

SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM

Thursday, 29 September 2016

MINUTES

Present: B. Holden, A. Foster, S. Ashworth, D. Clayton, J. Moss, A. McDermott, D. Phillips, Mr & Mrs Forden, Mr. Le Monnier, P. Massey (Chair), F. Nissar, U. Rahman, M. Rashid (Vice Chair), S. Whitworth, P. Barker, V. Sommerville, A. Sommerville, S. Mitchell, D. Holden, J. Ingham, A. Bibby, E. Phillips, K. Massey, R. Le Monnier, D. Hallows, K. Salisbury, J. Addy, J. Nawaz, Mr & Mrs Ashurst, K. Lawrence, B. Penty, M. Oliver, D. Kay, H. Kay, M. Coates, P. Salisbury, A. Rawsterne, S. Hussain, N. Hussain and E. Chadwick.

Officers: PC Butterworth (GMP), G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer) and N. Rogers (Service Manager – Rochdale Borough Council)

Councillors: C. Biant, S. Biant and W. Cocks

Apologies: Mr & Mrs Fleming, C. Faulkner, J. Newcombe and A. Meek

55 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Township and Engagement Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was explained that the meeting would be in two parts; part one would be the Annual General Meeting which would see the election of the Area Forum Chair and Vice Chair for the next twelve months. Part two would be the ordinary meeting, concentrating upon the PACT and Open Forum.

The Forum was reminded about the Code of Conduct and asked to comply with the code throughout the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Mr & Mrs Fleming, Carl Faulkner, John Newcombe, R. Le Monnier and A. Meek.

56 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Following nominations and voting the following residents were appointed Chair and Vice Chair of the Area Forum for the next twelve months:

Chair – Mr Philip Massey

Vice Chair – Mr Mohammed Rashid.

57 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 20 AUGUST 2015

P. Massey took the Chair at this point.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 20th August 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

58 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

PC Butterworth attended the meeting for this item.

The following information was reported:

- A prolific offender in the Ward had recently been sentenced to prison.

- During the last three months incidents of crime in relation to theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles had reduced.
- An operation in relation to off-road biking would be taking place in the Ward on the 8th & 9th October.

Residents raised a number of concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in the Ward. Holmes Street was identified as particularly problematical. GMP acknowledged they were aware of this and stated they had visited the abandoned vehicle that had been reported in the street.

59 **MINUTES OF LAST AREA FORUM MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES**

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Thursday 16th June 2016 were approved as a correct record.

The following updates were provided:

- Pocket of land on Spotland Road

Following a query raised by a resident about a pocket of land on Spotland Road that had been fenced off which the resident believed obstructed the right of way the Forum was informed that the desire line across the piece of land was not a right of way. The area has been enclosed because it is not a footpath and the Council had received claims from members of the public who had allegedly injured themselves whilst crossing the land.

- Additional bins – Churchill Street

Financial support had been agreed for the placement of additional bin and the request was being progressed.

- Prickshaw Dam

A resident informed the Forum that the Council had been contacted regarding a leak at the Dam. Consultation was ongoing.

- Churchill Street bollards

Financial support had been agreed for the placement of additional bollards near to Meanwood School to improve safety. This request was being progressed.

- Hedges on Ings Lane

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

- Ullswater Avenue – Ings Lane – Alleygates

The Forum was informed that this particular section is not suitable for alleygates. The area is also owned by Rochdale Boroughwide Housing.

- Hudson Walk – Double yellow lines

The Forum was informed that the resident who raised this issue had subsequently attended Rochdale Township Committee to express her concerns.

- Meanwood School Fencing

The Township and Engagement Officer informed the Forum that agreement had been reached with Health and Safety regarding the safety concerns raised in relation to the removal of the final points. An estimate had now been received for the restoration work and it was planned to seek financial support for the project at the next Rochdale Township Action and Resources Sub-Committee in November 2016. Environmental Management had also identified a proposed site in Denehurst Park for the re-siting of the fencing.

- Dellar Fold / Dellar Street – introduction of a barrier / bollards

The Township & Engagement Officer informed the Forum that the covenant could be removed from the accessway on Dellar Street. However the process to remove can be lengthy, time consuming, complex and potentially expensive. In addition at any time during the process the application to remove the covenant can fail if an objection to its removal is received. Financial support to progress this proposal would more than likely have to be sought from already limited Township funds.

The Forum was also informed that based on the feelings expressed at the last Area Forum meeting and the fact that the school did not believe that installing a barrier / bollards would improve safety for children no further progress would be made with this request.

A traffic survey for Dellar Street / Churchill Street was also being progressed.

- Proposed skate park suggestions

The proposed skate park suggestion made at the previous Area Forum meeting had been passed to Environmental Management.

- Members / Ward Funds

The Forum was informed that at the beginning of the financial year (April) there was £8000 in Ward Funds and each Ward Councillor had an allocation of £2000.

At the time of the meeting the following amounts were available:

£7387.72 remained in Ward Funds (Churchill Street bollards - £297.28 & Churchill Street litter bin - £315).

Councillor C. Biant had £1574.68 remaining (Greave Play Scheme - £425.32)

Councillor S. Biant had £1050 remaining (Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum Launch Event - £950)

Councillor W. Cocks had £2000 remaining.

The Forum was encouraged to put forward ideas for projects / initiatives that could be supported from Ward / Member funds.

The Chair asked if anyone from the Forum wanted to join the Forum's Sub Group. The purpose of this group is to scrutinise Ward funding applications.

Mr S Ashworth agreed to join the group.

60 OPEN FORUM

Due to the fact that an Officer from Rochdale Borough Council was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the Turner Brothers Asbestos site it was agreed to organise the open forum in two parts. The first section would deal with general open forum issues, the second section would concentrate on TBA specific issues.

General open forum issues

- A resident raised concerns about recent Traveller encroachments at a variety of sites within the borough and the costs that are incurred by the local authority in dealing with issues of this nature.
- Concerns about speeding on Spotland Road, College Road and Primrose Street were raised.

The Forum was informed that speeding is a police issue and residents should report any incidents of this nature with as much detail as possible. However speeding is a difficult issue to control in that the police need to be in the right place at the right time to apprehend offenders.

Introducing speed calming measures is an option that can be considered by the local authority, however the process can be lengthy and costly.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate if cameras can be fitted at specific locations to assist with reducing incidents of speeding.

- A resident informed the Forum that the next Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF) would be held on the 6th October at Spotland Methodist Church commencing 7pm.

The Forum was informed that the primary purpose of the RMNF was to share a common purpose and objective to protect and enhance the neighbourhood and to make it an area that is vibrant, socially inclusive, and generally the greenest, safest place to live, work and play that it can possibly be.

- A resident asked if an Environmental Impact Report had been / could be produced for the land that is adjacent to Dellar Fold / Dellar Street and at the junction of Edenfield Road / Ings Lane that had recently been sold.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this further.

- A Youth Worker introduced himself to the Forum advising that youth workers worked in the area every Thursday, 6pm – 9pm.
- Residents expressed concerns about the lack of consultation that had been undertaken regarding the removal of the kick pitch on RBH owned land.
- Concerns were raised about flood concerns on Holmes Street.

The Township & Engagement Officer agreed to forward these concerns to the Community Flood Resilience Officer.

- Residents raised concerns over the amount of dog fouling on Churchill Street.

The Township & Engagement Officer agreed to report this and request that Enforcement Officers visited the area.

TBA open forum issues

Nicola Rogers, Service Manager Rochdale Borough Council attended for this item.

The Forum was informed that although the Council does not own the Site, it wants to work with the owner (Renshaw Properties Limited) to find a solution for its future.

The landowner in consultation with the Council is carrying out a site investigation which is looking at potential environmental issues and the future of the site.

The Officer also gave the background to the air quality assessment that commenced in August 2015 and is currently ongoing. The monitoring exercise will hopefully be completed in October 2016. The results of this exercise will be made public although no time frame on this can be given at present.

The following questions/concerns were raised:

Does the Council own any land within the TBA site?

Response: It was confirmed that the Council owns a small strip of land within the boundary of the site, although it was unknown how this was acquired.

What are the future plans for the site?

Response: This is unknown at present. Until the results of the current site investigations are known it would be inappropriate to speculate on the future use of the land.

What are the next steps if the land is deemed safe?

Response: This cannot be answered at present. The current site investigation will enable the landowners to understand the site better in terms of any remediation required and the options available. It was accepted that there is asbestos on the land, however a statutory determination had not been given to confirm this.

Concerns were raised about the lack of monitoring on the land in the past.

Response: Although these concerns were understood the site had not been categorised. There was no evidence that asbestos was leaving the site and harming the health of residents. However the current site investigation on the land and air quality monitoring will help determine the land's current state and possible future use.

Will the land owner make the survey results known to the public?

Response: This cannot be answered at present. The survey has been commissioned by the landowners therefore they will decide upon this.

What is the purpose of the project team that has recently been set up?

Response: The purpose of the project team is to facilitate communication between the landowners (Renshaw Properties Limited), their representatives and residents in relation to the proposed site investigations.

Residents also commented that:

- During 2001 the Unitary Development Plan had identified the site as an area of opportunity including housing and shops.
- If the land is eventually abandoned it would become the responsibility of the Crown.
- The Project Team does not include any Elected Members or Area Forum representatives. In addition no minutes or notes are made public.
- There is the need for openness and transparency

61 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 15th December 2016 @ 7pm.

Spotland Methodist Church