatives who had informed him that they have no knowledge of other surveys or other information on the site being available.

*R – Senior management at RSK Group are using historical data, the Atkins Report and the results of their intrusive site survey to provide a detailed understanding of the site.*

It was asked what the cost of the air sampling survey was, who paid for it and if terms of reference for the exercise were agreed.

*R - Rochdale Borough Council commissioned the survey at a cost of £26000. Terms of reference were agreed and satisfied.*

A discussion took place concerning the use of the Armley Factory in Leeds as a comparator with the TBA site. Residents were of the opinion that this was not justified as the TBA site was much larger and 'unique' in terms of the production of asbestos

*R – It was commented that the comparison was made to demonstrate the air sampling techniques used elsewhere and data collected.*

Residents commented that the site is still accessible and used by the public on a daily basis. Concerns were also raised about the safety of the buildings.

*R – The Forum was informed that the land owners are responsible for site security and ensuring buildings on site are safe. The land owners are aware of their responsibilities to undertake site inspections.*

It was asked what response times can be expected if a fire occurs on site.

*R – Bureau Veritas can be on site in ninety minutes with sampling analyst on site within 4 hours. Results would follow shortly after this.*

A resident asked if it was true that lessons had been learned from the two fires that had occurred at the site.

*R – It was agreed this was the case as a site specific emergency plan was produced to deal with any future incidents. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service facilitate this procedure.*

A resident asked what triggers the emergency plan

*R – Unsure. Will investigate further*

Concerns were raised by a number of forum members that residents and other interested parties did not have a platform to discuss the TBA site. It was asked if the TBA working party which once existed could be re-established. This view was further supported by another member of the Forum who commented that they do not feel the community is any further on than we were twelve years ago. Reasons given were that the sampling techniques and methodologies used are flawed and inadequate, the knowledge of local people has been ignored and the uniqueness of the site has not been taken into consideration. We need to move forward and assurances need to be given regarding public health.

*R – The suggestion concerning the re-establishment of the TBA Working Party will be investigated.*

A discussion took place about the site not being legally classified as contaminated land. An opinion was given which argued that the land was not classified as contaminated because there is a possibility that the site could be used for development purposes in the future. Contrary to this, a draft Council report was presented which indicated the site should be determined as contaminated land.

The same resident questioned why legal advice sought by the Council and paid for from public finances about the Council's responsibilities towards the site and site owners cannot be made public.

*R – It was confirmed that the TBA site is not determined contaminated land and the legal advice given would have been privileged information. However the concerns raised will be passed on.*

It was asked how residents can activate an emergency situation

*R – Residents were encouraged to contact Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service or the Police in an emergency. The Councils Contact Centre could also be contacted.*

A resident asked if a contingency plan for site security existed should the existing land owner abandon the land.

*R – There is no evidence to suggest that the landowner is considering abandoning the land*

Because of concerns raised during the Forum about the lack of progress being made with the site a resident asked if a deal had been done with the land owners. In the opinion of one resident this view was fuelled further because of the Council's desire to develop the Akzo Nobel site in Littleborough.

*R – Although the Council wants a sustainable future for the whole site, no deal has been done.*

A resident commented that Central Government should be approached to assist with dealing with the TBA site

*R – This suggestion would be referred accordingly*

A resident asked if the intrusive site survey carried out by RSK Group on behalf of the land owners had been completed. If so do we know when it will be available.

*R – The Forum was informed that the land owners had been contacted on numerous occasions requesting information about the site survey. No responses had been received therefore it is not possible to provide a timeframe for receipt of the report.*

A member of the Forum commented that based on discussions at this meeting it was evident that the land owners are doing very little to progress matters and they seem to be ignoring calls for site / safety inspections. Therefore it was necessary for the Council to consider regulation and enforcement and refer the matter to the highest levels.

*R – The concerns raised will be passed on and the Council's position regarding enforcement will be investigated.*

A resident asked if RSK Group could be approached directly to find out if they have completed the intrusive site survey

*R – Yes, this could be done.*

Action Points from meeting

1. Information identifying the weather conditions when the airborne sample was detected should be made available.
2. The raw data from the survey be made available
3. The draft report compiled in 2005 be forwarded to Nicola Rogers
4. Investigate the Emergency Plan 'trigger points' and provide details to the Forum.
5. Investigate if the TBA Working Party could be re-established and the outcome be forwarded to the Forum.
6. The concerns raised regarding the TBA site not being determined as contaminated land be reported.
7. A request that the legal advice received by the Council in relation to responsibilities for the site be made available to the public be investigated and findings reported back to the Forum.
8. A request that Central Government be contacted to ascertain if they are willing to assist in progressing issues relevant to the TBA site be passed on and any response be made available to the Forum.
9. Rochdale Council's enforcement powers in relation to the site should be investigated and findings reported back to the Forum.
10. RSK Group to be asked if they have completed the intrusive site survey and findings be reported back to the Forum.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SPOTLAND & FALINGE AREA FORUM**

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Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7pm (including Annual General Meeting) at Spotland Methodist Church.