

BALDERSTONE AND KIRKHOLT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday 21 March 2017
Kirkholt Community Church, Daventry Road,
Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: C. Mottershead, E. Warburton, K. McBride, M. Wilson, M. Whalley, B. Robson, B. Bergin, B. Culshaw, J. Culshaw, K. Pickup, K. Charlton, D. Earl, P. Perkins, M. Yarwood, S. Powers, T. Powers, D. Wild, D. Holt, N. Coburno and P. Colclough

Officers: PC S. Horton (GMP), PS R. Shelton (GMP), Ins Webb (GMP), PCSO S. Senior (GMP), R. Hudson (RBC - Townships), A. Whittaker (RBC – Highways), S. Bowness (RBC – Early Help & Schools) and N. Morris (RBH)

Councillors: Daniel Meredith, Kathleen Nickson and Richard Farnell

Apologies: K. Johnson (RBH), Rev. Angela Bryan, Mr McCormack and Barbara Harrison

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attention was drawn to the code of conduct, a summary of which was read out. All attendees were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

2. PACT MEETING - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Crime

Priorities raised at last forum were vehicle crime and off-road bikes.

A resident raised a question concerning any planned operations to reduce off-road bikes. Officer advised GMP's dedicated off-road bike unit patrol team will be put in place in the future with a specific operation planned for the Summer months using officers in high visibility and also plain clothes. The public were urged to report ALL incidences on the 101 line. GMP is also working closely with Rochdale Boroughwide Housing to identify bikes at local addresses which may threaten tenancies as a deterrent.

GMP are talking to local schools to warn pupils about using their mobile phones online and giving safety guidance and advice regarding sexual predators.

GMP are working closely with Community Safety concerning the recent issue of youths hiding behind Balderstone Park wall and targeting cars with missiles and eggs.

Surgeries are held at the Kirkholt Drop-in Centre and also Balderstone Park Library. Dates of surgeries are displayed on GMP's website (Rochdale North), Facebook and Twitter.

Statistics for the ward (past three months and compared to last year)

Anti-social behaviour	34	35
Robberies	3	5
Domestic burglaries	13	22
Burglary (others)	19	22
Theft of vehicle	5	6
Theft from vehicle	21	18
Criminal damage	36	41

3. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Councillor Meredith

Dean Farm, Balderstone – A planning permission was recently refused by the Council so no development will be proceeding on the land.

Burnage Spatial Framework – The second consultation is taking place, and matter would cost too much so is being shelved.

Pot-hole issues – The Council has committed an extra £1million to improving roads this financial year. Residents raised queries regarding Queensway.

The Strand Health Centre - Discussions are being held regarding the new health centre and a survey taking place to see which services can be brought back to Kirkholt. Podiatry was suggested.

Councillor Nickson

A large community event is being organised for this summer along with a series of other events to build relationships between the communities and bring residents together.

Three young women have died within the ward in tragic circumstances in the past year so as part of the community project, consideration will be given to establishing a place where people can go to remember them, reflect and pay their respects.

Councillor Farnell

Weekly surgeries are held at Balderstone Library on Saturdays at 10am and Kirkholt Drop-In Centre on Tuesdays at 2pm.

Residents were urged to advise the Council of pot-hole issues which can then be added to a list.

Summer planting – The Council's Environmental Services are busy planting across the ward and borough, and a grant has been secured to do a public artistic display at the roundabout on Queensway.

Recent projects funded within the ward (ideas always welcomed):

- St Mary's CE Primary School (Balderstone) – create a community allotment and fenced-off area
- Kirky Kitchen – soft-play area
- Kirkholt Pantry Scheme
- Q Gardens – grant for garden equipment
- Balderstone Library – re-painted and new rug purchased

4. PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

Kirkholt Million

B. Harrison not in attendance. The ethos of the Million is to reach out to the community to comment and decide on how the monies are spent and what is funded. Suggestions are now welcome on the next phase for 2017/2018 and can be forwarded to kirkholtmillion@hotmail.co.uk or handed in.

Groundwork are running a SIA work course (security badge) which will be fully paid for with travel

expenses.

Community groups can enter the It's a Knock-Out Community Challenge to be held in Falinge Park on Sunday 13 August 2017. Funds raised for their favourite charity or own group.

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

Apologies were given for the lack of recent attendance at forums by RBH which was due to staff shortages.

Response to a resident's queries on tree matters – Need to direct their issues to the local Neighbourhood Housing Officer but be aware that due to budgets, not all works can be permitted and jobs are prioritised.

Parking issues on The Strand – Any specific complaints/issues regarding contractors should be reported to the drop-in centre and matters will be addressed immediately. Works are on schedule for the new development to be completed by this time next year. The first floor of the centre will be solely for community use.

Kirkholt Pantry – There are pots of money available from the RBH Community Fund which is open to any community group to apply for.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

Previous matters raised at the last forum by residents concerning RBH and issues regarding trees have been addressed and responded to direct.

Hartley Lane/Queens Drive – Highways/Parking Issue (Additional Item)

The Chair agreed the inclusion of this additional item concerning residents' complaints about parking issues near to their properties/blocking their driveways. Allegations were made that the drivers were teachers/staff at the local school (Sandbrook Primary School). The Headteacher was in attendance and she advised residents that she has requested that her staff park their vehicles elsewhere and urged residents to report any matters to the school's reception, quoting registration details, and staff will be spoken to. It was advised that works are currently being undertaken at the school resulting in the car parking facilities being out of bounds. Once the works are completed, staff will have car spaces to use. Some residents advised it is also parents who are collecting children from the school causing issues. A Highways Officer was in attendance and several solutions were discussed. Residents' previous recommendations for a residents' only parking area were dismissed as Highways advised this would just push the problem elsewhere on the estate. A 'No Waiting at Any Time' restriction could be put in place but it would also penalise the residents too.

Councillor Farnell was pleased to hear that once works at the school were finished, the availability of parking spaces would alleviate the congestion. However, he stated that the problem was a matter that the school itself needed to address and advise staff to car share and parents to be more considerate when parking or park further away from the school and walk in. The Headteacher advised she had no restriction on staff working at the adjacent Sure Start Centre/Crèche. S. Bowness of Rochdale Council's Early Help & School also in attendance stated that the issues would be addressed accordingly.

Councillor Meredith suggested Community Safety monitor the situation along with the local PCSOs to inform car users of the situation and also Township could pay for a survey to be carried out by Highways to assess the parking/traffic/congestion situation. A 'friends of' group could be set up by the school and the Headteacher urged residents to join or come and speak to her. The Highways Officer did recommend an option whereby a grassed verge in front of the nearby bungalow area

could be used for parking (subject to funding). A request to be made to Parking Services to up patrols in the area.

6. OPEN FORUM

Council Tax Leaflet

A resident enquired how many departments do the Council have as per the Council Tax leaflet information. The resident was advised the Government require local Councils to produce the leaflet and the information is also displayed on the Council's website. There are five departments; Finance, Children, Adult, Environment & Highways and Public Health.

The resident asked how many quangos Rochdale Council have and they were informed none.

Information concerning future Area Forums – Email notifications only

As a direct result of the Council's savings proposals it will no longer be possible for the Township Office to post letters and agendas for area forums. Residents were encouraged to supply their email address to receive notifications of dates of future meetings, agendas and minutes. Also information can be accessed via the Council's website www.rochdale.gov.uk/councilmeetings.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 June 2017 at 6.30pm

Venue: St Mary's Church, Oldham Road, Balderstone, Rochdale