

MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM

Monday 25 March 2019 at 6.30pm
Deeplish Community Centre, Hare Street,
Rochdale OL11 1JT

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Apologies/Code of Conduct
2. Greater Manchester Police including PACT meeting
3. Open Forum
An opportunity for local residents to comment on issues in the ward
4. Minutes from previous meeting/Matters arising/Updates
5. Members/Ward Funds
6. Councillor Updates
7. Dates and times of next meetings

17 June 2019 at 6.30pm (Castlemere Community Centre)
9 September 2019 at 6.30pm (Deeplish Community Centre)
4 November 2019 at 6.30pm (Castlemere Community Centre)
10 February 2020 at 6.30pm (Deeplish Community Centre)

Councillor Surgery Details

First Saturday of each month

10.00am – 11.00am at Deeplish Community Centre, Hare Street, Rochdale

Third Saturday of each month

10.00am – 11.00am at Castlemere Community Centre, Tweedale Street, Rochdale
11.00am – 12.00 noon at Sparthbottom Community Centre, Norman Road, Rochdale

No appointments necessary, just drop in at any of the above centres during the surgery times

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 4

MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM

Monday 3 December 2018
Deeplish Community Centre
Hare Street, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: S. Mohammed (in the Chair) and approximately twelve members of the public

Councillors: Councillors Sultan Ali, Sameena Zaheer and Mohammed Zaman

Officers: V. White (Rochdale Council Townships & Communities Manager), M. Reynolds (Rochdale Council Public Realm Inspector), PS Shirazi, PC Waqas, PCSOs Hussain and Nazir (Greater Manchester Police)

Apologies: Councillor Brett, B. Bevan, G. Finch and P. Crompton

Press: N. Statham (MEN)

129. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair introduced himself 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.

Filming

A member of the public attempted to film the meeting. Whilst it was accepted that it was his right to do so, a number of attendees expressed deep concerns and discomfort. The Chair respectfully asked that the filming cease, as no prior notice had been given. Filming stopped immediately.

130. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

The forum welcomed PC Waqas who is new to the ward. PC Waqas updated the forum on the following matters:

- Drug operations – there has been a lot of positive action and a number of arrests made.
- Fireworks – dedicated patrols have taken place across the Borough.
- Prostitution – A number of motorists in the area have been challenged, which has led to a decrease in the number of sex workers on the streets and an increase in referrals to specialist services.
- The National Crime Agency has been working in Rochdale, as have the North West and South East Regional Crime Units, on Operation Titan. Operations around modern slavery and human trafficking have also taken place.
- A new initiative called 'Ride-along' has been developed which involves members of the public accompanying the Police on their patrols. Any interested residents were invited to express an interest in taking part.
- Operation Guard is an initiative to tackle commercial burglaries and is now underway.
- In the New Year the Police intend to carry out primary school visits and to attend Councillor surgeries. There are also planned traffic operations around non-wearing of seatbelts, mobile phone use whilst driving, etc.
- It is planned to introduce a 'Community Deputy' scheme, which will see residents taking responsibility for information sharing in their own streets, similar to Neighbourhood Watch.

PACT

The current priorities are traffic offences, drugs and anti-social behaviour, particularly groups in cars.

A discussion about street beggars took place and residents were informed that it is often the case that beggars are not homeless and are encouraged to continue their activity by people giving them food and money – all were encouraged not to do so and to give to charities to distribute instead.

101 Number

There was a discussion about the difficulties getting through on 101. PC Waqas advised residents of other ways of getting in touch with the Police including Live Chat via the GMP website:

<https://gmppsupport1.imsupporting.com/welcome3/index.php?siteid=7020160913371>

131. OPEN FORUM

Street cleaning

There were claims that the footpaths are not swept regularly enough and litter picking on grassed areas isn't happening. Also reports of rubbish around Milkstone Road railway bridge.

Action 1: Raise frequency of cleaning/sweeping cycle with Street Services (Mark Reynolds)

Durham Street private land

A resident reported that there is rubbish dumped on this garage site, which has led to mice in the area.

Action 2: Arrange visit and any necessary enforcement action (Mark Reynolds)

Parking issues

Councillor Zaheer confirmed a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the Castlemere Street area had not been supported by Rochdale Township Action & Resources Committee, but a TRO for Milkstone Road was approved. A long discussion took place around parking throughout the ward; members had received a copy of a detailed report compiled by Rochdale Council's Highways Officers that responded to all of the issues raised at recent forums and subsequent public consultations. Councillors will work with residents, and the recommendations/observations contained in the report, to identify any possible future schemes.

King Street power cut

It was reported that at 2.30am on 28 November 2018 an explosion happened which led to a power-cut. Whilst Electricity North West (ENW) had power restored by 3.30am, it was claimed that nobody attended to look for the source of the explosion or to inspect any damage. A resident inspected at 6.30pm on 29 November 2018 and discovered a 6ft pit leading to high voltage cables. There were claims that this was the second explosion of this kind. Residents were informed that the emergency telephone number for ENW is 105.

Action 3: Make enquiries with ENW around the nature of this occurrence and the likelihood of a repeat (Gary Finch)

132. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

Future venue

The previous decision to alternate between Castlemere and Deepdish Community Centres was discussed. Due to the outstanding commitment to Deepdish for the current year, the alternate venues will not be utilised until 2019/20.

Community Centre funding proposals

The forum was informed, via the floor, that there is a proposal to reduce grants to Community Centres by 50% next financial year, and concerns that some vital services will be lost, and some will close. Councillor Zaheer acknowledged these concerns, explaining that Council funds were now greatly reduced and that savings have to be made.

Stoneyfield Park

Rochdale AFC are offering free coaching sessions at 10am on Saturdays, in order to encourage young Asian people into football. Councillors accepted that there have been previous commitments to improvements – i.e. floodlights, changing rooms, and they are still committed to looking for the funding to achieve this. Link4Life are also offering many sports for £1 per session during the Winter at various venues.

Chunky Chicken

The Traffic Regulation Order recently agreed for Milkstone Road will impact on how this business addresses the removal of its trade waste. The Public Realm Inspector stressed that the business is absolutely compliant with trade waste and stated that all parties will need to come together to help identify a solution when the issue presents itself.

133. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Councillor Brett

Apologies received.

Councillor Zaman

No updates, due to Mayoral duties.

Councillor Zaheer

- Working hard to tackle many issues; budgets are often a barrier.
- Currently working to promote Lincoln Close to motorists in order to reduce traffic on Durham Street.
- Recycling rates in the ward are improving, work is ongoing.
- Fire Service Museum – successful lottery bid, work due to begin.
- Compulsory Purchase Orders – properties have been identified and the process is now beginning.

134. ROCHDALE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

The group has been working to improve the ward since June 2005, with residents support, its aims are to bring pride back to Rochdale. Every Saturday, around ten residents assemble at Castlemere Community Centre, anyone is welcome to join them. The group is supported physically and financially by Ward Councillors and the Township. The group are proud to announce that they were awarded the Community Champions Award at the recent In Bloom ceremony.

The Chair extended his thanks to the group, and also to Mark Reynolds (Public Realm Inspector) for all of their hard work in improving the environment within the ward.

135. MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

No update was given.

136. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 25 March 2019 at 6.30pm in Deeplish Community Centre, Hare Street, Rochdale.