

NORDEN AREA FORUM

Tuesday 12 June 2018
Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road
Norden, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: N. Morrell (Chair), J. Knott, P. Hotchkiss, P. Ellison, J. Kershaw, S. Kershaw, M. Steward, S. Clegg, A. Lord, J. Brown, C. Southward, C. Brandford, S. Gould, L. Sutcliffe, M. Newnham and C. Entwistle

Councillors: Councillors Holly and Winkler

Officers: R. Hudson (Rochdale Council - Townships)

Apologies: PCSO N. Haille (GMP), Councillor Gartside, C. McHugh, I. Sturrock, A. Rawsterne and J. Oliver

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair introduced him and officers present, and welcomed all to the meeting. He referred to the code of conduct and asked all to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 6 March 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Updates

School Lane adjacent to Scott House

The bannister is now demolished with the wood being taken and it poses a risk to anyone using the steps. This matter was raised with the Council's Environmental Management Department.

Furbarn Lane – Swing gate at the end of the kissing gate/tiger trap

The wall has broken away and therefore could give unauthorised access to motorbikes or cyclists. This matter was raised with the Council's Environmental Management Department. Works have been completed.

Fly tipping

A query was raised by the forum regarding the cost per tonne to the Council to remove fly tipping. This matter was raised with Council's Environmental Management Department. The cost of removing fly tipping is £353.61 per tonne not including operative time.

Scout Moor Wind Farm

No update.

Former Turner Brothers Site

No update. Spotland & Falinge Area Forum expressed concerns about children playing on the site and enquiries need to be forwarded to the Director of Public Health regarding this matter.

Neighbourhood Plan

This matter has been put on hold until after the summer period. A document will then be published regarding the level of commitment and support after being assessed. Further information can be found at www.nordenneighbourhoodforum.org.uk

Taylor Park

The new fencing has been erected and the bins will be installed after the first week in July. Thanks to the local Ward Councillors and the Rochdale Township Clean & Green Priority Group for the funding assistance.

Norden Spring Clean-up

The clean-up was held on Saturday 10 March 2018 at Jubilee Park, Norden. All residents are welcome to volunteer their time towards the efforts of this group who meet Sunday mornings at 10am for 2 hours. The Chair gave thanks from the forum to P. Ellison for organisation of the group and efforts also in Birtle.

Operation Dragster and ASB/off-road biking on the Moors

The Chair advised the forum that GMP have confirmed they have funding in place for another operation to be carried out before the end of June.

Footpaths and Rights of Way Update

Update was given by the Chair on behalf of J. Oliver. The last quarterly meeting of the Rights of Way Committee took place on 31 May 2018 and 15 representatives attended from walking groups, bridleways associations and officers from the Council, etc. The Council's Rights of Way Officer provided details of improvements recently made, along with the news that an apprentice Rights of Way Officer has now been appointed to assist her. It was noted by the forum that the recent renovation works to the footpath by the side of the reservoir has been done to an excellent standard. Thanks given to J. Simpson, J. Oliver and R. Thornley for all their hard work.

3. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Apologies were received from N. Haille (GMP). Update given via the Chair for the period from 6 March 2018 up to 12 June 2018.

Burglary (residential dwelling): 13

Commercial burglary: 3

Theft from motor vehicle: 19

Theft of motor vehicle: 2

Anti-social behaviour: 3 incidents have occurred (Co-op, Caldershaw Road and Edenfield Road)

Operation Dragster: Will be held again before the end of this month

Speed Operation: Planned before the end of July 2018

One offender has recently been arrested and is now on remand, along with two other offenders found responsible for burglaries at residential and commercial properties within Norden.

New CCTV has recently been installed in the village which was funded by the local Ward Councillors using Township monies. The Chair requested that NEEVA seek to compile a list of locations of other CCTV of businesses in Norden so that a full picture can be determined of the coverage.

Action: Chair requested that P. Ellison escalate matter to NEEVA to action.

PACT - Priorities agreed:

1. Burglary
2. YCA (youths causing annoyance)
3. Drugs

The Chair of the forum expressed praise and thanks to PCSO N. Haille for his commitment and work in the community and for the ward of Norden. However, concern was raised about the PACT meetings (Police & Community Together) being moved to an online format as opposed to in person. This matter along with waiting times for the 101 line will be escalated to MP L. McInnes who in turn will raise it with the Mayor A. Burnham. Speeding vehicles was another issue raised and forum members made reference to the fact that there are very few traffic police visible on the roads.

Any issues/matters to be reported to the Police by ringing 101.

4. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Woodyard Service Station (Planning Application)

The planning application submitted for an extension of the opening hours to make it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week was rejected recently and the owners appealed the decision. The appeal was refused on the grounds of noise.

Heritage Green

Councillor Holly gave an update as he attended the meeting along with M. Hope back in March. Further consultation is needed. A decision on the Heritage Green is hopefully no longer being determined by East Cheshire Council's Planning Department after Councillor Holly's meeting with Rochdale Council's Chief Executive, Steve Rumbelow. He has now asked for the matter to be dealt with by Rochdale's Planning Department. A further meeting will be held on 18 June 2018. Councillor Holly gave thanks to M. Hope for all his hard work and also the 270 members of the Friends of group.

Defibrillator

A defibrillator for general public use has been installed on the external wall of St Vincent's Parish Hall, Caldershaw Road, Norden. This equipment provision has been a joint effort on behalf of the North West Ambulance Service and local Ward Councillors.

Hutchinson Road TRO/Restrictions

The TRO was considered at the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Sub Committee on 13 March 2018 and was refused. Councillor Winkler advised the forum that he has been speaking to the Council's Highways Department urging them to consider carrying out a wider consultation to obtain more feedback from the wider community to get a more detailed opinion on what changes are needed. The Chair urged members of the forum to get involved in any discussions and put forward their ideas to compile a bigger project and better consultation to prepare a more holistic plan for the village of Norden.

Caldershaw Play Area

Councillor Holly gave an update on the additional features recently installed in the park including the extra piece of equipment (a 'Spira') which was donated after the arson attack last year. Safety barriers on each of the two exits are on order and will be installed as soon as possible to prevent children running out onto the main road. The Chair of the forum urged residents to keep a vigilant eye on the park and report any incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The Norden Arms & Moorland Avenue

A funding request was approved at the Rochdale Township Action and Resources Sub Committee on 13 March 2018 for waiting restrictions at the junction of Elmsfield Avenue and Edenfield Road. It will be implemented as soon as possible; however, Councillor Holly advised the forum of a slight delay in a backlog of Traffic Regulation Orders at the moment with Highways.

5. OPEN FORUM

Clay Lane/Furbarn Road - HGV Incident

A resident attended to advise the forum of the incident this week whereby a HGV reversed into his property causing substantial damage after wrongly accessing Clay Lane/Furbarn Road, Norden. Previous incidents of similar occurrences on School Lane/Ashworth Road were also discussed.

Councillor Winkler advised that he was liaising with the Council's Highways Department on the matter regarding more signage. Discussion was then held as to what the best options were to deter HGV drivers accessing the roads; suggestions also included use of barriers, chicanes or bollards, etc. A vote was taken by all in attendance at the forum to agree to signage being requested – unanimous support was given.

Progress since date of forum: The Council's Highways Department have ordered new signage which will be paid for by Norden Ward Councillors using Township Funds.

Woodhouse Lane – HGV Damage

A resident reported a recent incident whereby an articulated lorry, wrongly accessing the top of the narrow lane, demolished a wall and took out a highway mirror and lamppost. Councillor Winkler advised he will also raise this issue with Highways. A vote was taken by all in attendance at the forum to agree to signage being requested – unanimous support was given.

Progress since date of forum: The Council's Highways Department have ordered new signage which will be paid for by Norden Ward Councillors using Township Funds.

Cutgate Precinct – Car Park Potholes

Residents complained that the situation regarding the formation of potholes in the Cutgate Precinct car park needed immediate attention again.

Progress since date of forum: The contractor on behalf of the Council's Highways Department has completed works to the potholes.

Fly tipping – Norden

Incidents of fly-tipping have increased across the ward. Areas include near Owd Betts, Greenbooth and Red Lumb.

Action: Townships to raise the matter with the Council's Environmental Management Department and Public Realm Inspector.

Littering – Woodhouse Lane, Norden

Increase in the littering at the top end of Woodhouse Lane.

Action: Townships to raise the matter with the Council's Environmental Management Department and Public Realm Inspector.

Overgrown Borders Obstructing Pavements – Norden

Residents commented that there was an increasing problem across the ward regarding overgrown residential bushes and borders encroaching onto the pavements obstructing passers-by.

Action: Councillor Winkler to raise the matter with the Council's Environmental Management Department and Public Realm Inspector.

Whitefield Avenue – Potholes

A resident reported a number of potholes on Whitefield Avenue needing attention; 2 are located at the far end of the T-junction/cul-de-sac and 2 on the lane itself.

Action: Townships to raise the matter with the Council's Highways Department.

Industry Street, Norden – Pothole

A resident reported a pothole on Industry Street needing attention.

Action: Townships to raise the matter with the Council's Highways Department.

Chairs Final Update

- Norden Carnival will be held on Saturday 16 June 2018 from 1pm. All residents are welcome to go along and support and enjoy the celebration. The theme this year will be 'In Bloom'.
- The judges of the In Bloom competition are keen to see community participation in the forthcoming judging days of the event which will be on 3 and 4 July 2018 and 9 August 2018 (National judging day). An extension to the area of woodland near Pippin Hill is a small project being undertaken within the ward by Moss Row Community Allotments Society, as is another project by The Friends of Ashworth Valley. Thanks to all who get involved.

6. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11 September 2018 at 7.00pm

Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road, Norden