

BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

**Monday 5 September 2016
Bamford Chapel, Norden Road, Rochdale**

MINUTES

Present: I. Sturrock (Chair), B. Griffiths, B. Taylor, P. Taylor, T. Mayne, C. Lord, Martin Coupe, Maureen Coupe, J. Silverwood, R. Silverwood, S. Doyle, B. Fox, R. Mallinder, K. Riley, S. Bleakley, B. Woodburn, D. Roylance, B. Colligan, H.M. Colligan, N. Shepherd, A. Shorrocks, J. Pearsall, S. Cresswell, P. Galvin, S. Grindrod, D. Moss, P. Moss, Jane. Gartside.

Officers: S. Hay, Township, D. Ludwig, Community Safety. GMP: PCSO Ashley Phillips, PCSO Leanne Palmer

Councillors: Ian Duckworth, Jane Howard, Pat Sullivan.

Apologies: Councillor James Gartside.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were sent by Councillor James Gartside.

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 13 June 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given.

Blocked drains

Resident states she has written to the Officer In Case, John Ashley, about the culvert next to 662 Bury Road and had no reply, and also a large hole has been filled in, whether permanent or temporary she is not sure, and she is concerned that this may wash away and block the culvert. She asked that the Officer in Case, John Ashley, contacts her. Also the brambles on Council land at the side of her house have still not been cut back, although some other work has been done.

Action: Request brambles be cut back and Officer in Case makes direct contact (Stuart Hay)

Parking near Bamford Academy School

The forum was informed of actions taken concerning the indiscriminate parking and obstructions, particularly at dropping off and picking up times, in the vicinity of Bamford Academy School. Parking Services were requested to conduct enforcement visits in regulated areas and GMP non-regulated areas. PCSOs Whelan and Taylor had visited and advised the School, patrolled the area and liaised with their Traffic Wardens for enforcement.

Japanese Knotweed

Environmental Management will treat all the Japanese Knotweed on Council land as highlighted. Further Knotweed on the footpath opposite St Michael's Church has been identified and it will be reported for treatment. A problem with Mares Tail growing through various pavements was also highlighted and specific locations, when notified, will also be reported for treatment.

Oulder Hill Drive trees

The two dead Rowan trees on Oulder Hill Drive have been removed and Environmental Management will replant in autumn.

Roch Valley Way Litter Bins

The requirement for additional litter bins on Roch Valley Way and the funding thereof is being considered by Environmental Management.

Murrayfield Potholes

The potholes on Murrayfield and at its junction with Norden Road have been repaired, but there was a request to further inspect Norden Road at the junction with Murrayfield as it is still in a poor state of repair.

Action: Request inspection of road junction (Stuart Hay)

Queens Park Road/Bury and Rochdale Old Road Traffic Lights

The faulty traffic lights at Queens Park Road and Bury and Rochdale Old Road were reported to Urban Traffic Control and repaired.

Blocked drain on Clay Lane

The drain on Clay Lane near the Water Treatment works was inspected and cleared and further improvement work may take place.

Mojito's

Head of Licensing tasked out visits to Mojitos Wine Bar but it still remains a problem with drinking outside and on the pavement and the resultant noise.

Action: Inform Licensing and request further visits (Stuart Hay)

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PCSOs Ashley Phillips and Leanne Palmer summarised the crime figures for the last quarter.

Good news, burglary dwelling has been significantly reduced. Offenders have been targeting homes of the elderly and homes where the occupiers were away. Rochdale Council's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officer, Diane Lodwig, is available for home visits to provide crime prevention advice and give out devices such as timer switches and window tamper alarms and these devices are also available from Police Stations. Two more prolific burglars had been arrested yesterday in a vehicle stolen by burglary following a Police pursuit and they were remanded in to custody. It is anticipated they will receive lengthy custodial sentences. Also one member of a team of four burglars working out of Wrexham had been arrested.

Numerous speeding initiatives had taken place at different locations; the number of vehicles involved and offenders were highlighted. Hundreds of vehicles were monitored and relatively few were speeding, but again it is acknowledged that as Police are compelled to wear High Visibility uniform which is clearly obvious this slows down motorists. Further speeding initiatives are planned.

Police And Community Together meeting priorities remain burglary and speeding motor vehicles.

5. OPEN FORUM

Bridge Juniors Football Club

Barry Woodburn, Bridge Juniors Football Club Secretary, gave a presentation on what the club provides each week for 700 youngsters, male and female, aged from four to eighteen and until this year, the only providers of disability football and an FA Exemplar Club. The club has over 100 volunteers who all give their time of up to 10 to 15 hours every week to provide five hours NHS target hitting physical activity per individual.

Barry explained what the club do to clean up after matches and encourage their visitors to park vehicles sensibly and considerately and to deter visitors from parking indiscriminately in the area.

The club issues a bin bag to all managers and instructs them to clear up their pitch after every game, and the club provides a skip which is available seven days a week all year around and it is used by lots of people not connected to the club and is emptied whenever full. The site is not a closed one and is used by people not connected to the club who camp out, party and drink and leave a lot of waste behind. The club clear up shovel fulls of dog excrement every Saturday morning and they are responsible for cutting the grass. There used to be waste bins on site but these were constantly being filled with dog waste and were removed.

A discussion over the education of site users took place; the club does what it can. All club members and parents are issued with a Code of Conduct which covers cleanliness and considerate parking of motor vehicles, both the club and League website lead with advice on considerate parking. The road leading to Bamford Mews is a private road and has no Highways status at all and cannot be enforced. Residents of The Mews could consider closing the road off; they would not need a road closure as it is not a highway, but there are planning issues and a Planning Officer is available for advice should it be required.

Councillor Jane Howard had received photographs of motor vehicles parked all over the part of Bamford Green not protected by Bird Beak fencing and consideration will be given to installing such fencing.

The club strives to be a community friend and anyone is welcome to visit between 8am and 1pm any Saturday. A suggestion was made for the club to publicise everything discussed through the media and Streetwise magazine.

Action: Enquire into installation of Bird Beak fencing to match the fencing around the rest of The Green (Stuart Hay)

Rochdale Rugby Club ASB

Numerous complaints have been made about noise, anti-social behaviour, none licensed events and lack of any club control of social functions at Rochdale Rugby Club and concerns expressed about the proposed installation of an outdoor balcony which could make the problems even worse. Residents are collating evidence and Licensing is aware. Licensing Officers have attended but it was felt at the wrong times when no functions were taking place, and affected residents asked if they could have a telephone number for an on duty Licensing Officer so they can report issues as and when problems were occurring. A number will be requested and if available will be passed on to residents. There was absolutely no criticism of the rugby playing side of the club, it is purely the unruly social side which is an issue.

Ragwort Weed

The problem of the ever increasing and prolific poisonous Ragwort weed was highlighted with a handout made available to all. An article in the Rochdale Observer drawing attention to it, stressing the need to be very careful when handling it and the need to control it was supported by residents. Rochdale Council will treat any Ragwort on their land.

Land back of the junction of Norden Road and Bury and Rochdale Old Road

A resubmitted planning application to build a house approximately fifteen times larger than an average sized house on Greenbelt land at the back of land at the junction of Norden Road and Bury and Rochdale Old Road was highlighted with serious concerns expressed about the loss of Rochdale's Greenbelt land and precedent setting for further developments.

Vermin Problem

Environmental Health is dealing with a rat infestation at the rear of the row of cottages up from The Grapes Public House.

Northdene Drive, Rochbury Close & Bury Road Footpath & Street Light

The footpath from Northdene Drive to Rochbury Close to Bury Road is overgrown with weeds and needs clearing and the street light at the end of the path is not working and needs repairing.

Action: Request clearance of path and repair of street light (Stuart Hay)

Bamford Green

Bamford Green is looking very good since the works were completed and the village planter is looking really good also.

Bamford Chapel Events

Events are continuing at Bamford Chapel despite ongoing work, such as a Rochdale Music Society concert on Friday 7th October 2016, The Mike Manship Jazz Trio on Tuesday 11th October 2016, Toby Hughes, double bass and Ben Powell on piano on Tuesday 8th November 2016.

Heritage Open Days

The Link4Life Heritage Open Days 2016 were highlighted with free access over four days from Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th September 2016 to buildings normally closed to public access or usually charge for admission.

The Ward Councillors hold a surgery from 10am to 11am on the first Thursday of each month here in Bamford Chapel (although they often go beyond 11am). Ward Councillors contact details are available on the Council website:

Councillor Ian Duckworth
Telephone: 01706 648393
Email: ian.duckworth@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Jane Howard
Telephone: 07870 172144
Email: jane.howard@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Pat Sullivan
Telephone: 0161 762 1129 or 07967 985240
Email: patricia.sullivan@rochdale.gov.uk

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 December 2016 at 6.30pm in Bamford Chapel