

BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING

MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2013
6.30pm AT BAMFORD CHAPEL

PRESENT:

Residents: Ian Sturrock (Chair), Munir Akhtar, Tasneem Akhtar, David Armbrister, Kate Chapman, Brian Colligan, Hilary Colligan, Ruth Doyle, Peter Galvin, Linda Gee, William E Griffiths, Susan Grindrod, Christine Lord, Simon Lord, Roger Mallinder, Michael Mellor, Diane Payne, Peter Richardson, Anne Shorrock, Roger Silverwood, G Singleton, Ernie Sweatman, James Taylor and Alex Teuton.

Officers: Mick Ball (RMBC Environmental Management Enforcement), Stephen Granville (Rochdale Township) and PC Claire Wright (GM Police)

Councillors: Ian Duckworth, Jane Gartside and Pat Sullivan

Apologies: Beryl Bulcock, Vasant Dalal, Sandra Williams and Steve Williams

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair outlined the code of conduct.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

On the grit bin item *Norwich Road* should read *Norwich Avenue*. Apart from this, the minutes of the last meeting were **agreed** as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising and update on previous actions:

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Matters arising and update on previous actions:

a. Highways repair programme:

Stephen Granville provided a list of the Highways schemes approved for completion within the next 2 years:

Two Year Highways Investment Programme (HIP):

Location and Treatment	Estimate
Bamford Way Carriageway Micro Asphalt	£7,250
Bolton Road Footway Reconstruction	£66,500
Bury Road Footway Slurry Sealing	£37,640
Hawthorn Road Carriageway Micro Asphalt	£19,180
Highlands Road Reconstruction	£55,000
Law Street Junction Footway Reconstruction	£5,250
War Office Road Carriageway Micro Asphalt	£45,160
Winsford Drive Carriageway Micro Asphalt	£7,490
Wordsworth Way Carriageway Micro Asphalt	£10,340

York Avenue Carriageway Micro Asphalt	£7,890
	£261,700

One Year Programme

Ward Location and Treatment	Estimate
Glenmore Ave Footway Reconstruction	£16,100
Norden Road War Footway Reconstruction	£117,250
	£133,350

Total	£395,050
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Plus Structural patching Borough-wide – proportion of	£400,000
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Please report potholes / other Highways issues directly to their Contact Centre on **0845 121 2979**.

b. Sandy Lane / Bury Road / Roch Valley Way junction crossings:

Highways have looked at the proposals for cheaper solutions suggested by residents. They are in favour of making improvements for pedestrians at this and similar junctions, and conclude that the scheme they put forward estimated at £215,000 is the only one feasible, but there is no funding available.

Schemes of this size and strategic importance are considered at a Greater Manchester level, and the funding streams for this kind of work have been affected by Government spending cuts. There are about a dozen similar junctions in the Borough.

Councillors and residents had asked for the matter to be taken to Rochdale Township Committee. The Township Chair and Head of Townships considered this request, but declined, as there is no prospect of finding the funding.

c. Footpath Weeds:

Rochdale Township has agreed further funding to extend the work of RMBC's Environmental Management Street Services Hit Teams to tackle overgrown pathways throughout the Township. The funding is to the end of March – the budget decisions for 2013-14 are not yet finalised.

d. Martlet Avenue roots through pavements:

Mick Ball, Enforcement Officer has looked at the pavements and passed his observations on to Highways.

e. Martlet Avenue lack of street litter bins:

Stephen has discussed with an officer from Environmental Management supplying a new bin. He suggested a location near the entrance to the ginnel opposite Woodcock Close. The Forum agreed this is a suitable location.

Action: Stephen further discuss the provision and siting of the bin with Environmental Management.

f. Football field overflowing litter bins:

The litter bins purchased with Township funding on the pitches at the back of Bamford Green were overflowing for some time. We need to make sure that we make firmer arrangements before committing to similar schemes.

g. Planters near the Precinct:

Township funding has been allocated to providing planters near the Precinct, and Environmental Management are preparing a proposal.

h. Resident fuel initiatives:

The **Power to the People** scheme inviting residents to join a bid to get cheaper electricity and gas supplies has now negotiated a deal with a power supplier. The only resident at this meeting who registered an interest said that it did not represent a saving on current bills. A further Greater Manchester initiative is available. Visit rochdale.gov.uk/energysaving / phone **0800 014 8851** / for details.

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

PC Claire Wright said that **burglary** continues to be of concern, but that crime is generally at a low level.

a. Travellers:

Travellers have set up camp on the former Oakenrod school site. This is now in private hands. There are some concerns over the state of the site, with fires, animals and rubbish. Some of the people from this site may be involved in offering dubious landscaping services to local residents.

b. Pegasus Court Parking:

PC Wright said she had talked to people parking in the area and the taxi firm does not appear to be causing problems.

c. Cannabis farm:

The Police have identified and dealt with a cannabis farm on Norwich Avenue thanks to local intelligence.

d. Norden Road construction parking:

There was an issue with problem parking during a phase of construction work, but once the new gates were put in this was resolved.

e. St Michael's Church car park drinkers:

A resident pointed out that as the car park is out of view from the roadside it is used at weekends, by drinkers who leave bottles and cans. PC Wright said she would keep an eye out for such activity.

f. Grit / salt bins:

The salt bins are in place. *Norwich Road* should read *Norwich Avenue*.

g. Cemetery signs:

The Cemetery agreed to clean any of their signs, but it now appears the resident was referring to a direction sign located by the Cemetery entrance on Bury Road for Gracie Fields Theatre.

5. OPEN FORUM

a. Saint Clement's Football Club grounds lease:

Simon Lord of the club explained how the council want them to renew their lease at a rate 5 times its current level. Though they have 8 years to go on the current lease, they need to negotiate a longer lease to secure Sports Council funding. Mr Lord maintained that their work is purely voluntary, but already saves the council many thousands by maintaining the area and providing diversionary activities for hundreds of young people.

The Forum **unanimously approved** the following statement: "The Forum strongly deplores the five-fold rent increase Rochdale MBC is asking from St Clement's Football Club. Such an

increase would put the future of the club in jeopardy and would result in the Council accruing additional costs to maintain the site.”

h. Street Cleaning:

Several residents noted that the frequency and effectiveness of street cleaning in the area had improved over recent months.

6. BAMFORD WARD NEWS

a. Green Infrastructure Plan:

Paul Lewis of RMBC Planning briefly outlined a plan that they are developing to help shape the way we protect, manage and enhance our green spaces. He circulated a briefing document and invited contributions (please contact him on 01706 924376). He hopes to take the Plan to Township Committee in May 2013.

b. Streetwise publications:

Kate Chapman gave details of Streetwise, a local magazine covering Bamford issues and advertising local businesses. Please contact her on 07976 289967.

c. Township Officer leaving:

The Chair announced that Stephen Granville is to take voluntary early retirement and that this will be his last meeting. The Chair expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Forum for the work Stephen has done.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

7 6.30pm Monday 20 May 2013 at Bamford Chapel