

HEALEY AREA FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, 22 August 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Heakin and O'Neill, S. Acton (Chair) and approximately 17 members of the public.

OFFICERS: PC Harvard, PCSO Vohra and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Wazir, L. Wardle (Enforcement Officer) and three members of the public.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT
225

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

Apologies had been received from Councillor Wazir, L. Wardle (Enforcement Officer) and three members of the public.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING (START AT 6.30PM)

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PC Harvard and PCSO Vohra attended the meeting for this item.

It was reported the following incidents had been recorded in the Ward since the previous Area Forum meeting;

- Burglary 12 – It was also commented that there had been a recent spike in burglaries in the Shawclough Road area (6 in previous two days), therefore residents were encouraged to be extra vigilant.
- Theft from motor vehicle 15
- Theft of motor vehicle 4
- Criminal damage 17
- Anti-social behaviour 7

GMP also informed the forum of the following issues:

1. ASB patrols have been increased in the area.
2. Attempts are being made to be more proactive in the Ward with the setting up of Surgery's (Tesco Express – monthly) and the provision of website and social media information. However it was accepted more needs to be done.
3. There are plans to repeat the recent traffic operation that was undertaken on Entwistle Road (Central Ward) in the Healey Ward.

Residents raised the following issues:

1. In response to a question GMP acknowledged that they are aware of a website that had been set up by a resident – Shawclough & Healey Homewatch. However it was commented that it has nothing to do with GMP.
2. It was reported that the bus stop on Dewhirst Road had been smashed.
3. A discussion took place concerning the ongoing theft of York Stone from the Common. It was explained that two sets of cameras are being considered to be fitted in the locality.
4. A lengthy debate took place about speeding in the area. GMP acknowledged this was a boroughwide problem and a difficult issue to resolve. However attempts are being made, where resources allow to mitigate the problem
5. A resident commented that residents walking their dogs were being assaulted and their dogs stolen.
6. Off-road bikes are a nuisance in the area.
7. Concerns were raised about an increase in ASB near to the cattle grid.

It was agreed that the three PACT priorities for the coming months would be:

Burglary – Greater GMP visibility around the cattle grid – Criminal damage.

OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN THE WARD (START AT 7PM)

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Residents raised the following issues;

1. It was commented that the Common has not suffered from Traveller encroachment for over two years. This justifies the work that has been done to target harden the area.
2. White goods, which are for sale are still being stored on the pavement at a shop on Whitworth Road.
3. Signs advertising a coffee morning have been secured to a tree at Horse Carrs.
4. The trees at Hawley Green / Bus Shelter on Shawclough Road are overgrown and require cutting back.
5. The triangular piece of land at the junction of Dell Road / Shawclough Road requires cutting.

It was agreed that the issues requiring attention will be reported to the appropriate service.

SYKE COMMON FOOTPATHS

228

The Forum was informed that the quote, which had been expected in relation to the repair of footpaths on the Common had not been received. This information would be circulated as soon as it had been received.

Apologies were also conveyed concerning the recent cancellation of a Common and Pond Working Group meeting. This will be rearranged as soon as possible.

UPDATES ON ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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Updates provided:

1. Bentley Street – illegal tipping / tidy up

It was reported that the land in question is not the Council's therefore the action that can be taken by the Council is extremely limited. In addition land registry checks have been unsuccessful in identifying the owner.

It was agreed to remove this action from the update sheet.

2. Fencing on alleyway adjacent to One Ash Close is damaged and potentially dangerous.

It was explained that the fencing is on private land and is the responsibility of the owner. It was also commented that the fencing causes minimal danger to the public.

It was agreed to remove this action from the update sheet.

3. Steps at Waingap Rise are in a dangerous condition.

Repairs are planned.

4. The steps and path from the end of Shawclough Close to Paton Street requires cleaning.

Work completed.

It was agreed to remove this action from the update sheet.

5. Whitworth Road Traffic Survey

Survey distributed as requested.

It was agreed to remove this action from the update sheet.

6. Bus Stop Clearway (Falinge Road)

Work completed.

It was agreed to remove this action from the update sheet.

7. Bentley Street Traffic Calming

Highways have indicated that the work will commence early September.

No update was available for the Shawclough Road re-lining project.

MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

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The following funding requests had been received.

1. Additional funding of £400 was required to undertake the Dewhirst Road Speed Survey.

It was explained that £1100 had been committed to a speed survey on Fieldhouse Road. However Forum members had agreed that a repeat exercise on Dewhirst Road should be prioritised. It was further agreed that the £1100 that had been assigned to Fieldhouse Road should be de-committed and committed to the Dewhirst Road exercise. Because the cost of this survey would be £1500, an additional £400 was sought.

The Forum agreed to fund this £400 from Ward Funds.

A lengthy debate took place about speeding on Dewhirst Road and the results of the previous survey. Residents were of the view that the survey was undertaken in incorrect locations and that if different locations had been used the % of cars found to be speeding would increase.

Following discussion it was agreed that three residents would identify the most appropriate lighting columns to be used in the speed survey. These suggestions would be subject to Highways approval.

The Forum also asked if all the data from the survey could be released. The Township and Engagement Officer did not believe this would be a problem.

2. Grit Bin – Pot House Lane / Dewhirst Road Junction

The Forum agreed to fund this scheme. Each Ward Member would support the project to the value of £250. The remaining cost (£256.46) would be funded from Ward Funds.

3. Litter Bin – Ironwaters

This request was agreed in principle subject to final costs being known and the site for the bin being agreed by Environmental Management as suitable.

4. Whitworth Road Speed Survey

A request had been received from Highways to undertake a speed survey on Whitworth Road. The cost of the survey would be £700.

This application was deferred subject to more information about the survey being available.

5. Litter Bin – Shawclough Stores

Councillor Heakin agreed to fund a replacement bin adjacent to the stores.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2019

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The minutes of the Healey Area Forum held on Thursday 30 May 2019 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS AGENDA ITEMS

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The Forum was informed of the following:

1. The planning application linked to the 'Save Ashdene Woodland' residents group was refused at a recent Planning Committee.
2. The request to extend the double yellow lines on Shawclough Road to Harriagebank had been reported.
3. Road marking had been introduced at the junction of the road with no name and Dewhirst Road.
4. No progress had been made regarding the notice board / shelter proposal outside the Chapel.

COUNCILLORS' NEWS

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The following issues were raised.

1. Town Centre development is progressing.
2. Positive feedback has been received in relation to the Feel Good Festival.
3. Rochdale's Town Centre has been shortlisted for the rising star award in the Government's Great British High Street Awards 2019.
4. The Street Art Festival is ongoing at the moment.
5. Volunteers are being sought for the Dippy exhibition.
6. There are 40 independent retailers in Rochdale
7. Consideration is being given to improving Coptrod Play Area.
8. Additional Christmas lighting will be installed in the Town Centre this year. Funding for this installation is likely to come from Rochdale North and South Township Committees.

NEWS FROM PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND SYKE COMMUNITY BASE

234

The following issues were reported.

1. Syke Base development is going well.
2. The Autumn Fair will be on the 19th October.

3. A sign is to be made – Syke Chapel / Syke Community Base

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

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17 October 2019, 6.30pm at Syke Community Base

6 February 2019, 6.30pm at Syke Community Base.