

CASTLETON AREA FORUM

Tuesday 14 November 2017
Castleton Community Centre, Manchester Road,
Castleton, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: Y. Salt (Chair), F. Salt, R. Smith, S. Woodall, J. Brogan, J. Tighe, A. Simpson, M. Webb, S. Whitworth, B. Partington, M. Darlington, M. Hirst, S. Hirst, A. Simpson and P. Webb

Councillors: Sheerin and Hornby

Officers: M. Robinson (Planning - Rochdale Council) and R. Hudson (Townships - Rochdale Council)

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

Introductions were made and all were welcomed to the meeting. The code of conduct was circulated. All attendees were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies: T. Brogan, R. Davison, Councillor Rashid, D. Lodwig (Rochdale Council) and PC M. Farmer (GMP)

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Apologies were noted from PC Farmer (GMP). An update and figures were later provided as follows:

September 2017: Burglaries 5

October 2017: Burglaries 9

November 2017: Burglaries 5

PC Farmer now covers Norden, Bamford and Castleton as an area police officer. A new PCSO called Lauren Whelan covers Castleton. PC Farmer spends a lot of her time now out on warrants, arrests and files for court which leaves the PCSOs on each area to do high-visibility patrolling, reassurance visits and visits in relation to crimes. PC Farmer has completed cannabis warrants which were positive.

YCA (youths causing annoyance) has increased slightly again on Moorpark. PCSO Whelan has attended the youths' addresses and advised them in front of parents. YCA has also occurred on Newchurch Street near to the chip shop.

There has been report of a couple of wheelie bin fires on Croydon Square. Any information in relation to this from local residents to be passed to either PCSO Whelan or PC Farmer.

Burglaries in Castleton have been around the new estate off Manchester Road. Houses have been targeted for the high powered vehicles on their driveways. A home watch scheme has been started which is growing across the whole estate. Information is passed to residents from police if any suspicious activity is reported. All residents are reminded to lock all doors and windows, remove valuables from view, leave lights on timer switches and do not leave keys on display or in locks.

A Christmas party will be held at the community centre this year on 13 December 2017 between 12-2pm. All are welcome to come along for a coffee, raffle and listen to pupils from St Edwards's Primary School singing carols.

Residents are always encouraged to attend PACT meetings to report police and crime related issues. The meetings for the rest of the year are as follows:

21 November 2017
19 December 2017

All meetings take place at Castleton Community Centre at 7.00pm to 8.00pm

4. CASTLETON MASTERPLAN

Mark Robinson attended the forum to speak about the Castleton Masterplan. He advised the forum that the previous Masterplan had centred on the train station and that there had been increased levels of patronage to bring the line back through Castleton in recent years. Since this time the Council has secured funding from different resources to complete a feasibility works/study for the viability of opening up the arch to the railway bridge. Land has also been secured for a car park and platform. It was concluded from the study that the arch could be opened up so all that it is waiting for now is for Network Rail to sign it off. It was also commissioned to look into the condition of the rail line to support the Castleton extension of the East Lancs railway's heritage line from Heywood into Castleton. It was discovered that the line is capable of supporting the link.

All of this information signifies that the Masterplan needs renewing. The Council would give 6-12 months to consult on the different site allocations for development of land and open space. Attendance at the forum will be scheduled in again around March of next year to update residents on the Network Rail decision and any feedback.

Residents raised questions about whether ELR are aware of safety concerns at Tetrosyl and queried whether there would ever be a legal requirement for public consultation to be held before planning departments consider major development proposals.

Discussions were held about residents' ongoing concerns over the Tetrosyl site particularly the extra HGV vehicles using Royle Barn Road. Planning permission for the use of the site has not changed so this cannot be restricted or controlled. It was advised that there could be the potential for traffic management to be included in the new Masterplan. A request for several other sites to be included in the Masterplan was discussed, eg Carcraft and Maltings Lane.

Residents requested the contact details for HSE to write to them about their concerns. Contact for HSE: Harvey Tucker, HSE, 2.2 Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle L20 7HS.

Email harvey.tucker@hse.gov.uk. Tel No. 020 3028 3858. The HSE reference for the application at Tetrosyl is 4.2.1.5917.

Councillor Sheerin can address any matters on behalf of anyone as requested to do so and any future meetings with the HSE could be arranged via Councillor Sheerin.

5. OPEN FORUM

Gypsy Lane trees/bushes

A resident reported overhanging bushes/trees near to the former Woolworth's Club which were impeding users of the pavement.

Action: Townships to raise with the Council's Environmental Management Department

Royle Barn Road litter

It was reported that there is a high volume of litter along Royle Barn Road.

Action: Townships to escalate with the Council's Environmental Management Department

Haulage firm traffic issues

Discussions held about a haulage firm in the area applying for use as an operating centre and whether the vehicles will use the Tetrosyl site, adding to the vehicle movements and associated issues. Objections can only be made if a resident is situated in direct vicinity of the site location.

Chaucer Street grids/gullies

A resident reported three grids/gullies need flushing or cleaning out as they are causing flooding.

Action: Townships to report the issue to the Council's Highways Department

Chemical odours

Noxious fumes have been noted coming from some industrial units on Royle Barn Road, near to the astro centre and woodland area. The smell is a regular occurrence (2-3 times per week) and the odour is similar to a resin/bonding agent.

Residents also commented that there is a frequent chemical smell near to a factory situated near to the railway bridge on Gypsy Lane near the canal side.

Action: Councillor Sheerin requested that residents note the unit/factory site's name for the matters will be reported to the Council's Environmental Health Department.

Partington Street parking problem

A resident asked about the feasibility of putting double yellow lines at the top of Partington Street (adjacent to Heywood Road) to prevent cars parking on corners. Discussions arose about the enforcement of cars parked on corners being a police matter and not the Council's remit.

Action: Councillor Sheerin to escalate matter to PC Farmer (GMP) to see if anyone can speak to the vehicle owners.

6. REPORTS

Castleton EC Residents

Councillor Sheerin circulated a diagram from the visible impact assessment by owners Robert Scott for the re-submitted application received in Planning for an extension to the warehouse on Cowm Top to make it 50 yards longer. Councillors are objecting to the

proposal.

Councillor Sheerin also advised that plans to build a battery to store electricity in containers behind Kirklee Road looks likely to be approved.

Friends of Carnegie Castleton

'True Serenity' business will take a large space usage within the building when completed hopefully within the next 12 months. There is also the hope to put a historic centre within the building to display Castleton's excellent industrial heritage. More fund raising is required. A 'Lancashire Night' will be held within The Blue Pits Inn on Saturday 25 November 2017 to raise money.

Friends of Castleton Station/Support the Oldham, Rochdale & Manchester Rail Lines/East Lancs Railway

Recent surveys carried out on pensioners' use of the station.

St. Gabriel's

'Babes in the Wood' pantomime will commence in February. The Christmas fair will be held on 26 November 2017 at 12pm featuring Father Christmas, raffles and Gaelic coffee stall.

Rochdale Township in Bloom

An amazing judging day was experienced at the Southport festival and attended by the Mayor. Rochdale swept the board for awards, with Castleton's Railway Station winning a silver gilt. Children from local primary schools; St Gabriel's, St Edward's and Castleton Primary School had all helped in planting flowers, which looked amazing this year.

The Rochdale Township won top marks and gold this year and will now proceed to represent the North West in next year's competition 'Britain in Bloom'. What an achievement!

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Moor Park ASB

Councillors updated the residents at the forum in GMP's absence that they had escalated matters to GMP regarding teens kicking balls near to Moor Park, Castleton. Parents have been addressed and matters have ceased. Residents were advised that the Council can also assist in matters of similar anti-social behaviour complaints and can deploy the local Public Realm Inspectors to assist residents alongside officers from GMP.

Castleton Swimming Pool

Councillor Sheerin updated that the swimming pool is up and running and recommended its use to residents as it is an excellent facility in the village. Times of opening are displayed at the baths.

Castleton Christmas Lights Switch On Event

The event will be held on Monday 27 November 2017 at 6pm at the Christmas tree at the side of the Carnegie Building and afterwards inside.

Councillors' Surgeries

Surgeries at 10.30am–11.30am at the following venues:
First Saturday in month – St Aiden's Church Hall
Second Saturday in month – Castleton Community Centre

Third Saturday in month – Chesham Community Room
Fourth Saturday in month – Castleton Community Centre

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27 February 2018 at 7pm
Castleton Community Centre