

## **MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 4 December 2017**

**PRESENT:** ; Councillors Zaheer and Zaman, M. Javed Masood, Dr, M. Salim, H. Abdulmalik, M. Sajid, M. A. Khan, S. Ahmad, Y. Younas, A Nawaz and S. Mohammed (Chair)

**OFFICERS:** Sgt D. Shirazi, PC Ahmed, PCSO M. Beaver, PCSO M. Nasir, M. Reynolds (Public Realm Inspector) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Brett and A. Beasley

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

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The Chair welcomed all and asked that everyone respect the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Brett and Ann Beasley.

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

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

GMP reported that drug dealing is a major issue in the Ward at present. Two warrants had been executed recently with an amount of drugs being seized. It was also reported that a number of individuals arrested had received custodial sentences.

Operations had also taken place on Lincoln Street to combat prostitution. Two individuals were due to appear in Court on prostitution charges in the coming months. Work was also being undertaken with other agencies to combat this type of activity.

Residential burglaries have also increased over recent months. Although no specific pattern has been identified in terms of residential areas being targeted, Friday's and Monday's between 4pm and 11pm are when most incidents occur. Residents were encouraged to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity.

Residents were also encouraged to make any CCTV images available to the police.

It was also reported that car theft has also seen an increase and there have been reports of a tow truck being used to steal cars. Investigations are ongoing.

GMP also commented that they had received reports of a scrap yard in the Ward being involved in shipping cars overseas. Investigations are ongoing.

Residents raised the following issues;

- Concerns were raised about the ineffectiveness of the 101 number.

GMP acknowledged that they were aware of the problem. It was stated that the average time to answer a 101 call was 7 minutes whereas 999 was answered in 30 seconds. Work was ongoing to improve the situation.

- A resident commented that he did not believe that the area received fair treatment from GMP in terms of how they responded to incidents.

Following discussion it was agreed that the resident was referring to a personal issue which the police and other agencies had been involved in. It was recommended that further conversations on this issue be conducted in private.

- A resident raised concerns about the behaviour (at times drunken) of a number of individual who gather close to the corner of Church Stile and Drake Street.

GMP stated they are aware of this nuisance and do observe the situation. They also commented that they had spoken to licensed premises in the area not to sell alcohol to individuals who appear to be intoxicated.

GMP were thanked for attending the Forum meeting and the work they undertake in the Ward.

## **OPEN FORUM**

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The following issues were raised;

1. A discussion took place about the poor attendance at recent Area Forum meetings.

It was agreed that more should be done to promote the Forum meetings. Mosque's, social media, Community Centre's and Crescent Radio being identified as possible options for raising the profile of the Area Forum.

2. The Forum was informed that five listening events have been organised to provide residents with the opportunity to inform the Council of areas in the Ward that suffer from highway related problems.

These sessions follow on from and support the recent traffic survey that was undertaken in the Ward.

The dates and times of the sessions are as follows;

- Deeplish Community Centre – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 6.15pm – 7.15pm
- Deeplish Community Centre – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 10am – 12noon
- Deeplish Community Centre – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 – 6pm – 7pm
- Castlemere Community Centre – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 6pm – 7pm
- Rochdale Town Hall – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 6pm – 7pm

A resident provided suggestions for road layout changes in the area. These will be passed to Highways for consideration as part of this exercise.

3. Residents raised concerns about the number of homeless people that appear in the Ward and the procedures that exist in the area to help these individuals. Several concerns were raised about the welfare of these individuals.

It was suggested that someone from the Homelessness Team at Rochdale Borough Council and / or PETRUS be invited to a future meeting to discuss this issue.

4. 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.

The Public Realm Inspector outlined the legal process that applies to cars being sold on the highway. Action can only be taken if cars displaying 'for sale' signs, and the same contact numbers are being sold within a distance of 50 metres. Residents were encouraged to provide as much information as possible if they were aware of incidents where the illegal selling of cars was occurring.

5. A resident reported littering is occurring on Leicester Street.
6. A resident reported that Kent Street Car Park is in need of repair as many of the concrete blocks are loose and potentially dangerous.
7. It was commented that the double yellow lines on Milkstone Place required reinstating.
8. A concern was raised about the same issues being discussed at successive Area Forums and there was a need to restrict the same issue being raised time and time again. For example Rochdale Township Committee's Governance Procedures state that a question on the same or similar topic cannot be submitted to the Open Forum of the Committee within a six month period.

Although the reasons for this suggestion was fully understood, the practicalities of managing this proposal in an Area Forum setting would be difficult.

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

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The minutes of the Milkstone and Deeplish Area Forum held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were approved as a correct record.

The following updates were provided:

- Travellers on Durham Street and Drake Street

Travellers have now vacated both sites.

- Medina Cash and Carry Cash Machine.

Legal are still dealing with this issue. Residents again raised concerns about the congestion being caused by cars parking (on double yellow lines) to use the cash machine. It was accepted that greater enforcement of cars parking illegally is required.

## **MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS**

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The Forum was informed that Ward and Members Funds are still available and that anyone who is seeking financial support for a project should speak to a Ward Councillor or contact the Township Officer.

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Rochdale Township Office – 01706 924802

## **COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

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The Forum was reminded of surgery times:

First Saturday of each month

10am – 11am at Deelish Community Centre, Hare Street, Rochdale

11am – 12noon at Sudden Community Centre, Cheltenham Street, Rochdale

Third Saturday of each month

10am – 11am – at Castlemere Community Centre, Tweedale Street, Rochdale

11am – 12noon at Sparthbottom Community Centre, Norman Road, Rochdale

(No appointments necessary)

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

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Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6.30pm.

Deelish Community Centre