

NORDEN AREA FORUM

Tuesday 12 December 2017
Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road
Norden, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: N. Morrell (Chair), S & S. Davison, C. McHugh, P. Ellison, M. Newnham, J & J Kershaw, M. Steward, V. Chapman, A. Rawsterne, D. Stockton, J. Knott, J. Oliver, P. Hotchkiss, I. Sturrock and C. Entwistle

Councillors: Councillors Gartside, Holly and Winkler

Officers: R. Hudson (Rochdale Council - Townships) and A. Cowell (Assistant Engineer Highways, Property & Strategic Housing)

Apologies: D. Ludwig (Rochdale Council - Public Realm Officer) and PCSO N. Haille (GMP)

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair introduced him and officers present, and welcomed all to the meeting. He referred to the code of conduct and asked all to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

The Chair thanked the forum attendees for their spirit of community cohesion in the village and showed praise to those who organised and attended the recent events of the Halloween Party and the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Praise was also given to all those involved in the 'Rochdale In Bloom' entry which assisted Norden's success and the contribution given towards Rochdale Township retaining its gold award and being selected to represent the North West in the national 'Britain in Bloom' competition in the Small City Category next year.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 were approved as a correct record. The previous note on **Scout Moor Wind Farm** was amended as follows; Decision was rejected in Rossendale.

All updates concerning Highways matters to be covered under agenda item 4 Highways Update

Former Turner Bros Site

The Chair stated a public meeting was held recently to discuss the air monitoring results. Residents attended and raised a number of concerns which have been responded to by an officer from the Council's Environmental Health Department who also attended. Thanks were noted to the Chair of Spotland and Falinge Area Forum for arranging the meeting.

Moss Row

Update received from C. McHugh from Moss Row Community Allotment Society that work will be starting in the New Year to remove and replant certain trees within the area along with the planting of wildflowers.

Footpaths Update

Rochdale Council's Rights of Way Officer is working on bringing the 1,800 rights of way in the

Borough up to a standard whereby they will all become available and easy to use. The revised 40 year old 1976 definitive map is nearing completion along with an improvement plan for the ten year period 2017-2027. Thanks again to Julie Simpson (Rochdale Council's Footpaths Officer) for her hard work to get the footpath from Millcroft Tea Gardens to St James, Ashworth prioritised.

Furbarn Lane

Forum advised of installation of a gate by National Grid due to issues with off-road bikes.

Forsyth Street

Residents reported parking problems occurring on Forsyth Street as cars are parked on both sides of the street and as the yellow lines are 'fragmented' Parking Wardens state it is unenforceable. Lines have now been renewed and Parking Wardens have issued tickets upon visiting the area. Request made to replace the 'no through road' sign with Highways.

Neighbourhood Plan

The first community engagement meeting for this initiative will be held on the first weekend in January. Further info can be found at www.nordenneighbourhoodforum.org.uk

Heritage Green

Decision being determined by East Cheshire Council's Planning Department and it has now been put back until between January – March 2018.

Wind Farm Update

Local Councillors previously wrote to the Secretary of State for a longer time period to appeal and the consultation period is now closed.

3. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Update on crime for Norden in the past three months:

Anti-social behaviour: 6 (3 at the golf club, 1 at Caldershaw and 1 at Edenfield Road)

Burglary (residential dwelling): 22

Commercial burglary: 4

Theft from motor vehicle: 7

Theft of motor vehicle: 6

Drugs: Information coming in from residents

Operation Dragster: Waiting for information to come in from off-road bike unit. An operation is imminent.

PACT - Priorities agreed:

1. Burglary
2. ASB
3. Drugs

The Chair gave the update as an officer was not present. GMP has asked residents to be vigilant and lock up their property (house/garden/cars) and keep valuables out of sight.

- Burglaries – 3 offenders arrested in Bamford and awaiting charge. 1 offender arrested and charged for burglary on Keepers Drive and 1 offender sent to prison for 2 months for theft from motor vehicle.
- Residents raised the long waiting times for response on the 101 line. Chair asked Councillors to raise the matter with GMP.

Any issues/matters to be reported to the Police by ringing 101. Thanks to the local community for their help and support over the past 12 months. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

4. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

Ashworth Road – HGVs getting stuck at the junction of Ashworth Road and School Lane

Highways informed the forum that the introduction of an environmental weight restriction would not prevent legitimate access. Forum accepted this and then requested a length or width limit. Highways informed the forum that this would be unlikely to solve the problem and that a physical restriction may also affect agricultural vehicles. Currently, the advisory Unsuitable for HGV signs are sometimes being ignored, therefore, any advanced signs placed to warn of a width or length restriction ahead (on School Lane) may also be ignored. The forum suggested that the problem may have only occurred 4 times in 10 years, although perhaps 2 times in the past 12 months. Highways then stated that this was a low frequency, explaining that often drivers will follow their Sat Nav and ignore the signs around them and that this is a particular problem with foreign drivers. A further suggestion from Highways, since the forum, would be to engage with the mill owners in the first instance to get them to make clear to their suppliers that HGVs must only access the premises from Bury and Rochdale Old Road. The Chair explained that access to School Lane was provided from Clay Lane and he asked that Highways investigate the provision of physical obstacles similar to those approved for and used on Hareshill Road in Heywood.

Ashworth Road repairs status – Landslip

Ground investigations have been undertaken and Rochdale Borough Council is awaiting the results of this survey. Once they have an understanding of the ground conditions, the Council can identify and design an appropriate repair. At the moment Highways are unable to give any timescales on when the road will be reopened.

Ashbourne Street – Request for waiting restrictions

The forum found it difficult to accept that restrictions cannot be introduced on Ashbourne Street without introducing restrictions on Edenfield Road as well. Highways explained that when devising a scheme they often look at nearby problem issues to achieve economies of scale and that the Police would not accept restrictions that ended at the junction. The forum insisted that Highways reiterate to the Police their concerns over access for ambulances and their opposition to any restrictions on Edenfield Road.

Action: Highways to escalate with GMP

Edenfield Road double yellow lines near Bridge Inn/Hutchinson Road, Blackpits

The forum found it difficult to accept that the current scheme could not be amended to include limited waiting bays at the bus terminus. Highways informed the forum that the only way to do this would be to amend and re-advertise the proposal, but this is not advisable as objections have been received and the legal and democratic process must now be followed through to the end. The Chair expressed the disappointment felt by a number of forum participants that such a minor change to the existing TRO could not be introduced. He also raised concerns articulated by Bury and Rochdale Bridleways Association that the present TRO did not include a warning sign for horse riders on Edenfield Road close to the junction with Heap Road and requested that this could easily be incorporated in the TRO.

Bus Terminus review of restrictions

Highways informed the forum that they have no objections to promoting a separate scheme to impose limited waiting restrictions.

Hutchinson Road visibility on side road adjacent to No. 50; recent accident due to parked cars. Request for restrictions or remove verge to create parking

Highways advised that restrictions could be applied to solve the issue but concerns are that this is a minor road with low traffic flows and low traffic speeds. The cost to remove the verge would be high. The highway would need to be re-constructed to allow vehicle loading. Footways and verges are not constructed to the same structural standards as carriageways. Utility service diversions may also be required. Funding such a request may set a concerning precedent. Further investigations have found that this verge is too narrow to provide a full width parking bay. A substandard bay would result in vehicles parking partly in the bay and partly in the carriageway. Highways later

commented that whilst they appreciate the concerns raised by the resident, the location and problem needs some careful thought before any hasty decisions are made.

Combined TRO

The forum requested that an area wide TRO be investigated to achieve economies of scale. Highways commented that although locations can be combined under the umbrella of one TRO, the forum should be mindful that promoting restrictions in locations independent of each other may result in objections to one location delaying the progression at others. Therefore, locations should be kept to the same local area at least.

Request to resurface Edenfield Road in the vicinity of the bend west of Hutchinson Road

Highways have advised that this will be passed to Highways Maintenance for inspection.

Request to renew double yellow lines on Hutchinson Road

To be renewed at the same time as Blackpits Road TRO, if approved. If not approved the lines will be renewed separately, along with other lines in the area.

Give-way markings missing following resurfacing at bottom of Woodhouse Lane

This request has been passed to Highways Maintenance to action.

5. WOODYARD SERVICE STATION (PLANNING APPLICATION)

Planning application has been submitted for an extension of the opening hours to make it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ward Councillors reported they have been approached by residents with their objections and as such, requested that a wider area were informed of the proposals.

6. ASHWORTH CROSS

The Chair brought this matter to the forum on behalf of the Rev. Steven Nolan. He was frustrated at the opinion expressed by the Planning Committee on a large wooden cross being erected in Ashworth Valley as a joint initiative funded by contributions by all local churches, stating it would be visually detrimental in the greenbelt. The forum expressed 14 votes in favour of the installation of a cross illustrated in the drawings which were circulated and 3 against.

7. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Caldershaw Play Area

Councillor Holly gave thanks to P. Ellison for fund raising monies to add a separate piece of equipment to the area and also to Councillor Winkler for opening the newly replaced park with tea and biscuits. The three Ward Councillors now intend to fund additional features of hopscotch, snakes and ladders and also a dice spinner to the development. The forum was updated that the first section of knee-high fencing around the park to deter vehicular access has just gone in. Thanks given to M. Widdup of Environmental Management for arranging this initiative which will hopefully prevent further incidences of travellers accessing the site.

8. OPEN FORUM

Taylor Park

C. Entwistle raised the issue of the open space of Council land Taylor Park and residents' concerns that travellers may access the land next after the recent incident at Caldershaw. A request for Township funding has been made for monies for fencing around the area to deter vehicular access.

Bamford Old Hall

Thanks given again to the forum from S. Cresswell to oppose the planning application. He also gave an update regarding the GM Spatial Framework that 27,000 public responses were taken demonstrating the sheer level of interest/opinion concerning proposals for development within the greenbelt.

Scout Moor Wind Farm

A resident posed a question to the Council's Planning Department; *'In the initial application as approved by Rochdale Borough Council, one of the conditions related to a MRMP of the order of 100 hectares and that was part of the plan that the planning department recommended for approval. How is that consistent with the situation of when development proposals to reduce MRMP to a mere 6 metres around each turbine, the planning department wrote to the Secretary of State in support of that proposal?'*

Action: Townships to escalate with Planning Department

Other news is a proposal to extend the life of a large windfarm on Kirby Moor has recently been refused which may set the standard on how the government view these matters in terms of disposal.

Norden Food Bank Collection

200lbs of food was collected and thanks given to residents for donations. Thanks also to Streetwise for advertising and to the businesses in the village for putting up posters for the event.

Woodhouse Lane

Residents advised a bollard has been knocked over at the entrance to Woodhouse Lane and needs resetting.

Action: Townships to escalate with Highways

Thanks from the Chair

- M. Widdup, Director of Council, for the attendance of Highways at this meeting.
- P. Ambrose, Senior Planning Officer, for advice and assistance with barriers.
- J. Simpson, Rights of Way Officer, for attention to footpaths.
- R. Hudson, Townships and Engagement Officer, for assistance with forum matters and raising residents' concerns with the Council.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 7.00pm

Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road, Norden, Rochdale