

BALDERSTONE AND KIRKHOLT COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday 19 June 2018
St Mary's (Balderstone) Church, Oldham Road, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: R. Shales, D. Holt, B. Bergin, M. Matthews, H. Sutcliffe, K. Gordon, A. Morris and E. Warburton

Councillors: Councillor Nickson

Officers: Sgt B. Walsh (Greater Manchester Police), Y. Pickering (Rochdale Council Environmental Management), R. Hudson (Rochdale Council Townships and as Chair) and N. Morris (Rochdale Boroughwide Housing)

Apologies: Councillor Farnell, Councillor Meredith and C. Mottershead (Chair)

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attention was drawn to the code of conduct, a summary of which was read out. All attendees were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

2. PACT MEETING - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Crime statistics for the ward (past three months and previous three months)

Anti-social behaviour	27	11
Criminal damage	33	28
Domestic burglaries	19	29
Burglary (others)	8	2
Theft of vehicle	7	7
Theft from vehicle	12	23

Anti-social behaviour - Youths were climbing on the roof of Sandbrook Primary School and kicking tiles off. Other incidents involved derelict houses on Rudyard Road which Rochdale Boroughwide Housing are going to secure and issues with off-road bikes in Balderstone Park which GMP are continuing attempts to identify offending drivers, calling on assistance of the general public with information.

Criminal damage – The majority of incidents occurred on Kildare Crescent and Oldham Road.

Domestic burglaries – Update on the previously reported incidents of distraction burglaries involving the elderly; a male offender was arrested by GMP the following day and has recently been charged and received a sentence of over 5 years.

Vehicle crime – Due to incidents of theft using vehicles with stolen number plates, PCSOs from GMP have been organising a number of 'safe plating' days whereby residents can bring their vehicles to have their number plates installed with tamper-proof screws. The next event is on Saturday 30 June 2018 at 11-1pm to be held at the Shell Garage on Queensway.

Speeding vehicles – Residents in attendance raised the issue of speeding vehicles in the area of Weston Avenue and Stiups Lane. GMP advised they are aware of the borough wide problem, advising that the reduction in staff/traffic police officers in recent years has not helped, however, a new PCSO is looking at carrying out a number of traffic operations and he will be advised to take a look at this area. Residents were also advised of the Ward Councillors intention to fund a speed survey, in collaboration with Kingsway Ward Councillors, which will assess the areas of Kingsway, Turf Hill Road, Broad Lane and Shaw Road, Rochdale.

3. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Councillor Nickson

- Casework has recently involved dealing with school appeals and parents who have not secured their 'choice' high school mostly due to the fact that they are offered on a nearest school by location basis, as opposed to choice.
- Britain in Bloom is coming to the Balderstone and Kirkholt ward for the first time. The route will cover the length of Queensway, turning right onto Oldham Road then left up Broad Lane arriving at Springhill Hospice. The local judging will be held on 3 and 4 July 2018, with the national judging held later in the summer. Councillors, schools, churches and community groups have been informed and all getting involved. The priority for residents is to ensure that the route is litter free. A request to all businesses is please look clean and presentable and residents were asked to please spread the word.

Councillor Meredith

Not present for update.

Councillor Farnell

Not present for update.

4. PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

Kirkholt Million

A football event will be held at the Sandbrook School on Saturday 23 June 2018 at 11-3pm and it will feature a whole range of games and table football, food stalls, cream teas and a petting farm involving small animals.

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH)

N. Morris attended and provided an update. The new community hub being built on The Strand is now nearing completion with a handover date set for 30 July 2018. The ground floor will house all services from the previous Kirkholt Drop-In Centre along with two interview rooms and a large community hall and office on the first floor. The building will have six retail units with all businesses open by September 2018. A community café facility has gone out to tender. Two bed residential accommodation within the building is available to rent and is currently being advertised. RBH intend on arranging a party when the building is fully open and also a Christmas party will be organised. There has been some recent disruptions due to building works connected to the new health centre, and residents were asked to contact RBH if anyone has any issues.

Residents raised a query about a road through to Hill Top Drive which was previously illustrated on initial plans. RBH advised that this does not have current planning approval and depends on further development of land for additional housing as specified by Planning.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

Hill Top Drive overhanging branches

The overhanging branches on Hill Top Drive previously reported was escalated to Rochdale Boroughwide Housing. Update received from a Council Officer; *"I visited the site on 17 May 2018 during our scheduled walkabouts. At that time the trees were seen to need no work. This was*

under the RBH policy. I have not visited the site since but from memory the trees will not have changed much in that time. Again if instructed to carry out work then I will”.

Public Realm Inspectors

Residents were advised that the remit of Public Realm Inspectors is to deal with any environmental and anti-social behaviour issues in their respective areas. These issues include dealing with any incidents of fly tipping, accumulations of waste on private land, highway obstructions, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, commercial waste, alleyway problems, and monthly gateway inspections. From an anti-social behaviour perspective, they deal with a wide range of issues from off-road biking to complaints of football being played in the street. There are also three Town Centre Wardens who tackle low level environmental issues in the town centres (littering, A-board issues, etc) and who will be enforcing the Rochdale Town Centre Public Space Protection Order 2018 when it comes into operation.

New Medical Centre

A resident informed the meeting that the building of the new medical centre will commence this summer.

Fit, Feed & Read

This year's Fit, Feed and Read programme, delivered in partnership with Link4Life, will be offered for children across locations in the borough starting on Monday 30 July 2018 and running throughout the summer holidays. Balderstone Library will again be one of the locations of this fantastic scheme. The aim of the programme is to provide a meal for those children who may not eat when not at school during the summer holidays and encourage reading and engagement; including the take-up of the Summer Reading Challenge. It is also hoped it will increase the number of 5-11 year olds accessing local library services.

6. OPEN FORUM

Springhill Action Group

H. Sutcliffe attended and advised since the last meeting the group had applied for and been successful in making the playing fields and surrounding area an 'asset of community value'. The group made a plea to local Ward Councillors for funding for signage for the ACV status for the area which carries vast historical and archaeological relevance. To add to this an application has now been submitted to the Council's Legal Department for 'village green' status. They have also been working alongside Council Officers in identifying and opening up footpaths in the area, including one from the Hospice to the tearooms (former Craven Heifer Public House). Volunteers have been carrying out clean-ups of paths most Saturday mornings under the guidance of a Ranger from the Council and they would welcome any residents to join them in the task force.

Action: Signage request to be raised with Councillor Meredith for consideration.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 6.30pm

Venue: Kirkholt Community Church, Daventry Road, Kirkholt, Rochdale.

Agendas and minutes of the meetings are available on the Council's website;

www.rochdale.gov.uk/councilmeetings under the heading of 'Councillors and committees' and then 'Agendas, reports and minutes'.