

BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM

Monday 4 December 2017
Bamford Chapel, Norden Road, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: B. Griffiths, A. Shorrocks, B. Colligan, H. Colligan, R. Mallinder, A., Smith, K. Smith, D. Armbrister, W. E. Griffiths, P. Galvin, S. Grindrod, S. Nangle, R. Doyle and I. Sturrock

Councillors: Pat Sullivan

Officers: Rochdale Borough Council: Stuart Hay (Township) and Diane Lodwig (Public Realm Inspector)

Apologies: Councillor Ian Duckworth, Councillor Jane Howard, Graham Morris, Geoff Sherratt and Tasneem Akhtar

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

A copy of the code of conduct was circulated with the papers, and all were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4 September 2017 were agreed as an accurate record with the inclusion of attendee Angela Smith who was present but not recorded and the following updates were given.

Path near St Michael's Church weeds

The cobbled area outside St Michael's Church is owned by the church.

Blocked drains

The blocked drains on Norden Road and Woodtop Avenue were inspected and cleared and numerous drains on Norden Road have been replaced as a result of investigations. The problematic drain on Clay Lane near the Treatment Plant has been sealed over and concern has been expressed that despite two further drains on Clay Lane which are actually uphill, there is now a situation where there is 150 metres of tarmac road and surrounding acres of land which used to drain into that one and only effective drain when it was unblocked. Surface water in heavy rain is now forming a big puddle at the top of Greenvale and then running down the road where in heavy weather there is virtually a river running down the road. Highways Maintenance has been asked what plans are in place to re-open the sealed drain or improve drainage along the lane.

Emergency Services sirens

The Emergency Services' driver policies and procedures including the use of emergency equipment were highlighted together with a consultation exercise conducted by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and made available, showing that emergency equipment must be used

appropriately and only where necessary. Rigorous driver training is undertaken by all drivers to entitle them to drive specific vehicles and use emergency equipment with the threat of prosecution and discipline for noncompliance with the policy and procedure. The Services recognise that the very nature of their work leads the public to associate personnel with a high standard of driving skill, behaviour and road craft. Emergency equipment is fitted to provide advanced warning of the presence of the emergency vehicle to afford maximum protection to other road users who are entitled to the warning it provides and staff have legal obligations when utilising the equipment. Drivers have the responsibility for ensuring that they arrive at the scene of an incident safely and without any undue delay and it is not acceptable for a driver to choose not to use emergency equipment when it is necessary.

Memorial on Bury Road

The memorial on Bury Road near Mellor Street was inspected by Enforcement Officers and was sensitively tidied up.

Links View estate environmental issues

Links View was visited and cleaned up.

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Greater Manchester Police were not able to send a representative but provided the following crime statistics since the date of the last meeting up until yesterday (3 December 2017).

Burglary dwellings

Three in September on Tern Close where offenders forced a rear patio door; Brooklands Court where offenders gained entry via a rear window and an attempt on Links View. Key times were between 0000 and 0500 hours and property stolen was cash and jewellery.

In October there was five burglary dwellings. Oxford Avenue where offenders gained entry via the rear conservatory, stole the vehicle keys and the Mercedes vehicle was later recovered in Middleton. Bittern Close where an offender smashed a rear window and alarm box off the wall, gained entry and conducted untidy search before leaving. The other three were attempts. Greenvale Avenue where the offender tried a door handle, was seen by neighbour and chased off; Bramley Road where the offender tried the door handle, no entry gained and the other on Hawthorn Road where the offender used a ladder and tried a rear window in attempt to gain entry, offender disturbed and made off.

In November there was six offences. Arnside Drive where offenders climbed onto garage roof gaining access to the roof of the property and removed glass from the skylight to gain entry. Bury Road where offenders smashed a rear window and the alarm box was ripped off the wall. Winsford Drive had a rock thrown through the conservatory door. Two on Bramley Road, one attempt and the other a smashed patio window, Norford Way where five males approached the property one of which tried the door handle before leaving the area possibly in a pale blue car. Three males were arrested nearby and a decision to charge is pending. Property stolen was cash and jewellery.

Thefts from motor vehicles

Sixteen thefts from motor vehicles over the period. Three thefts were from insecure vehicles and two were thefts of number plates. DNA was left at the at Brooklands Court offence and it has been forensically examined and the results of which are awaited. There has been one theft of a Ford Transit van from Sandhole Lane and one attempted theft of a motor vehicle from Edgemoor Drive.

A burglary operation is currently ongoing due to the increase in burglaries in the Bamford and Norden areas. Three offenders have been arrested by neighbourhood officers believed to responsible for burglaries in Rochdale and Bury; this was a result of the deployment of The Force helicopter.

Greater Manchester Police urge everyone to please report any suspicious activity and to be extra vigilant over the next few weeks in the run up to Christmas.

5. MCCARTHY AND STONE

The McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Limited planning application to demolish number 91 Norden Road and develop a thirty apartment building with access and parking on the brownfield site at the rear, which was recommended by Planners and supported by the public, was approved at tonight's (4 December 2017) Planning and Licensing Committee. An amount of funding from the developers has been identified to provide facilities for the local community. A play area had been an early suggestion but the community will be consulted.

6. OPEN FORUM

Friends of Bamford Group

Anne Shorrock gave the below presentation about the newly formed Friends of Bamford Group and made a copy of it available to all:

Bamford is a fabulous place to live. We nearly have it all here: nice homes, good schools, friendly churches, civilised, friendly and diverse neighbours, plenty of pubs and restaurants, reasonable access to the motorway network, and we're right on the edge of beautiful countryside. We've even have great community spirit, as demonstrated last January, when our Green Belt was, and still is threatened, and hundreds turned out to protest at what we hold dear being taken away, a community coming together with one voice in time of adversity.

So what if we could somehow capture that community spirit all the time, and use it to make Bamford an even better place to live for all of us? For all its advantages, Bamford is a bit short on community facilities and organisations, where people can get together. What if the few existing community groups, like yourselves Bamford Forum, and any other community organisations out there, could all connect with each other for the benefit of all of Bamford? What if some new community organisations, social as well as voluntary, could be started, to connect people? That is the basic idea behind Friends of Bamford.

As an example, think of Bamford like a department store, with many different departments within it, all individual, but connected.

Existing Departments:

Bamford Forum; Green Belt Action Group; Bamford Chapel; St. Michael's; both primary schools; Scouts; Cubs; Brownies; Guides; Playgroups.

Example 1: Bamford Chapel Film Club. People may like the social side of the film club, especially older people who may live alone, but don't know about it if they don't already go to Bamford Chapel, or perhaps they believe it's only for church-goers.

Example 2: St. Michael's and Bamford Chapel's Christmas Fairs have been held on the same day, to the detriment of both. If you don't already have connection to one of those, you wouldn't know about them. Not everyone attends church, or has a child or grandchild at primary school.

Same applies to all other organisations. If you're not already involved, you may not know about them.

New Departments:

(1) Make Bamford Beautiful: Wildflowers on verges. Daffodils on The Green. Bamford in Bloom competition (part of the Rochdale Township in Bloom family). Volunteers wanted, will bring social involvement as well as improving village. Pride in the area. Hope it will snowball, make everyone take more pride in the area, reduce vandalism etc.

(2) Developing Bamford Green into a usable community space: Community Garden with seating? Wildlife garden? Improving wood with bluebells, bird boxes, bat boxes, wildflowers? Play area? We hope to have a General Meeting in the New Year. All welcome to obtain opinions from the wider community about what we can do with The Green.

(3) Seasonal events on The Green for all. Candlelit carol singing on The Green on Sunday 17

December at 4.30pm! Please come along!

(4) Dog Walking Group.

(5) Social Groups, e.g. Walk & Talk, Ambling not Rambling for less physically able.

(6) Book Group.

(7) Ideas from community. What sort of community groups they would like to start or see.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?

(8) Neighbourhood Plan to say how we would like to see Bamford in the future, in conjunction with Save Bamford Green Belt and Bamford Forum.

So how are we going to do it?

Facebook. Not everyone's cup of tea, but not exclusively for the young. Don't dismiss it as not for you, children and grandchildren may do it for you, tell you about it, if not on it yourself. Useful tool. Email mailing list. Please let us have your email addresses tonight if you are interested or email the Chair Susan Smith.

Streetwise Magazine.

"Nextdoor" Community Message Board (email).

Posters.

Word of Mouth. Group leaders, ie. Rev. Bradley (Bamford Chapel); Angela Smith (Chair, Green Belt Action Group); Bamford Academy Community Forum; St. Michael's PTA; Scout Leaders, etc.

Tell all your friends and neighbours.

FRIENDS OF BAMFORD is about connecting people improving and enhancing community spirit, and making Bamford a better place to live, not just nice homes but a connected and thriving community where everybody matters, and where everybody who wants to can be involved.

This won't happen unless people get involved.

We need YOU, the residents of Bamford!

Come to Carol Singing on The Green on Sunday 17 December at 4.30pm, bring tea lights in a jam jar and join in traditional community carol singing.

Thank you for listening and I look forward to hearing from you. I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Oulder Hill Precinct improvement works

Councillor Sullivan outlined the scheduled Oulder Hill Precinct improvement works for early New Year which the Ward Councillors funded. Following successful public consultation and the approval of a Traffic Regulation Order, regulations will be implemented to clear, protect and make safe nearby junctions, stop parking on the pavement and limit parking outside the shops to three hours to stop all day parking. This provision will make spaces available for shoppers to keep the area thriving and vibrant. Hanging baskets will be installed and the planters improved and freshly stocked. Those parking all day may be displaced to the nearby surrounding area but action at the Precinct was necessary. Parking availability at Bamford Precinct has reduced since the expansion of the dentist surgery where there are now eleven dentists, but all the land is private.

Speed checks

Greater Manchester Police have recently conducted speed checks in the area and the results will be requested for the next meeting together with any other checks conducted between now and then.

Sandy Lane, Bury Road and Roch Valley Way Junction

The junction of Sandy Lane, Bury Road and Roch Valley Way remains one of the busiest junctions. Ward Councillors have been speaking with residents and they are championing improved pedestrian facilities.

Overhanging bushes and shrubbery

A resident complained about bushes and shrubbery from private gardens significantly impeding the footpath. Diane Lodwig explained that, when given the details direct, she will write to the

householders requesting they cut back the bushes and shrubbery, and if the work is not carried out, she can and will serve Notice for the work to be done and if not done the Council will do the work and charge the householders.

The Bamford Greenbelt Action Group

Angela Smith gave an update on The Bamford Greenbelt Action Group:

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has tasked out the coordination of all current and pending submissions on the use of brownfield sites and put a stop on the process until that is complete.

The Group have organised an anniversary walk to start at 10am on Saturday 20 January 2018 meeting on Bamford Green with bacon butties after. Last year's event was incredibly well attended.

Bamford signs

Councillor Sullivan has asked for Bamford signs to be installed on Norden Road to identify and highlight the start of Bamford from Norden.

Norden Road junction traffic lights

Queues and waiting times have recently got longer at the traffic lights on Norden Road at Bury and Rochdale Old Road, and some residents thought it was due to two sets of road works on Edenfield Road diverting traffic. The timing of the light sequence will be checked.

Bamford Christmas tree

This year's Bamford Christmas tree is looking really good, as is the new green surrounding fencing which blends in and is in keeping.

The Ward Councillors hold a surgery from 10am to 11am on the first Thursday of each month in Bamford Chapel, although they often go beyond 11am. Ward Councillors contact details are available on the Council website:

Councillor Ian Duckworth
Telephone: 01706 648393
Email: ian.duckworth@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Jane Howard
Telephone: 07870 172144
Email: jane.howard@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Pat Sullivan
Telephone: 0161 762 1129 or 07967 985240
Email: patricia.sullivan@rochdale.gov.uk

Rochdale Borough Council Officers:

Stuart Hay, Township Officer
Telephone: 01706 922230
Email: stuart.hay@rochdale.gov.uk

Diane Lodwig, Public Realm Inspector
Telephone: 01706 922226
Email: diane.lodwig@rochdale.gov.uk

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 March 2018 at 6.30pm in Bamford Chapel

