

CENTRAL ROCHDALE AREA FORUM

Monday, 5 October 2015

MINUTES

Present: A. Allinson, A. Leggett, G. Bahar, A. Lennox, T. Powers, B. Lloyd (Chair), R. Hartley, Z. Hussain, Hussain, K. Dkhar, A. Miah, B. Starkey, L. Collinge, S. Collinge, J. Murphy

Officers: D. Chadwick (Youth Service), G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer), PCSO Mahmood and PS Martin,

Councillors: Councillors Ali Ahmed and Sultan Ali

Apologies: Councillor Iftikar Ahmed

31 INTRODUCTIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The meeting was chaired by Beryl Lloyd. The Chair introduced and welcomed all to the meeting and reminded Forum members to observe and respect the code of conduct.

The Forum was informed that this was the first Central Rochdale Area Forum meeting at this venue. It was explained that the reason for this is that some months ago Ward Councillors asked if another venue in the Ward (in addition to Wardleworth Community Centre) could be identified. In doing this it was hoped that different sectors of the community would attend area forum meetings.

32 PACT MEETING - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Forum was informed that since the last meeting domestic burglaries had been reduced by 50%, theft from vehicles had reduced, theft of vehicles had risen, theft of pedal cycles had risen and an increase in domestically related assaults / harassment had been reported.

A number of questions / concerns were raised by residents:

- A resident asked if more police presence could be provided near Falinge Park, Yorkshire Street and certain spots in Wardleworth (Morley Street, Gower Street and Hector Avenue) because of drug dealing.

Response: Unfortunately there are not a lot of police officers out there and resources are very limited. Having said that covert operations and intelligence gathering goes on all the time and we will respond accordingly. Incidents should be reported via the 101 number / Crimestoppers.

If you do not see your neighbourhood PCSO you need to register a complaint.

- A resident raised concerns about anti-social behaviour near to Red Lane / Hamer Hall Crescent and a recent incident involving their daughter.

Response: The Forum was informed that the police do not ignore reports of anti-social behaviour however a problem in dealing with ASB is that when the Police respond to an incident the individual / group have moved.

A Youth Service Officer present at the meeting commented that a detached youth worker would be diverted into the area.

The Forum was also informed that the land between Park Road / Red Lane / Foxholes Road which is currently overgrown and is potentially a hiding place will be cleared and significantly improved

over the coming weeks. It is hoped that this will help to improve the perception of the area for residents and reduce the incidence of young people hanging around the area.

- A resident raised concerns about the delay in removing the travellers following the recent encroachment onto Cronkeyshaw Common.

Response: It was explained to the Forum that in order for travellers to be removed from Cronkeyshaw Common a legal process has to be followed. This process can take between five and seven days and includes obtaining a Court Order.

The Police also explained that allegations of criminal damage and illegal tipping are very difficult to prove. Evidence is required and unless the identity of the person breaking the law can be identified very little can be done.

It was accepted that the Police and Council could have worked more effectively in dealing with travellers in the past, however the Forum was informed that the organisations are looking to agree and develop a joint protocol.

It was also explained that the Council is looking to introduce a hot spot injunction which would hopefully speed up the removal of unauthorised encampments.

- A resident raised concerns about speeding traffic on Entwistle Road.

Response: The Forum was informed that a fully funded traffic calming scheme had been agreed for the area.

33 **OPEN FORUM**

Residents raised the following issues during the Open Forum:

- Dog fouling is a problem in the Jarvis Street area close to Greenbank Primary School.

Response: This will be reported to the appropriate service.

- There are three bins on Medley Street that are in need of emptying.

Response: This will be reported to the appropriate service.

- A resident asked if smaller waste and recycling bins can be requested to replace larger ones.

Response: Yes. You would need to contact Environmental Management.

- A resident commented that a number of posters have been attached to Council assets in the Sheriff Street area.

Response: This will be reported to the appropriate service.

34 **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

No one from Environmental Management was present at the meeting.

35 **WARD NEWS**

No Ward news was provided.

36 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 10th December 2015
Wardleworth Community Centre
6.30pm – 8.30pm.

The date of the next area forum meeting at St Patrick's RC Primary School has still to be arranged. However it will be in January 2016.