

HEALEY AREA FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, 10 January 2019

PRESENT: Councillors O'Neill and Wazir and approximately 20 members of the public.

OFFICERS: PC Jones, PC Harvard, PCSO 71658, G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer) and L. Wardle (Public Realm Officer).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Heakin, PCSO Vohra and six residents.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the Forum of the need to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Heakin, PCSO Vohra and six residents.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

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PC Harvard, PC Jones and PCSO 71658 attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed of the following. The following comments relate to the period 19 October 2018 until 10 January 2019 and are in comparison to the figures quoted at the last forum.

- Anti-social behaviour has increased. No trends have been identified

Residents raised the issue of anti-social behaviour, primarily drug related problems being encountered on Syke Road.

GMP acknowledged this issue had been on-going for some time, however it was also stated that when individuals had been approached no evidence in relation to drugs had been found. Several residents challenged this and commented that drug activity in the area is commonplace.

GMP confirmed that patrols would continue in this area.

A Ward Councillor also commented that other drug hot spots, namely Heights Lane near to the entrance of Falinge Park should also be investigated / patrolled.

- Criminal damage has decreased significantly. This is possibly due to the fact that a specific operation was undertaken on this issue.
- Burglary (Dwelling) has decreased. A prolific offender has recently received a prison sentence therefore his incarceration may have impacted upon the decrease in incidents.
- Burglary (Non-Dwelling) has increased slightly. Garden sheds have been targeted.

- Theft of motor vehicles has increased. This is primarily due to cars being left unattended and secured.
- Theft from motor vehicles has increased, however a regular offender has recently been charged and is awaiting sentence.
- A speeding operation was recently undertaken in the Ward with positive outcomes.

Residents commented that Mizzy Road, Dewhirst Road and Fieldhouse Road where problematical areas for speeding.

- Concerns were raised about the damage and nuisance caused by off-road bikes.

GMP acknowledged they were aware of the problem in certain Wards in the borough. Operation Dragster facilitated by the force's Off-Road Bike Team has been introduced to combat the problem with some successful results. It is highly likely that this will be organised again in the future.

In response to a question GMP commented that the use of drones, to combat this problem is being considered.

GMP reminded residents that the next Police Surgery will be held at Syke Community Base on the 18 January 2019, 6-7pm. It was also commented that previous surgery's had experienced low attendance.

It was agreed that Ward priorities going forward should be:

- Drug dealing
- Speeding
- Off-road motor bikes

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

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Residents raised the following issues which will be reported to the appropriate service.

1. The steps between Waingap Rise and Highcroft Way are in a dangerous condition.
2. A resident asked if Dell Road will be gritted following the recent repairs that have been done to the road.

Because the road is unadopted gritting will not take place.
3. A statutory notice on Dell Road needs to be removed.
4. Following the highway work that has recently been completed on Mizzy Road two signs have been left on the Common.
5. Lighting column number 24 on Whitehall Street is continuously on.

6. The steps and path from the end of Shawclough Close to Paton Street need clearing of rubbish. Shrubs in the area also need cutting back.
7. An advertising sign on land adjacent to the Talbot Head Public House needs removing.
8. Lighting column number 2 on Shawclough Road and 25 Falinge Road are not working.

The Chair also informed Forum members that future meetings of the Area Forum would be paperless to fall in line with all Council meetings. This will commence from 1st April 2019.

WARD/MEMBERS FUNDS

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The Forum was informed that Councillor Heakin had £554 remaining in his Members Funds, Councillor O'Neill had allocated all his allowance and Councillor Shah Wazir had £393.54 remaining.

£4843 remains in Ward Funds

A resident queried why recent funding applications had been sent to the Area Forum Sub-Group rather than being discussed at the Forum meeting. It was explained that this is the normal course of action and would continue to be so as this is the role of the Sub-Group. Having said this, the full Forum would be consulted on funding applications should the request be made at the Forum meeting or it was convenient to consider at request at the area forum.

In relation to the funding requests that had been recently distributed to the Sub Group the area forum was informed that the grit bin request had been supported by Ward Councillors. The request for the Syke Community Base Arts and Crafts project was supported by sub group members at the meeting.

The Area Forum also agreed to fund a Fieldhouse Road speed survey and an 'Angels' community engagement event submitted by Thrum Hall Methodist Church. Although exact costs were not known at this stage, £1500 has been allocated to the speed survey and £435.21 to the Angel Project. As a consequence all Ward Funds for 2018/2019 have been committed.

A resident asked why Syke/Cronkeyshaw side of the Ward seemed to dominate applications for Ward Funds.

Although examples were given of projects that had been supported on the Shawclough side of the Ward it was accepted that Syke/Cronkeyshaw areas receive more support from Ward funding. The only reason that could be given for this is that the applications being submitted come from that area of the Ward. The Area Forum cannot influence where applications are submitted from. However it was agreed that more needs to be done across the Ward to inform residents of the funding streams available.

UPDATES ON ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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With regards to the actions on the update sheet Forum members were informed that Highways would not be supporting the request to install parking bays adjacent to Syke Base because of safety reasons. In addition monies apportioned to this project have now been reclaimed.

A Ward Councillor commented that he was willing to pursue the reinstatement of this project if this is what the Forum wanted. Following discussion the Forum advised that it would not be necessary to investigate this any further.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2018 AND MINUTES OF CRONKEYSHAW COMMON/SYKE POND WORKING GROUP HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2018 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

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The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on the 18 October 2018 were approved as a correct record with no matters arising.

The Forum was reminded that the minutes of the Cronkeyshaw Common and Syke Pond Working Group had also been circulated for information purposes.

A resident raised concerns about the lack of progress on the Syke Pond project.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS AGENDA ITEMS

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The Forum was informed that all the issues that required reporting following the previous meeting had been passed to the appropriate service – see minute 186, items; sale of white goods, the alleyway between One Ash Close and Mountside Close / Whitworth Road, Falinge Park trees, Whitworth Road signage, bin collections and potholes (Belmont Way/Ashmount Drive).

Updates were provided in relation to:

1. Bin – Shawclough Stores

Environmental Management have advised that they are not aware of any bins being removed by staff at the above location. They have suggested that they may have been removed by a third party.

2. Land to the rear of 8 Mill Nook

The resident who raised this issue has been informed that the land is owned by Rochdale Boroughwide Housing.

3. Syke Road Bus Stop (near to turning circle)

Transport for Greater Manchester have advised that they have considered this request and based on passenger numbers at this location will not be installing a bus stop at this moment in time.

4. Mizzy Road traffic calming

At the time of the area forum this project was nearing completion.

5. Shawclough Road traffic calming

At the time of the area forum no work had been undertaken.

6. Outcome of Whitworth Road traffic survey

It is understood that the survey has been completed however the options identified as a result of the survey have yet to be fully costed.

7. Bus Stop clearway – Falinge Road

Highways have been informed to proceed with this work.

8. Talbot Head bollards

This work has yet to be completed. Attempts will be made to identify a completion date.

9. Fingerpost

Work complete.

10. Drainage problems on the Common – Greenbank Road

This request will be referred to the Common and Pond Working Group.

11. Road markings – junction of Ashmount Drive / Mizzy Road

Highways have advised that they will not be re-instating the road markings.

12. Bentley Street traffic calming

Highways have informed that this work is due to commence in January 2019.

COUNCILLORS' NEWS

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The Forum was informed of the following issues:

- It is planned to have an exhibition of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework at the Town Hall.
- Consideration is being given to the installation of a notice board outside of Syke Methodist Chapel.

NEWS FROM PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND SYKE COMMUNITY BASE

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The Chair informed the Forum of the following issues:

1. Council grant reductions will mean that Syke Community Base will receive less funding in coming years. This reduction could impact upon services provided.
2. Syke Methodist Chapel has been successful in receiving financial support following the submission of funding applications.

3. The Christmas lights switch on and Carol Service were a great success

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

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Thursday 14 March 2019, commencing 6.30pm at Syke Community Base.