

SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM

Thursday, 16 November 2017
Spotland Methodist Church, Rooley Moor Road,
Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: P. Massey (Chair), B. Holden, M. Rashid, J. Moss, B. Penty, A. Foster, A. Meek, A. Thomas, J. Brierley, F. Healey, P. Knowles, Mr & Mrs Forden, C. Faulkner, T. Powers, J. Killour, M. Coats, Mr & Mrs Somerville, R. Down, N. Morrell, R. Heap, N. Wild, A. Rawsterne and D. O'Brien.

Officers: PC P. Jones, PC S. Firth, PCSO D. Smout, G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer) and I. Trickett (Environmental Management).

Councillors: Cocks, S. Biant and C. Biant

Apologies: S. Ashworth, J. Addy, T. Lloyd MP and M. Oliver

93 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's 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 for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Steve Ashworth, Jason Addy, Tony Lloyd MP and Monica Oliver.

94 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND AREA FORUM SUB GROUP

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

Chair – Philip Massey

Vice Chair – Mohammed Rashid

95 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 29 SEPTEMBER 2016

This item was withdrawn as the minutes had been previously agreed.

96 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

PC Phil Jones, PC Sarah Firth and PCSO Dan Smout attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour, criminal behaviour, burglary and off-road biking incidents. It was explained that there was no specific pattern to the anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, however Rooley Moor had been identified as a hot spot for off-road biking.

It was also commented that GMP are working in partnership with Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF) to address this problem and that RMNF were attempting to develop a working relationship with the Lord of the Manor to deal with incidents of this nature. It was commented that

attempts were also being made to obtain more support from GMP's Off-Road Bike Team and residents were reminded to use the off-road bike log sheets for recording incidents.

Anti-social behaviour incidents had recently been dealt with on Martin Lane, Ravendale Close and Meadowview.

The Forum was informed that GMP would be holding a surgery at Spotland Library on Monday 27th November 2017, 5pm – 7pm.

Residents were also informed of Operation Dark Nights which aims to target hot spot burglary areas.

Residents raised the following issues:

1. Concerns were raised about the anti-social behaviour that was occurring in Falinge Park – fires, vandalism, drug dealing, burglary – and asked when GMP patrols would commence in the park.

GMP commented that they were aware of anti-social behaviour issues in the park, however patrols / responses are data lead. GMP agreed to re-visit this.

2. It was stated that the 101 service is ineffective and if it was possible to speak to someone to discuss these concerns.

GMP were aware of the problems being experienced but unsure who could be contacted to discuss these concerns in more detail. A Ward Councillor also commented that this had been reported via the Greater Manchester Mayor's Office.

3. A resident asked what other contact numbers / addresses could be used to report incidents because of the ineffectiveness of the 101 service.

0161 856 8549
rochdalenorth@gmp.police.uk
gmp.police.uk/rochdale
01403@gmp.police.uk

4. A resident asked how many Police Officers were on duty after 6pm in Rochdale.

Although this was difficult to quantify precisely as numbers can vary depending upon demand it has been known that six Officers have had to cover the Borough.

97 MINUTES OF THE AREA FORUM MEETINGS HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2017 AND 2 OCTOBER 2017, MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

Minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Thursday 24th August 2017 were approved as a correct record. Updates with regards to the actions requested at this meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and are as follows:

Action	Update
Clarification sought on which residents' representatives have been involved in the development of the emergency response plan for the TBA site.	Response sent to resident. Please see below: <i>A multi-agency site incident plan was developed in 2014 after the fire on site in Jan 2014. At that time the Council involved the TBA Working Party Members and a draft</i>

	<i>plan was circulated. The plan was amended and incorporated the information and local knowledge provided by the group members. The final version of the incident plan was provided to the group.</i>
The resident who is proposing to restore the Meanwood School fencing asked if it would be possible to obtain a fence panel to undertake restoration work.	Resident informed this would be possible.
Cutgate Road – traffic calming and 20mph zone	Scheme advertised
It was asked if it would be possible to circulate notification of Traffic Regulation Orders and Planning Applications relevant to the Spotland and Falinge Ward via the Forum database.	Council policy is to advertise in press, on website and lamp posts.
Additional meeting for TBA	Meeting arranged
Overgrown hedges / trees – Beaufort Street / Woodland Road	Reported
A resident asked why the ornate roof tiles had not been replaced on Meanwood School following the completion on the building work.	Informed that these tiles will be used during phase two of the building work.
Safety concerns were raised about the junction at Spotland Bridge and if stop signs could be introduced at the roundabout.	Stop signs cannot be used at roundabouts.
A resident asked if the barrier between Bridgefold Road and Pits Farm Avenue could be removed.	Highways fear that if the road was re-opened it may become a rat run.
A resident asked if gates could be installed within the perimeter fences that divide Innes Close and the open space on Ings Lane.	Being considered by residents
A resident asked why alleygates could not be installed on land adjacent to his property on Rupert Street.	Installation of gates does not meet alleygating criteria. The resident has been informed of this.
It was requested that copies of the footway maintenance programme be provided.	Please refer to additional attachment on email distributed to Spotland & Falinge database.
It was reported that the potholes on Cutgate Precinct Car Park had not been repaired.	Work completed

A resident asked if monies had been received from the building contractor who used the land on Ings Lane as a site compound.	£3200 was received. Investigations ongoing regarding current position regarding the income.
A resident asked if a representative from the TBA land owners could attend the meeting that is to be organised once the perimeter air sampling survey results are known.	Representative invited

Minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2017 were approved as a correct record.

Updates regarding the action points raised on the 2nd October were circulated to residents at the meeting and can be accessed via the link below.

[Action Points – TBA Meeting](#)

A number of comments were made by residents about the responses received, these included:

- 'Cannot understand why the land is not designated as contaminated land'
- 'Great shame that the responses have been circulated at this meeting – not enough notice given for everyone to comment on the responses'
- 'It is clear that no Government money is available to develop the site'
- 'Only one way forward – development'
- 'The Council is between a rock and hard place'
- 'Evident that the Council will use the planning process to develop the site'
- 'Contingency plan is not good enough'
- 'What would happen if the owners decided to walk away'
- 'Obviously a risk has been identified – no contingency plan'
- 'Set up working group'
- 'What documents does the Council have in connection with the TBA site'

Following further discussion the Forum supported the idea of re-establishing the TBA Working Group. A resident commented that if this group was to be set up it may be beneficial for the Working Group to be constituted. The same resident offered to help with developing a constitution if this was the desired way forward.

It was advised that in order for the Working Group to be re-established it would be necessary for Rochdale Township Committee (RTC) to be asked if they were willing to support this. A resident commented that he would attend the next meeting of RTC to ask the question.

The Forum also requested that Nicola Rogers, Service Manager attend the next meeting of the Area Forum to clarify some aspects of the responses given to the action points raised from the meeting on the 2nd October.

98 MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

The Forum was informed that £6000 was available in Ward Funds. £2000 had been committed to Ward 'In Bloom' projects.

Financial support had been allocated to the following projects from 2017/18 Members Funds:

Councillor Cecile Biant

Rochdale Sports Club – Cricket Clock - £499
Making Memories Group – Fridge/Freezer - £379.99
Making Memories Group – Sound System - £243.97

Funds remaining - £877.04

Councillor Surinder Biant

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum Consultation Event - £937

Funds remaining - £1063

Councillor Wendy Cocks

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum Display Equipment - £1000
Denehurst Park – Benches and Bins - £750

Funds remaining - £250

A resident stated that the footpath opposite Preston Street was in poor condition and asked if Ward Funds could be used to improve the area. The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to investigate this request.

99 COUNCILLOR UPDATES/NEWS

Each of the Ward Councillors provided a written update regarding current work issues. A link to these updates is provided below.

[Councillors' Report](#)

A Ward Councillor informed the Forum that the road layout near to College Bank / Falinge flats may need to change if work on the flats commences. Information will be provided when available.

100 OPEN FORUM

Ian Trickett, Environmental Management attended the Forum meeting to discuss 'in bloom' projects and the proposals for the development of Ings Lane play area.

The Forum was informed that Rochdale Township had been very successful in this year's 'In Bloom' competition and plans were already gathering pace for next year's event. It was explained that Spotland and Faling Ward had expressed interest in being more involved in next year's competition and discussions had already taken place concerning appropriate projects.

It was explained that the 'In Bloom' competition was community driven and not the Councils. The 'In Bloom' Committee were thanked for all their hard work and support.

Information was presented to the Forum which outlined the proposals for developing Ings Lane Play Area. A link to the plan can be accessed below.

Plan – Ings Lane Play Area

Generally the Forum was supportive of the proposals outlined however it was asked / suggested;

- If fencing could be erected around the whole site?

Additional funding would be applied for.

- Part of the land suffers from waterlogging and that this would need to be addressed.

Environmental Management are aware of this and will investigate further.

- Could a climbing frame be included on the site?

This will be considered.

- Could CCTV be considered?

Cost prohibitive, however local PCSO could be asked to increase patrols once the work has been completed.

- Other funding may be available as the site is looking to develop an all- inclusive play area.

- How much is the project costing?

£62500

- It would not be possible to insure the new development because insurance costs are prohibitive.

Residents raised the following issues:

1. A resident asked what would be happening now that the Dellar Street traffic survey has been completed.

It was explained that the findings of the survey recommended that no further action is taken, as there is no evidence to support that vehicles are speeding along Dellar Street.

A resident commented that he thought the traffic survey was conducted in the incorrect place.

2. A resident raised concerns about traffic problems / congestion on Handley Street and that more enforcement was required.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to report this.

3. A resident asked where the £3200 that was accumulated from the building contractor using part of Ings Lane as a site compound would be spent.

It was advised that investigations are still ongoing regarding the current position of this income.

4. A resident asked if there had been any developments with the piece of land at the corner of Edenfield Road and Ings Lane.

This would be investigated further.

5. A resident asked if there was any update on the Cutgate Road traffic calming measures.

The Forum was advised that the Traffic Regulation Order had been advertised and it was understood that no objections had been received. As a consequence the work will be progressing.

6. A resident raised concerns about developers having the opportunity to apply for Section 106 contributions to be reduced. The Mellor Street development was cited as an example.

It was explained that the Government had changed the legislation in respect of Section 106 contributions and developers were within their rights to do this. It was suggested that the Section 106 Officer be invited to a future meeting of the Forum to fully explain the current situation with regards to Section 106 contributions.

7. A resident stated that the Environment Agency had been spotted near to the TBA site.

8. A representative from Vintage Worx attended the meeting to inform the Forum of the work that is undertaken by this organisation in the Ward and the classes that are available to residents. A link to the winter timetable is available below.

[Falinge Park Winter Timetable](#)

It was also explained that an application had been submitted seeking a community asset transfer of the Falinge Park building.

The Forum was also informed that Vintage Worx has access to gardening equipment and tools should 'in bloom' representatives want to borrow them.

Environmental Management and the Ward Councillors were thanked for the support they offer the organisation.

9. The Forum was informed that the next meeting of the Friends of Denehurst Park is on Thursday 30th November 2017, commencing 6.30pm.

101 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8th February 2018 at 6.30pm
Spotland Methodist Church