

BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

**Monday 9 March 2015
Bamford Chapel, Norden Road,
Rochdale**

MINUTES

Present: I. Sturrock (Chair), G.R. Day, C. Lord, J. Pearsall, B. Martin, D. Gourley, D. Arden, J. McBride, K. Chapman, P. Richardson, S. Doyle, J. Murray, I. Murray, A. Dinsdale, B. Jennings, A. Henderson, S. Grindrod, D. Buckley, J. Warner, B. Griffiths, M. Scott, J. Buckley, P. Savin, J. Arden, T. Gourley, D. Dinsdale, R. Silverwood, D. Staley, D.J. Armbrister, P. Marshall, M. Marshall, J.S. Taylor, J.M. Taylor, R. Mallinder, W.E. Griffiths, G. McDermott, D. Moss, P. Moss, S. Williams, M. Coupe, C. Hilton, P. Savin, J. Grimshaw, L. Grimshaw, A. Ashworth, D. Beeny, K. Bastow and M. Bastow

Officers: RBC: S. Hay, Township. D. Lodwig, Community Safety, GMP: PC 6911 Claire Wright and PS Paul Daffern

Councillors: Ian Duckworth, Jane Gartside and Pat Sullivan

Apologies: Brian Langan, Joyce Langan and Mick Ball

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

A copy of the code of conduct was circulated with the papers, and all were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 1st December 2014 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given:

Bamford Way Surfacing

A Highways update on the alleged sub-standard resurfaced stretch of Bamford Way that is possibly under litigation is still outstanding.

Action: Obtain Highways' progress report (Stuart Hay)

Potholes on Greenvale

A date for Greenvale to be resurfaced is still to be established.

Action: Obtain timescale for resurfacing (Stuart Hay)

Norden Road Resurfacing

Unsatisfactory patch repairs have been carried out on Norden Road at the junction with Martlet Avenue, the whole junction needs resurfacing properly. The drains on Norden Road are blocked again as are the ones on Clay Lane near to the Treatment Works.

Action: Request drains be cleared and work completed on the road surface at the junction (Stuart Hay)

Traffic lights at the junction of Bury Road, Roch Valley Way and Sandy Lane

Highways' response to the request for a traffic light enforcement camera to be fitted at Bury Road, Roch Valley Way and Sandy Lane was read out:

"Red light cameras fall into the same category as speed cameras and are unfortunately tarred with the same adverse publicity. As a result all new sites must be justified on accident numbers before they can be introduced.

The criteria states that there must be at least one killed or serious injury accident (KSI) in the direction of travel plus at least five more slight injury accidents or one other KSI in the last 3 years.

We currently have one KSI recorded plus another recent fatal but both offending vehicles that contravened the red lights were travelling in different directions, one from Sandy Lane and one from Bury Road. As such the site wouldn't meet the set criteria for a red light camera.

I appreciate the concerns of the forum as red light running is becoming a big problem and I have been carrying out a piece of work at key junctions to try and justify a new site but as yet have been unsuccessful.

The other big drawback is that if a new site met the criteria the cost of installation would be for the authority to find."

Given that no enforcement camera can be installed due to lack of criteria and that no physical measures can be installed on arterial roads to slow down traffic, it was requested that Highways conduct an investigation in to what can be done and what allowable measures for an arterial road to slow down traffic, such as textured road surfacing, or rumble strips could be employed to make the junction safer. A date for the installation of the agreed traffic island near to Pegasus Court was requested and an update on the specialist investigation in to the fatal Road Traffic Collision on the 9th November 2014 was requested.

Action: Raise all points with Highways to address (Stuart Hay)

Roch Valley Japanese Knotweed

Another location in the Roch Valley, at the rear of Oakenrod Mount, where Japanese Knotweed is growing on the banks of the River Roch and near to properties, was raised and this will be included in the proposed joint effort between the Council and United Utilities to establish an action plan to tackle the problem.

Action: Arrange joint site meeting in late spring to tackle problem (Stuart Hay)

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PC Claire Wright explained that crime figures for the previous quarter were down, with seven thefts of motor vehicles and five burglaries where rear doors and patio doors are the point of entry for offenders. Known burglars are subject to a targeted Police Operation. There have been two incidents of note that are very rare indeed. In the first incident a house was set on fire on Bittern Close where all forensic evidence from a suspect burglary was completely destroyed which was possibly the intention of the offenders and the second where a young girl was locked in a cupboard by the offenders. There are no leads in either case at the moment.

Regular updates are being given to Home Watch Schemes and there are a lot of volunteers to run the schemes.

Non emergency incidents can be reported on telephone number 101 and the local Rochdale North Policing Team on 0161 856 9961.

5. STREETWISE MAGAZINE

Kate Chapman from Streetwise Magazine highlighted the second anniversary of the Magazine in February 2015, the Magazine is being really well received in the whole area. The vision is the need

for a Community Magazine to reflect local life, the advertisements contained in the magazine pay for the production costs. A lot of hard work has been done to link with community groups and more are getting in touch, and this work will continue. Springhill Hospice, Friends of groups, charities including the Mayor's, and churches have coverage. Ward Councillors recently used the magazine to promote the temporary bus service provision following withdrawal of the 469 bus service. Any group was urged to make contact, details of two arose at the meeting, namely The Rochdale Circle which is dedicated to providing social and physical activities for the over fifties and St. John The Baptist Church in Birtle would also be contacted.

The quality of content was complimented by the meeting and several examples were given where traders advertising in the Magazine had been used very successfully.

Street life on line is not connected to Streetwise Magazine at all.

6. WARD FUNDS

An overview of the spending of Bamford Ward Funds for this financial year was given. Many local groups have benefited and schemes done which otherwise would not have taken place.

7. OPEN FORUM

Land off Swift Road

The proposal to sell a piece of Council land off Swift Road is a real concern to many residents. A vast amount of hard work has been conducted by residents to prevent any sale. Councillor Sullivan outlined that the land has been available for community use for decades, evidenced by many residents, and the piece of land is referred to in some residents' property deeds as a village green, although it is not registered as such. Councillor Sullivan has initiated enquiries to establish the status of the land and what conditions or covenants are applicable. She has raised it at Township Committee who have delegated an investigation and will visit the area. Residents have held meetings, Bamford Village Green Group have been informed and involved and a petition is ongoing. A press article is to appear this week. It was stressed how very important and precious this piece of land is to the community and how it needs to be kept as such. The meeting overwhelmingly and wholeheartedly supported the cause and gave evidence of community use. Both Bamford and Norden Wards have a very low ratio of play areas for under 12 years and scored very low in a survey, hence funding was put towards revamping the park in Norden. It is very important that the whole community supports the cause and not just residents adjacent as it is the whole community who use it.

Rumours of any proposed sale of Bamford Green are not true as it is left in perpetuity to the community and the only work proposed is United Utilities to install an underground water holding tank to ease flooding.

20mph Zone

The proposed 20 miles per hour zone was delayed due to objections and then negotiations with EON over signage installation that is all sorted. The works have been ordered with Balfour Beatty and the installation of the signs and road markings are awaited.

Norden Road Pedestrian Crossing

The pedestrian crossing on Norden Road near Bamford Precinct appears to have developed a fault as the timing is massively out. Although the crossing monitors traffic flow it is not operating for inordinately long periods.

Action: Request inspection of crossing controls (Stuart Hay)

Kissing gates at Jowkin Lane and Hollin Lane

Peel Holdings have agreed with Councillor Sullivan and Mick Ball from Environmental Management to remove the overly high stiles on the path between Jowkin Lane and Hollin Lane and will replace them with kissing gates.

Street light faults

There is a street light outside 4 Bell Meadow Drive which is not working, and two on Highlands Road, one outside number 6 and the other at the junction with Caithness Road which have been switched on permanently since being installed.

Action: Report faults to EON (Stuart Hay)

Additional street light on Highfield Road

The path between 10 and 12 Highfield Road is in complete darkness and a request was made for an additional light to be installed.

Action: Request Street Lighting considers installation of additional light (Stuart Hay)

Replacement tree on Norden Road

Graeme Douglas at Environmental Management will be chased up over the planting of the replacement tree on Norden Road at War Office Road.

Ward Councillors' Surgery

The Ward Councillors hold a surgery from 1000 hours to 1100 hours on the first Thursday of each month here in Bamford Chapel, although they often go beyond 1100 hours. Ward Councillors contact details are available on the Council's Website:

Councillor Ian Duckworth – Telephone 01706 648393

or email: ian.duckworth@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Jane Gartside - Telephone 01706 658443 or 07812 228281

or email: jane.gartside@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Pat Sullivan – Telephone 0161 762 1129 or 07967 985240

or email: patricia.sullivan@rochdale.gov.uk

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th June 2015

6:30pm

Bamford Chapel