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Report Author	Rochdale South Township Committee Chair
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Report of the Rochdale South Township Committee Chair

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on recent activity relating to the Rochdale South Township

Key Points for Consideration

Area Forums

Within Rochdale South Township some local area forums have taken place during February and March with residents attending to discuss local matters, raising any issues concerning their areas;

Residents from Milkstone and Deeplish Ward raised numerous issues linked to services provided by the Council and Greater Manchester Police, including the Active Neighbourhood initiative, Youth Service provision and Operation Ramadan.

At the Bamford Ward Area Forum residents enquired about the Police starting up local surgeries again in the ward, and an update was given on the 'Places for Everyone' examination. The residents attending the Brimrod, Marland and Sudden Area Forum requested another update from Highways at the next area forum regarding works to install the new Bee Line Cycle Lane - phase 2.

Community Safety

Community Safety have been involved in a variety of projects across the Rochdale South Township.

During the winter months and via multi-agency working, youth anti-social behaviour was significantly reduced in the Kirkholt area by gathering footage from local residents, installing additional CCTV and working with landlords to secure empty properties.

Community Safety have maintained a strong presence on the tram network between Rochdale Town Centre and Newbold, whilst at the start of February, Community Safety took part in the Travelsafe operation at Newbold Tram stop, helping Metrolink and GMP deal with ticket evasion and anti-social behaviour from tram users.

In addition, multiple residents across Rochdale South have been assisted with a range of neighbour issues including threatening behaviour, cannabis use and the removal of abandoned vehicles causing anti-social behaviour; whilst delivering target hardening products to vulnerable residents allowing them to feel safer in their own home.

Hate Crime Awareness took place on the week commencing 5th February 2024 with a number of engagement stalls taking place across the borough where members of the public were handed information about hate crime and ways to report.

Youth Service

Over the past few months Youth Service programmes have included more opportunities for young people to have their voices heard and to influence and shape their futures. This has been facilitated via participating in discussions around the Children & Young People Plan, contributing their views and opinions on staying safe, and being healthy & successful in Rochdale. Young people have gained new experiences and knowledge by participating in events to promote equality, diversity and inclusion from attending the Black History Event, White Ribbon Campaign, and attending the Queeries performance at the Town Hall with other youth groups. The group also took part in the LGBTQ questionnaires, and celebrated the impact of youth work on their lives, in National Youth Work Week followed by the Christmas festivities.

In January we launched Freehold Youth Club, which is open to young people in the surrounding areas on Monday evenings at The Annex 6.15pm-8.45pm. The total number of young people engaged within our sessions this past quarter amounted to 170.

Environmental Management

Balderstone Park

Work is ongoing on the Balderstone Rugby project to resolve any pitch issues. A new Green Flag Award flagpole was installed within the park.

Bamford

The order for the refurbishment of the benches for the Springfield Park Friends group has now been raised with the contractor.

Milkstone & Deeplish

Tree planting has recently been carried out at Pioneer Street.

Kingsway

The Robinson's Common new play area has now been completed and is open to the public.

Castleton

The new TfGM-funded play area within the open-space opposite Nixon Street is now at the contract procurement stage.

Highways

Highway safety inspections are on target to identify defects and the in-house service is continuing to manage the maintenance of the highway network in line with its agreed KPI's. The team are currently up to date with reactive repairs and the routine gully cleansing programme. The service continues with an excellent record on safety call outs with 100% being attended to within the 1hr target. We are continuing to deliver the winter service as we progress through the winter period.

The Milkstone & Deeplish experimental Traffic Regulation Orders for a series of one way streets becoming permanent is approaching the end of the experimental period. A key decision from members will be sought to confirm if the order becomes permanent or is removed.

Queens Park Bridge Refurbishment is on site with work concentrating of the eastern side of the bridge. A number of night closures have been successfully undertaken to allow scaffolding to be lifted into the park below the bridge in readiness for starting the concrete repair work. The Capital Delivery team continue to deliver its highway improvement programme across the Township.

Rochdale Riverside Retail and Leisure

Upperbanks Apartment & Hotel

The Hampton by Hilton Hotel opened to the public in September. The apartments are now being managed & marketed by Urban Bubble on behalf of the Council and the first residents moved in on 5th February.

Central Retail Park Residential Scheme (Station Gardens)

The Station Gardens residential development scheme secured full planning permission in December 2022. Regular dialogue is ongoing with DLUHC in respect of the Levelling-Up Partnerships as well as other partners to progress the scheme.

Castleton

A shop improvement scheme has been drawn up for business premises on Manchester Road to improve the visual amenity of the area. It is intended to secure funding and final approvals for the scheme in May, with consultation with businesses to commence in June.

Councillor Philip Massey, Township Committee Chair

Thank you Mr. Mayor, I will be pleased to answer any questions from Members of the Council about these or any other matter relating to the Rochdale South Township.