

NORDEN AREA FORUM

Wednesday 30 September 2015

**Norden Community Primary School,
Shawfield Lane, Norden, Rochdale**

MINUTES

Present: N. Morrell (Chair) D. Brett, J. Snowdon, Mr & Mrs Brandford, V. Chapman, P .Best, G. Mann, D. Cawthron, Mr & Mrs J. Kershaw, M. Newnham, I. Sturrock, S. Davies, J. Oliver, B. Greenwood, M. Greenwood, Mr & Mrs S. Davison, R. Blackburn, J. Newcombe, C. McHugh, S. Croke, S. Risben and D. Maddock (Red Butterfly Bakery)

Officers: A. Jackson & V. White (Township Management), PCSO McCarthy & PC Ibbotson (GMP), V. Crossland (Finance Services, RBC) and M. Widdup (Director of Neighbourhoods, RBC)

Councillors: Winkler, Holly and Gartside

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair introduced himself and officers present, and welcomed all to the meeting. He referred to the code of conduct and asked all to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies were received from D. Lodwig (Community Services).

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015 were approved as a correct record.

Black Pits Chimney

The Chair read an email to the forum from the Technical Director at Redrow Developments which gave details of works that the company intends to carry out.

Norden Bus Terminus

Ward funds have been allocated for bollards to be installed around the bus terminus to prevent motorists from parking on the double yellow lines. The works have been commissioned.

Tenterhill Road Litter Bin

Following the last forum meeting, the new location for the bin was sent to Environmental Management for action.

Action (1) Anthony Jackson to chase up progress

Ashbourne Street

Val White has received an email from Robert Major, Planning Officer at Rochdale Council, which the Chair read to the forum. The email summarised the current situation with regards to the developer and the difficulties experienced by local residents. The development has gone on for some time due to a financial situation, and this has now been resolved and the developer anticipates this will be completed by the end of the year.

Norden In-Time Taxis - Abandoned car

The taxi company have removed the abandoned car since the last meeting.

Reinstatement of litter bins on new lighting columns

Rochdale Council's CEO has had a meeting with the new manager of the EON street lighting programme with regard to the bins and signage which haven't been replaced on lighting columns during the upgrades. EON have agreed that all signage and bins will be replaced on columns within the borough; this will take some time to complete.

Moss Road Gully

The forum raised the issue of Moss Row gully and expressed concern that this had still not been fixed.

Action (2) Anthony Jackson to chase up progress on the gully

Village Plan

The forum discussed the Village Plan. Discussions were held around legalities and processes involved in order to use the area forum as the group to take forward the plan or if a separate group would need to be created. Val White told the forum that if a village plan was to be created, the group would need 21 members; these members would need to be a mixture of residents and businesses within the village. Financial implications are also involved as the Council would have to have a public consultation and a ballot. Martin agreed to be the Chair of a meeting in the near future to discuss this.

Cut Lane Update

The friends group have been having regular meetings with the Council regarding the future of the Green. The group have applied for the Village Green Status, which would mean the Green cannot be built on. The forum said the Council have been helpful throughout the process and the decision on the Village Green status would be made late October/November 2015.

Poppy Picnic

The forum agreed that the poppy picnics within the borough had been very successful.

Telecoms mast

Councillor Gartside updated the forum on the telecoms mast. Progress has been slow on this issue. When permission was granted the Planning Department didn't insist on which colours could be used. The Council can only ask the owner to change the colour and can't use enforcement action.

3. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE (INCLUDING UPDATE FROM PACT MEETINGS)

PC Ibbotson informed the forum about the changes within the Neighbourhood Policing Teams within GMP. The number of officers within the Neighbourhood Teams will be increasing and Norden will receive its own dedicated team. GMP are looking to implement this from July 2016.

The crime figures for Norden since 25 June are as follows:

Burglaries: 28

Burglary other: 5

Theft from Motor Vehicle: 28

Theft of motor vehicle: 1

PACT

General updates: there are no issues on the Pub Watch scheme. The police have been receiving fewer calls of youths causing annoyance in the area; calls were increased around the GCSE results evening but have since reduced.

The recent Operation Dragster has seen two vans and bikes seized in the area. The owners came from Liverpool to the use the moorland.

A resident asked if the police could issue speed guns to residents to capture speeding motorists on Edenfield Road. The forum expressed concern over the number of vehicles speeding. Val White said the Council's Highways Department could arrange for a Community Speedwatch if at least two individuals were happy to take the lead.

PACT meeting dates:

Wednesday 14 October 2015 at 6.30pm in Norden Old Library

Wednesday 17 November 2015 at 6.30pm in Norden Old Library

4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON COUNCIL SAVINGS

Vicky Crossland was in attendance from Rochdale Council's Finance Service to provide a presentation about the public engagement initiative the Council is currently carrying out called the budget challenge. The Council has faced significant financial challenges since 2011, the start of the austerity period, and continues to do so. An animation was played which covered things such as the services the Council currently delivers, an overview of the financial challenge and how the Council and community can assist with the budget challenge.

Questionnaires with freepost envelopes were distributed after the meeting. The animation shown is available at Rochdale.gov.uk/savings.

Residents asked if the town had benefitted from the free parking scheme. Vicky said that footfall within the town had increased since the scheme was introduced and more businesses are opening up and taking advantage of the business rates discount scheme. The discount scheme gives new businesses money off their rates over a three year period. Information on the scheme can be found at Rochdale.gov.uk/business_section

5. PROPOSAL FOR MOSS ROW

Mr South from Moss Row Allotments Society attended the forum and presented a proposal to extend the allotments. In summary

- Proposal from Moss Row Community Allotment Society (MRCAS), together with RMBC to develop and manage the land as indicated and incorporate it with the current allotment.
- To provide 10-15 small garden allotment plots.
- To clear, develop, improve and preserve the area in order to establish a more attractive and useful resource for the community.
- The cobbled path is not included within the scope of this proposal and the woodland area bordering the MRCAS allotments to the South would continue to be managed and maintained by the countryside rangers as before.
- MRCAS would hope to gain significant funding in order to develop and manage what were previously Moss Row Allotment gardens.
- Norden Area Forum support only is requested at this time in order to move the project forward and put the case to RMBC Planning Department. Though we think that a joint team effort would be advantageous.

The proposed budget is still to be determined.

Councillor Winkler said residents in the area would all need to be consulted if any plans were to be taken forward; the area forum cannot be used for this as not all residents attend the meetings. The forum also raised concerns over the cutting down of trees, access and car parking for the new allotment site. The Chair suggested that the forum support the scheme. All agreed.

6. OPEN FORUM

Norden Carnival

The forum all agreed that the Norden Carnival had been a huge success.

Norden Food Festival

Damien from the Red Butterfly Café, based in the Norden Old Library, attended the forum. Damien

thanked everyone for the support since opening earlier this year and says the business has been well received within the village, with many residents and local groups visiting on a regular basis.

Damien is looking to work with local businesses and chefs to host a Food Festival in the village sometime in July 2016. Damien is meeting with Council Officers to discuss the festival and the requirements of holding an outdoor event, and will feedback to the forum.

Windfarm

Rochdale Council has rejected an application from Coronation Power for the extension of the windfarm. Rochdale approved the planning application for Peel Energy for two extra masts to be built at Scout Moor Windfarm. Since the approval, the Secretary of State has said Rochdale Council can't formally approve the application until they have investigated.

Rainshore Mill

The forum expressed concerns that nobody from Norden Area Forum was present at the planning meeting and feels like more local support was needed.

Since the works have started Councillor Winkler has received complaints from residents and he has raised concerns with regards to large tyre marks on the road and discolouring of the water. Mark Widdup spoke to the forum and will send Planning Enforcement Officers to visit the site.

Action (3) Anthony Jackson will update the next meeting

Planning permission for industrial lighting poles

Rochdale Council has given retrospective planning permission for the installation of 4 x 8m high flood lights at the top of The Croft Farm. The deadline for the consultation was 24 September. Issues were raised around the environmental impact of the bright lights at night.

Action (4) Anthony Jackson to obtain an update from the Planning Department

Edenfield Road Traffic Island

Sarah Croke had been in touch with Councillor Winkler with concerns over crossing the road near the Bridge Chippy/Norden Bus Terminus and she asked if a Traffic Island could be installed. Val White has been in touch with Tony Lees from the Road Safety Team at Rochdale Council. Tony has said the section of Edenfield Road is 8.6m wide and therefore isn't wide enough to install a 2m wide traffic island.

7. WARD FUND UPDATE

Nothing to report.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 16 December 2015

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Norden Community School