

CENTRAL ROCHDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 18 March 2019

PRESENT: Councillor A Ahmed, B. Lloyd (Chair) and approximately 20 members of the public.

OFFICERS: PS Sutcliffe, PC Hammed, PCSO Whitehead, L. Wardle (Public Realm Inspector), M. Reynolds (ASB & Community Safety Officer) and G. Finch (Township and Engagement Officer)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Iftikhar Ahmed and Councillor Sultan Ali.

INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Apologies had been received from Councillor Sultan Ali and Iftikhar Ahmed.

PACT MEETING - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

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PS Sutcliffe, PC Hameed and PCSO Whitehead attended the meeting for this item

It was reported that since the last meeting there had been an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour, burglary, theft from motor vehicles and criminal damage. Reports had decreased in relation to robbery and theft of motor vehicles.

Numerous residents raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour to the rear of Oswald Street adjacent to South Street Park. It was reported this happens regularly with youths gathering, many in cars causing a general disturbance into the early hours.

In response to this GMP acknowledged they were aware of the problem and had been patrolling the area more frequently. However it was commented that when residents have been approached regarding this issue it does not seem to be a problem. In addition reports received about this issue are low and do not indicate a serious problem. However based on the response at tonight's meeting GMP accepted action should be taken to reassure residents. A project/initiative will be put together with partner agencies to resolve this problem. Residents were encouraged to keep reporting incidents in the area with as much information as possible.

GMP also reported that they had been dealing with youth's congregating in the high rise flats and are looking to introduce Criminal Behaviour Orders.

In response to a question GMP acknowledged that officers had not been visible enough in the Ward, however limited capacity and resources in the Neighbourhood Team had hindered GMP's preferred approach.

It was commented however that a good and committed Neighbourhood Team is now in place and they are determined to serve the Ward positively and proactively. It was reiterated however that in order to achieve this the community needs to play an important role in reporting criminal activity and informing GMP of potential hot spots

in the Ward and where greater visibility of uniformed officers is needed. It was also explained that GMP are hoping to establish a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Ward and encouraged residents to volunteer to facilitate this scheme.

In response to this, suggestions put forward included:

- Visit the local community centres – possibly organise drop-in sessions.
- Visit the local Mosques – beggars have been a problem at prayer times, particularly on Friday's.
- Visit Rochdale Thai Boxing Club to develop links with the community.

In addition to the above the bridge on Gowers Street (drug dealing), the car park at Wardleworth Community Centre (ASB) and speeding on Entwistle Road where identified as problematical hot spots.

It was agreed that Ward priorities for GMP over the coming months should be to focus on the problems identified to the rear of Oswald Street and establish community links.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

3

The minutes of Central Rochdale Area Forum held on Monday 18 March 2019 where approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

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Residents raised the following issues.

1. Land to the rear of KYP

A resident commented that rumours were circulating about the above land being used as a Travellers site.

In response the Township and Engagement Officer acknowledged that he was aware that the Council and KYP had been in discussion about the possibility of joint use of the land.

Following discussion it was agreed that Peter Maynard be asked to keep the Forum updated on developments and that he should be invited to the Area Forum meeting on the 10 June 2019.

2. Recent flooding in the Ward

A number of residents raised concerns about flooding in the Ward and the lack of progress being made to combat this problem since the floods in 2015. The area around Gowers Street was identified as a particular problem area.

It was agreed that the Township and Engagement Officer contact the Flood Project Officer to make her aware of these concerns and request that a Flood Forum meeting be organised as soon as possible. Residents who were requesting this course of action were urged to attend this meeting when arranged.

It was also commented that a Community Action Day had been arranged for Saturday 23 March 10.30 – 1.30 meeting by the river at the end of Gowers

Street. This will be followed by lunch for all volunteers at the Scout Hut, Darlington House, George Street.

3. A resident complained that operatives are not ensuring that bottles are secure after collection. This results in liquids being displaced over the carriageway and footway.
4. A resident commented that there are many gullies in the Ward in need of cleaning.
5. A resident commented that more work needs to be done with private sector landlords to ensure that when properties are vacated furniture is not illegally tipped.

MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

5

The Forum was informed that Members and Ward Funds for 2018/19 had been allocated and it was likely to be June before budgets for 2019/20 were known.

It was asked if the Forum could be informed which projects are being supported from Members / Ward Funds. This was agreed.

WARD NEWS

6

Councillor Ali Ahmed informed the Forum that the bulky waste initiative had been completed however fly tipping was still a major problem in the Ward. Residents were encouraged to take responsibility and keep areas as tidy as possible. Incidents of fly tipping should be reported to Environmental Management.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

7

10 June 2019

19 August 2019

11 November 2019

3 February 2020

All the above meetings will commence at 6.30pm at Wardleworth Community Centre.