

## **MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 16 October 2017**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Brett, Zaheer and Zaman, M A Khan, S. Mohammed (Chair), M. Javed, F. Shahid, R. Shahid, A. Nawaz, I. Ahmed, K. Sheulz, H M Ikram, S. Ahmad, M. Sajid, M. Yassin, H. A Malik, M. Saleem, M.Arshad, S. Ali, M. Zakid, M. Alam and B. Hussain.

**OFFICERS:** M. Reynolds (Public Realm Inspector), G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer, D. Shirazi (GMP), T. Ahmed (GMP) and A. Cowell (Highways).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** A. Beasley

#### **INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT**

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The Township and Engagement Officer welcomed all 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 on the PACT, Open Forum and the results of the highways traffic survey.

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

Apologies had been received from Ann Beasley.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

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Shahid Mohammed was elected Chair of the Forum for the next twelve months and took the Chair at this point.

Ahmed Nawaz was elected as Vice Chair of the Forum for the next twelve months.

#### **MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were approved as a correct record.

#### **GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING**

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Sgt D. Shirazi and PC Ahmed attended the meeting for this item.

It was reported to the Forum that:

- GMP thought that the recently held community event at Stoneyfield Park was beneficial and had helped to bridge the gap between residents and agencies.
- Work has been undertaken around the Freehold estate to address anti-social behaviour issues.
- GMP were aware of the problems being caused by fireworks.

- The 'dark nights initiative' had recently been launched which encourages residents to make sure their homes are safe.
- Consideration is being given to setting up traffic operations within the Ward.
- A day of action was recently held targeting scrap dealers in the Sparthbottom area of the Ward.

Residents raised the following issues:

- Agreed that the recently held Stoneyfield Park event was well received.
- Concerns were raised about speeding in the Ward.
- The 101 service is ineffective. Residents were encouraged to report issues via the GMP website.
- Drug dealing in many parts of the Ward, King Street South was identified as being a problematical area.
- Littering was identified as a problem in many parts of the Ward with King Street South being identified as a problem area. Residents were encouraged to report incidents of this nature. This could be done via the Township Office – [gary.finch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gary.finch@hotmail.co.uk), Ward Councillor Surgeries or the contact centre – [environmental.management@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.management@rochdale.gov.uk) – 0300 303 8884.

It was also reported that on the spot fines can be issued for littering offences if evidence is available. In some cases evidence may need to be forthcoming from residents.

- Prostitution was identified as being a problem in the Ward. Richard Street and the back of Deen House were identified as problem areas.

GMP acknowledged they were aware of this and that this issue is regularly raised at Forum meetings. It was explained that a great deal of work is undertaken including working across multi-agencies and undercover operations in attempts to combat this type of activity. Individuals identified as using the services of prostitutes will receive a warning letter and the monitoring of vehicle registration is also undertaken.

It was asked if individuals using the services of prostitutes could be named and shamed. It was acknowledged this is something that could be considered.

- Concerns were raised about the number of beggars in the Ward and outside of Mosques.

GMP and the Council were aware of the problems caused by beggars. Initiatives have been introduced to combat this occurrence, however more work, across agencies is needed.

Residents were encouraged not to give money to beggars. The Forum was also informed that a 'task and finish group has been set up within the Council to look at this particular issue.

The Police were thanked for the work they undertake in the Ward and for attending tonight's Area Forum meeting outside of their shift rota.

## **OUTCOME OF THE TRAFFIC SURVEY RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN IN THE WARD**

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Andrew Cowell, Highways attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that this survey had been undertaken as a result of concerns raised by residents about congestion and parking problems within the Ward. The survey focussed on the streets and roads close to the Station and was primarily concerned with evaluating if residents only parking schemes (ROP) would benefit the area.

In summary it was found that the majority of streets surveyed did not suffer from commuters parking in residential areas for prolonged periods to the extent where a ROP should be introduced. Where commuters were found to be present on residential streets spaces were available.

Although some streets within the area do suffer more than others, such as Durham Street, and Kent Street, for example, it would not be possible to introduce a scheme in these areas in isolation. ROP schemes should generally be considered on an area wide (zonal) basis so that they do not result in the initial problem being transferred on to adjacent streets.

The Forum was also reminded of other considerations that should be taken into account, for example:

- There must be a minimum 65% support for a scheme to be introduced.
- A maximum of two permits are allowed for both residents and businesses. Therefore a household with a third vehicle would be unable to park anywhere in the zone.
- There is a £25 charge for each permit per year.
- There would be an impact on visitors to any schools, mosques and community centres in the area as only two permits would be allowed for each facility.

Residents made the following comments;

1. What time was the survey conducted.

Response: The survey was conducted on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June between 6am and 7pm.

2. A resident stated that Milkstone Road, Tweedale Street, Kent Street and Durham Street where the major problem areas.

Response: These problem areas are known and will be looked at as part of the wider study. Parking restrictions / one way systems could be considered.

3. Would it be possible for TfGM to extend the station car park.

Response: TfGM had already been contacted about this and there are currently no plans for additional parking facilities to be made available.

4. A resident commented that the timeframe for the survey was not long enough. It should have been extended past 7pm because of people visiting restaurants.
5. A resident commented that the problems can only be eased if all stakeholders work together. More car parks would help resolve some problems of congestion.

Response: The Forum was informed that Highways are currently looking at identifying the publically owned sites in the area.

6. A number of residents agreed with the conclusions of the survey.
7. A resident commented that the road layout along Milkstone Road / Tweedale Street / Station Road is dangerous and does not help traffic flow and that the road layout should be reconfigured.

Response: The Township and Engagement Officer informed the Forum that this issue / question had been raised many times at Forum meetings. The Forum was reminded that there were no plans to re-configure the layout of the road.

8. A resident commented that the community had been misled over the focus of the survey.

Response: It was explained that the survey that was undertaken should be seen as the starting point.

9. A resident commented that the road layout at the junction of Tweedale Street, Milkstone Road and Lower Tweedale Street should be returned to its former configuration.

The Forum agreed that a working party be established to help identify the areas within the Ward that suffer from highway related problems.

## **OPEN FORUM**

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Residents raised the following issues:

1. Travellers on Durham Street and Drake Street

It was acknowledged that the Council was aware of both of these incidents and that the local authority had a legal process to follow. The Forum was also informed that the Council and other agencies are doing their best at minimising these type of incidents.

2. Parking bay – Back Oldham Street

A resident commented that the parking bay on Back Oldham Street was unnecessary and did not help parking problems in the area. It was acknowledged that this was being investigated by Highways.

### 3. Traders selling cars

A resident expressed his concerns about the number of cars being sold by traders in the area around Castlemere Street which aggravated the congestion and parking problems in the area. It was explained that an exercise had been undertaken recently by Council staff which failed to find illegal practices regarding the sale of cars being evident.

### 4. Fireworks

Residents raised concerns about the illegal selling of fireworks. It was explained that shopkeepers need to obtain licences to sell fireworks. Residents were encouraged to report traders if they had evidence that shopkeepers were acting illegally.

### 5. John Street Bus Lane

Some residents criticised the introduction of the bus lane on John Street saying it was ineffective and caused congestion.

## **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES**

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The minutes of the Milkstone and Deeplish Area Forum held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were approved as a correct record.

No matters were arising. The following update was provided.

#### 1. Medina Cash and Carry Cash Machine.

No progress had been made on this. An enforcement notice had been issued and Legal were dealing with the on-going process.

## **COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

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Ward Councillors reminded the Forum of the importance of attending surgeries to raise issues with their local councillors. Councillor Surgery details are listed below:

### **Councillor Surgery Details**

#### First Saturday of each month

10.00am – 11.00am at Deeplish Community Centre, Hare Street, Rochdale  
11.00am – 12.00 noon at Sudden Community Centre, Cheltenham Street, Rochdale

#### Third Saturday of each month

10.00am – 11.00am at Castlemere Community Centre, Tweedale Street, Rochdale  
11.00am – 12.00 noon at Sparthbottom Community Centre, Norman Road, Rochdale

No appointments necessary, just drop in at any of the above centres during the surgery time.

## **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 6.30pm  
Deeplish Community Centre

