

BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

Monday, 25 November 2013
at 6.30pm
Bamford Chapel, Rochdale

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Residents (33): I. Sturrock (Chair), B. Colligan, H. Colligan, P. McWilliam – Fowler, J. Taylor, I.E. Woodburn, J. Warner, S. Raines, M. Akhtar, T. Akhtar, J. Maybank,, G, Maybank, K. Flett, P. Power, D. Moss, P. Moss, Sandra Williams, Steve Williams, P. Richardson, W. Griffiths, E. Sweatman, J. Riley, R. Doyle, C. Lord, P. Galvin, I. Plant, A. Teuton, A. Shorrocks, P. Garvey, S. Grindrod, J. Pearsall, E. Shaw and R. Mallinder

Councillors: Ian Duckworth, Jane Gartside and Pat Sullivan

Officers: Stuart Hay (Rochdale Township), Diane Ludwig (RMBC Community Safety), Mick Ball (RMBC Environmental Management) and PCSO Colin Taylor (GMP)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Colin Lambert and Beryl Bulcock.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair outlined the code of conduct.

3. UNITED UTILITIES - BAMFORD GREEN

United Utilities had agreed to attend this meeting but now state they are changing their plans and will not now attend. Councillor Duckworth will ensure any amended plans will go before the Planning Committee. United Utilities had previously undertook to not start any work until they had consulted local residents and acknowledged this Forum was one of the ways they would do so. Concerns were they could just turn up in January and start work. Questions were asked on exactly how the underground tanks actually worked. United Utilities will be invited to the next meeting to answer any questions and be informed of the Forum's views.

Action. Invite United Utilities to the next meeting (Stuart Hay)

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2013 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given.

Mojitos Wine Bar

Councillor Sullivan outlined the work she had been doing to address complaints of noise nuisance from the Wine Bar. She has been in regular contact with them and they had agreed to keep the glass partition shut whenever any entertainment was on. Also she arranged a Noise Nuisance Officer to visit and assess the situation, but he found no offences being committed. Residents state he has been visiting at the wrong times. His name is Paul Fletcher and he wants to work with

residents. He can be contacted direct and visits will continue; complaints must be made. Councillor Sullivan will continue to work on the issue. Licensing has considered the matter and there are no other issues apart from noise complaints, and to conduct a review.

Ward Funds

Councillor Sullivan highlighted Ward Funds which need to be allocated by the following Friday 30th November 2013 and asked for ideas to be submitted before then. The road to the Community Centre was mentioned but United Utilities are working there anyway.

Blue Orchid

Blue Orchid Management Consultants are the largest provider of Business Start Up Support in the North West and received funding from RMBC, The European Regional Development and DWP to run a service in the Borough. Based at the Unique Enterprise Centre on Belfield Road, Rochdale, they are holding 'Open For Business' drop in sessions in Rochdale Library every Thursday where experts are there to offer advice and guidance, Business Workshops and Networking Events. Contact details were given out.

Bins re-siting

One of the bins removed from the football pitch has not yet been sited on Martlett Avenue and will be chased up. Beryl Bulcock who gave her apologies raised this issue together with Mojitos, spoken about at this meeting, and the state of Swallow Drive, referred to later.

Action. Chase up placement of bin (Stuart Hay)

Dropped kerb on Martlett Avenue

The reply from Highways regards the last kerb not to be dropped on Martlett Avenue was read out: "I arranged for the dropped kerbs to go in the following locations: two facing each other on Martlett Avenue near Swift Road junction, two on each corner of Woodcock Close, two on each corner of Curlew Close and two on each corner of Lapwing Close, giving 8 in total, as per Stephen Granville's original request to you in August last year. This enables people in wheelchairs, motorised scooters, etc to travel along Martlett Avenue as far as the shopping precinct, where they can then travel down the footpath that leads into the precinct car park.

In regard to the footpath once it's in the precinct's car park area, I don't know if any part of the kerb there is dropped to enable disabled access onto the car park but the footpath there isn't adopted by us and it's not even classed as highway, and as mentioned in the first paragraph, I requested just the 8 dropped kerb locations as per Stephen's instructions".

The responsibility for this last kerb is that of the precinct owners who will be asked to do the work together with security improvements as PCSO Colin Taylor had been seeking improvements to the security lights, most of which do not work, but had no response.

Action. Request precinct owners make the improvements (Stuart Hay)

Potholes, condition of footpath and resurfacing

Greenvale potholes have not been repaired and Councillor Sullivan will take this up again. Swallow Drive footpath is broken up with weeds growing, this will be addressed as part of the Winter Maintenance Programme. The poor state of the half of Wordsworth Way not resurfaced will also be taken up again by Councillor Sullivan. A resident had attempted to speak per telephone personally with very senior officer Mark Widdup about this issue, but was told by the call centre she could neither do that nor email him at which she was disappointed. Councillor Sullivan will speak with him.

Bury and Rochdale Old Road blocked drains

The blocked drains on Bury and Rochdale Old Road are in fact still blocked and the resident's file and pictures will be passed on for clearance.

Action. Request clearance (Stuart Hay)

Home Watch Signs

Street Lighting have sorted out the issue of Eon not replacing Home Watch signs without payment, any sign removed should be replaced at no cost, the one in question was.

Problem trees

Thanks were given to Mick Ball from Environmental Management who had undertaken all the work requested at the last forum. He has served notices on the owners of the address on Canterbury Close who have not complied and he will have the work done at the expense of the owner.

Roch Valley Way No Entry Signs

The No Entry road markings on Roch Valley Way are to be repainted and the request for street furniture to make it more obvious is being considered by Highways.

Council Tax Increase

Council Tax will not be increased next year but the Precept part of it will.

5. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Questions were asked as to what is happening with Home Watch schemes as contact from Police had ceased since 2011. A GMP Force Wide survey has been done and it is likely to be re launched. PCSO Taylor will raise the issue with his supervisor and report back.

The house subject to an explosion on War Office Road has not been worked on since, the cause of the explosion was questioned as was any progress on rebuilding.

Action. Obtain update from Building Control (Stuart Hay)

House burglaries have increased in the area around Bamford Way, Curlew Close and Norden Road. There have been ten in the last three weeks, no discernible pattern, but M.O. is to kick in the bottom UVPC door panels. Suspects are two teams of four and three. Any suspicious circumstances must be reported.

The incident in Sunny's Chip Shop, Heywood was a serious assault with a baseball bat and machete used. The attack does not appear to be random and the victim's injuries are not life threatening.

Bogus callers are on the increase. Community Safety and the Police are highlighting this to vulnerable groups and will visit the Chapel Luncheon Club on Wednesday to talk about it and give advice.

Pub and club burglaries are also on the increase.

The Camera Enforcement Vehicle had visited War Office Road and Norden Road and had a deterrent effect on speeders and had enforced against the use of mobile phones and seat belt offences. Red textured road slow down warnings are to be painted on Norden Road and have proved effective elsewhere in slowing drivers down.

Bad, dangerous and inconsiderate parking around school areas at dropping off and picking up times are to be addressed by increased and concentrated Civilian Enforcement visits. PCSO Taylor will also visit.

6. OPEN FORUM

Fallen Leaves

RMBC do not blow leaves off the footpath into the road. The incident cited was an unknown individual. Leaves around The Chapel had been cleared up by Chapel users. Road Sweepers can be requested for any location.

Mansfield Road Parking

Parking on Mansfield Road is a problem. Noted the strip of land running between it and Belgium Street is privately owned. Mick Ball from Environmental Management had got the owner to repair and replace some defective and dangerous fencing, but it is not known what the owner's intentions are as the last Planning Application was in 2008 and has lapsed. Use of the central green as a parking area has been looked at previously and cannot be used. Most residents were against removing the greenery and there are services and drains underneath. The area does not fit the criteria for a residents only parking area, which ironically are not popular with most residents anyway.

Strategy for Flood Risk Management

Leaflets on the RMBC consultation on the Strategy for Flood Risk Management were made available. The deadline for any comments is 29th November 2013. Also contact details of Sarah Parkington from the Flood Forum were given out as she would welcome contact from anybody wanting to speak about flooding at any time.

Queens Park Road Bridge

The safety and integrity of the Queens Park Road Bridge was questioned as it is believed by some to be already weak with tons of concrete blocks on it. It was asked if there are any plans, condition reports or surveys on it.

Action. Obtain situation report (Stuart Hay)

Planning Objections

Resident Ruth Doyle highlighted an example of a severe Planning process problem, which was far less than adequate and very unsatisfactory. She attempted to contact the Planning Officer in charge of a neighbour's application and was advised by both the Council's Switchboard and Planning Office that no one by that name worked in Planning, and there was no reply or return call from a mobile number. Ruth was given incorrect information and the plan was passed without her being able to make an appropriate objection. She was later told the Officer did work for Planning but on very limited hours. Councillor Sullivan has written to Mark Widdup who appointed an investigating Officer.

Planting Trees

A resident was in favour of planting trees as the advantages are, they remove particulates, ameliorate temperatures, reduce flooding risk, soak up Carbon Dioxide and are nice to look at, and some cities such as London and New York are planting thousands. The resident thought the Ward Funds referred to could be used to plant them. It is a fact that the Council are well behind in the management and maintenance of its trees with some causing damage and obstructions, as highlighted on Martlett Avenue and any location would have to be very carefully selected. The resident will contact Councillor Sullivan direct.

Vermin on Norford Way and Greenvale

Rats have been sighted in broad daylight on Norford Way and Greenvale. Environmental Health will be requested to visit the Norford Way resident. The Greenvale resident has been visited already.

Action. Request Environmental Health visit (Stuart Hay)

Film showing at The Chapel

"The UK Gold" film on Tax dodgers will be shown at The Chapel at 1930 hours this Thursday 28th November 2013 for anyone interested.

7. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

6.30pm Monday 17th February 2014 at Bamford Chapel