

## MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM

### MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 7 August 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillor Arshad and 16 members of the public.

**OFFICERS:** PC Ali, PCSO Mahboob, G. Finch (Township Officer) and F. Mahmood (Community Safety Engagement Officer)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Mohammed and Councillor Aiza Rashid, L. Wardle (Enforcement Officer, Environmental Management), A. Whittaker (Highways) and P. Crompton (Vice Chair)

#### INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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All were welcomed to the meeting and introductions made. The Chair reminded the forum of the need to adhere to the code of conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Rashid and Mohammed, Alex Whittaker (Highways), Lee Wardle (Environmental Management), and Peter Crompton (Vice Chair).

#### GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

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The following information was provided by GMP.

1. Three warrants have been executed in the Ward which resulted in cannabis farms being identified.
2. Officers attended an event aimed at raising the profile of violence against women and girls.
3. A number of traffic operations have been undertaken on Tweedale Street, Milkstone Road and Manchester Road in connection with speeding. Additional transport initiatives will be carried out in the Milkstone and Deeplish area over the coming weeks.
4. Officers from the Neighbourhood Police Team may not have been as visible in recent weeks as they have been involved in crime scene incidents.
5. Incidents of cars being stolen from near to the station.
6. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme will be going ahead.
7. In response to a question it was confirmed that 50% of proceeds of crime goes to the Government and 50% is retained by GMP for them to allocate to the districts within Greater Manchester.

8. In response to a question it was confirmed that the elderly lady who had been experiencing anti-social behaviour close to her home had been visited by GMP.
9. It was confirmed that the perimeter of Stoneyfield Park had been tidied up in an attempt to deter anti-social behaviour in the area.
10. The Forum was informed that additional Neighbourhood Beat Officers may be recruited into the Ward. This however may result in a reduction in PCSO's
11. Forum members were reminded of the 'Bee in the Loop' facility which aims to improve communication and information provision between GMP and communities.

#### **REVIEW OF AREA FORUM CONSTITUTION**

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This item was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD UPDATE**

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An update could not be provided on this matter as the Highway Officer leading on this initiative had sent his apologies.

However residents present commented that the initiative locally was seen negatively and that they were unsure what benefits were accruing from the scheme. It was also commented that a petition is being collated which will disapprove of the Active Neighbourhood Scheme.

Reference was made to the recent one-way systems that had been introduced and the view that none of these were actually reducing traffic congestion and problems in the areas concerned. It was also highlighted that numerous road users are ignoring signage and contravening road directional markings.

A resident also commented that his business had seen a drop in takings and footfall since the introduction of the one way system on Castlemere Street.

It was explained that it was never the intention to implement change before feedback was received from the community. Initiatives introduced are of a temporary nature until further discussions have taken place.

The Township Officer agreed to contact the Highways Officer to see if he was agreeable to meet with residents on this matter.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PRESENTATION**

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Hanna Crosby, Neighbourhood Policing Family Development Officer attended the meeting for this item.

The Officer provided an overview on Greater Manchester's Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, this included:

- An explanation of how Neighbourhood Watch is structured.

- Clarification on roles and partnership working
- Evidence how Neighbourhood Watch supports crime reduction and prevention.

Residents were also informed that additional information regarding Neighbourhood Watch is available from – [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

The Forum thanked the Officer for her presentation.

## **OPEN FORUM**

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Residents raised the following issues:

1. A resident stated that she had been informed by a garage owner on Lloyd Street that the Council had approached him to buy his garage. She asked what the reasoning behind this was, The Township Officer agreed to investigate this.
2. Overt Street residents attended the meeting to raise concerns about the current condition of the road surface and if it could be resurfaced and speeding and parking problems on the street. The Township Officer agreed to investigate this further.
3. A resident attended to discuss Phase 2 of the Bee Network. Because no Highways Officer was present it was suggested that this is raised at the next area forum meeting.
4. A resident asked why the basket swing had been removed from Stoneyfield Park. The Township Officer agreed to investigate this further.
5. In response to a question it was confirmed that applicants who receive Township funding for projects have to complete an evaluation form following the completion of the project.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2023, MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES ON ISSUES RAISED AT THIS MEETING**

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The minutes of the area forum meeting held on Monday 15 May were agreed as a correct record.

The Forum was informed that Rochdale market is now open – Monday and Wednesday.

## **MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS**

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Forum members were reminded that funding was now available for community groups to apply for.

## **COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

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Councillor Arshad provided the following information:

1. The forum was reminded that a consultation portal is open in connection with Phase 2 of the Bee Network on the Council's website. This consultation exercise closes on the 28 August.
2. Numerous white and yellow lines have been relined during the Active Neighbourhood Initiative.
3. Ward Councillors and Highways recently met with Transport for Greater Manchester to discuss the Active Neighbourhood Scheme and improving safety at New Barn Lane. Awaiting a response from TfGM.
4. Improved safety measures have been introduced at Stoneyfield Park. The introduction of CCTV in the area is also being considered.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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Monday 20 November 2023, commencing 6.30pm at Castlemere Community Centre