

MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 4 November 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Zaheer and Zaman, Shahid Mohammed (Chair) and approximately 15 members of the public.

OFFICERS: Inspector Callaghan, PS Shirazi, PCSO 65125, PCSO 70665, M. Reynolds (Crime & ASB Officer) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer).

INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

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Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and reminded of the need to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

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

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

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Shahid Mohammed was elected Chair and Ahmed Nawaz Vice-Chair of the Area Forum

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

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Inspector Callaghan, PS Shirazi, PCSO 65125 and PCSO 70665 attended the meeting for this item.

It was reported;

That the Neighbourhood Policing Team had recently undertaken operations in the Ward in relation to drugs, anti-social behaviour, including begging, street drinking and prostitution. In all cases GMP have adopted a proactive approach in addressing these issues, targeting known hot spot areas.

That there had been three burglary's in the Ward. In all cases the alleygates to these premises had been left open.

Reports of thefts from motor vehicles had increased, however in all cases valuables had been left on display in the vehicles.

A recent traffic operation within the Ward resulted in over 100 vehicles being seized for a variety of offences. A similar exercise will be undertaken in the new year.

Operation Dark Nights and Treacle are currently ongoing.

A 'Streetwatch' update meeting will also be organised in the near future.

A Vehicle Crime Action Day will take place on Saturday 9 November at the Metrolink Rochdale Railway Station Park and Ride, Hare Street.

It was also reported that sight lines in Broadfield Park are being improved by Environmental Management to improve safety in the area.

Residents raised the following concerns:

1. Drug dealing on Henry Street, Milk Street and Ann Street.
2. A business owner commented that his premises had been broken into several times and on one occasion security staff had apprehended the thief. However, the assailant had to be released as it took three hours for the police to respond.
3. The area around the garages on Kensington Street / Vivian Street suffer from ASB.

OPEN FORUM

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Residents raised the following issues:

1. A resident asked if any progress had been made with the request to introduce residents parking permits on Sussex Street.

It was stated that this would be considered once the traffic restrictions had been introduced on Milkstone Road.

2. It was commented that evidence suggests that property prices in the Milkstone & Deeplish Ward have risen by 15%.
3. A lengthy discussion took place about the problems being experienced in the Ward – Devon Street being cited as an example – by traders selling cars on the highway. It was stated that in some cases cars remain in the same place for months.

It was explained that the Council has limited powers to deal with issues of this nature. If vehicles are found to be taxed, MOT'd, not causing an obstruction or considered abandoned then it is difficult to take any action. In addition if vehicles are not openly for sale with contact details visible it cannot be assumed that these vehicles are for sale. Evidence is required.

Residents stated that they were aware of the individuals who were selling cars in the area and would pass the details of the alleged traders to the Council.

4. Concerns were raised about the number of pot holes in the area. Residents were informed that a programme of repairing pot holes was in operation and that a portal is available of the Council's website to report highway damage.
5. It was asked if Ashfield Valley Primary School was going to be used as a Polling Station at the General Election in December. This was unknown at this stage.
6. It was asked if a grit bin could be located adjacent to the play area on King Street East.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

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The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Monday 9 September 2019 where approved as a correct record subject to the following change:

Remove – School visits will be undertaken at Ashworth Valley School
Insert – School visits will be undertaken at Ashfield Valley School

A resident also commented that the visits to Ashfield Valley School had not been undertaken.

The following updates were provided;

1. All issues that had been reported at the previous meeting had been reported to the appropriate service.
2. A resident commented that the littering problems being experienced on Vivian Street had been dealt with by Environmental Management. However it was agreed that this would need to be monitored.
3. The regeneration of Rochdale Railway Station will be discussed at the Area Forum meeting in February.
4. Approval has been received with regards to bollards being placed on Tweedale Street and the junction of Mere Street / Tweedale Street.
5. A request had been made for a member of the Stoneyfield Park Friends Group to attend this meeting. A similar request will be made for someone to attend the February meeting.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

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Councillor Zaheer informed the meeting of the following.

1. A General Election is taking place on the 12 December. Because of the dark nights residents can apply for a postal vote.
2. The Councillor is currently involved in a number of domestic violence cases and dealing with individuals / families who are currently experiencing hardship and require help and assistance.

A discussion took place concerning the role Rochdale Council of Mosques (RCM) can play in assisting residents who have fallen on hard times. It was commented that RCM are active in providing support to individuals / families in need. RCM also contributes on an annual basis to the Mayors Charity.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

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10 February 2020 at 6.30pm at Deeplish Community Centre