

LITTLEBOROUGH AND WARDLE COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday 7 June 2016
Littleborough United Reformed Church,
Victoria Street, Littleborough

MINUTES

Present: P. Reed (Chair), J. Kay, K. Greenwood, J. Taylor, B. Bottomley, S. Barlow, M. Rudman, J. Holden, E. Turner, J. Turner, B. Worrall, J. Durrant and B. Weatherley

Officers: Sgt Glyn Martin & PCSO Alan Shaw (GMP) and Tracey Knight (Township Management)

Councillors: Councillors Dearnley, Emsley, Hartley, Paolucci and Stott

Apologies: Councillor Clegg

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and Officers.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The previous minutes were discussed at length and agreed as a correct record. The chair notified the forum of the **Littleborough Food Festival taking place on Saturday 11 June 2016** and the **Sunday Farmers Market on 12 June 2016 in Littleborough Centre.**

The following updates were given.

Hare Hill Road Closure

Highways confirmed the road works were being carried out by the Gas Board. Work is now complete. The positioning of the identified works didn't allow sufficient room to accommodate traffic lights on this occasion. Where possible Highways do try and plan work during quieter periods but it is not always achievable with external contractors.

Bridge North Drive Parking Issues

Parking enforcement are only able to enforce the school keep clear restrictions at this location and visit the school with the CCTV vehicle every 2 weeks and by foot patrol every 4 weeks. The school have been made aware of the issues at Governor meetings and will advise parents to be more considerate when parking. Residents advised that obstructive parking is still an issue.

Former Gas Works on Hare Hill Road

A Rochdale Council Planning Officer provided the following response: a report will be submitted to a future Pennines Township Committee seeking approval to procure some site investigations on the site. These site investigations will help determine the development potential of the site moving forward. Once obtained, the Council should be able to make these details available to interested parties. Residents expressed their concern regarding the level of chemicals that may still be present in the land.

Residents were encouraged to attend a public meeting to discuss this land and the parking issues in Littleborough at 2.30p on Saturday 2 July 2016 at Hare Hill House.

Unlicensed Taxis in Littleborough Centre

The Licensing Team Leader will speak with the taxi operator and this will be built in to the Officer's working schedule to look at activities in this area. If residents need to report further instances, please note the dates and times and if possible the car registration numbers.

3. CRIME UPDATES

Crime Figures

Burglary	26
Burglary other	17
Criminal damage	66
Anti-social behaviour	72

The Police acknowledged the increase in ASB which had almost doubled from the previous quarter; this is due to the lighter nights and follows the usual trend. The forum were reminded to report every instance of ASB as this will help to direct Police resources to hot spot areas. The Police also advised that they had executed three drug warrants during the previous month.

Sgt. Martin explained the way in which calls to the Police are prioritised. The Police direct resources and Officers to crimes that are a priority. The number of calls regarding an incident won't guarantee an Officer attending when there are other more serious and life threatening incidents taking priority. Police call handlers are trained to deal with all manner of emergency phone calls. Each reported incident is dealt with based on priority given the information that has been provided when questioned.

4. RESIDENTS' ISSUES

Speeding Traffic on Milnrow Road and Wildhouse Lane

Residents are concerned about the speed in which vehicles are traveling in this area. They feel action needs to be taken to slow drivers down and make the area safer for pedestrians and properties. Residents asked whether rumble strips, speed hump or extending the 30mph zone to Branch Road could be introduced to slow traffic down before they enter the residential area.

The Police have advised that mobile speed enforcement cameras have been successfully used recently.

Action 1: Seek Highways' advice regarding installing a rumble strip and extending the 30mph zone (Tracey Knight)

Stansfield - Car Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

A resident reported that there had been a high number of car wing mirrors that had been damaged over a recent weekend. This issue was reported to the Police but they didn't appear to take any action, which is a concern for the residents. The Police agreed to speak with the resident following the meeting to establish the full details and take any necessary action.

A discussion took place regarding the impact on the community as a result of the closure of the Tenants and Resident Base in Stansfield. This closure is as a result of a RBH review of all such buildings across the Borough, and only 3 bases now remain. The Tenants and Residents Group are continuing to meet at St James Church.

Birch Hill Crescent & Estate - Anti-Social Behaviour

It was reported that ASB continues on the estate and surrounding areas. There is a multi-agency approach, involving the Police, Community Safety and Youth Workers to tackle the issues and engage the young people in positive diversionary activities. It was confirmed that the Council doesn't have the powers to force E-on to install, sooner than planned, the street lighting on the new estate.

CCTV

Due to the number of Police cuts and reduction in Officers locally, a resident suggested that CCTV cameras should be installed to assist the Police with their work. The Police advised that the system would need to be live monitored to be any use which would be too costly.

Smithy Bridge Car Park - Vehicle Damage

A resident reported that a number of cars had been damaged whilst parked on this car park. The Police weren't aware of this issue and reminded the forum to report crime on 101 or 999 in an emergency. A resident requested CCTV for this area; they were advised to speak to the land owner and Network Rail regarding this request.

5. POLICING PRIORITIES

The priorities for Wardle and West Littleborough and Littleborough Lakeside wards were agreed as:

- Stansfield - Anti-Social Behaviour
- Off Road Bike nuisance

A resident also requested that the Police include the area from Durn to the Railway Arches on Halifax Road in their patrols.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hollingworth Road Parking

Residents expressed their concerns regarding the increasing amount of parked cars causing obstructions on Hollingworth Road. It was acknowledged that the Council's Highways Department are aware of the situation, however, if you introduce parking restrictions it will only move the problem elsewhere.

Littleborough Strategic Planning

A discussion took place regarding the number of new houses being built in Littleborough and the overall impact this will have on local service provision, the environment and the highway network. The resident was assured that each planning application has to comply with The Local Plan which sets out future development of the Borough.

Action 2: Request an overview of the number of houses built in each of the Townships over the last 5 years (Councillor Emsley)

Hare Hill Road & Church Street junction

A resident complained about the amount of traffic and the difficulty for motorists in exiting Hare Hill Road when turning right on to Church Street. Any measures taken to improvement the current route would be extremely costly and with very limited budgets it is unlikely that this will happen.

Littleborough Public Conveniences

A resident raised the issue of the lack of public conveniences in Littleborough and the impact this has on the number of visitors to the village. It was explained that the super-loo was removed as a Council efficiency saving as the annual cost was £31,500 with a total annual income generation of £180.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27 September 2016 at 7pm in Littleborough United Reformed Church, Victoria Street, Littleborough

Police Contact Details

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Twitter @gmprochdaleeast

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Police non-emergency calls 101

Emergency calls 999