

# CENTRAL ROCHDALE AREA FORUM

Monday 17 December 2018  
Wardleworth Community Centre, South Street,  
Rochdale

## MINUTES

**Present:** B. Lloyd (Chair) and approximately ten other members of the public

**Councillors:** Councillor Sultan Ali

**Officers:** V. White (Rochdale Council, Townships & Communities Manager), PCs Hamied, Hussain and Hutchinson (GMP)

**Apologies:** Councillors A. Ahmed and I. Ahmed, G. Finch, R. Hartley, and J. Taylor

### 142. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Best wishes were extended to Gary Finch for a speedy recovery. The forum was informed that the Council is going 'paperless' for all its meetings, therefore, paper copies of agendas and minutes of the previous meeting will not be provided at area forums from April 2019. Residents were encouraged to print copies when they receive them electronically.

### 143. PACT MEETING - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

At the last area forum residents had raised a number of issues, as a result the Police carried out traffic operations which resulted in the following offences:

- 7 x driving without insurance, and a number of vehicles seized
- 2 x speeding
- 4 x vehicles with tinted front windows
- 7 x drivers using mobile phones
- 14 x no seat belts or children in inadequate seating
- 7 x illegal number plates
- 1 x defective tyre

A discussion was held about drug dealing and it was stated that only three calls have been made to report drug dealing in the ward during the previous three month period. Residents stated it was due to the 101 number being chargeable and often unanswered. Residents were informed that reports can be made to Crime Stoppers and GMP has launched 'Live Chat' on their website as alternatives. Residents were unhappy and felt that the 101 number should be a free call.

PC Hussain introduced himself as the dedicated officer for the Wardleworth area. He has dealt with a number of issues of anti-social behaviour at the Leisure Centre car park and around Jack McCann Court. PC Hussain explained that he needs names and registration numbers rather than just streets when residents provide intelligence. Councillor Ali commended the recent operation that resulted in a number of arrests and considerable prison sentences, but impressed the need for issues such as 101 to be addressed if the Police are to continue in receipt of the goodwill of the community.

There was a question about CCTV coverage at Lower Falinge. The general consensus was that it is unlikely that the shop frontages are covered as the shops are sheltered by a canopy.

Operation Bohemia is taking place in the ward and focuses on reductions in anti-social behaviour type crime. Officers visit Falinge Flats on Wednesdays and Fridays to hold a drop in with the housing association, and they also visit Jack McCann Court and can visit community centres if required.

Mohammed Sheraz mentioned some work he is doing with young people at Lower Falinge in partnership with Hebron Church.

#### **144. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES**

##### **Bulky Waste Amnesty**

The forum was informed that Councillors have allocated some of the ward funds to support a bulky waste amnesty. The scheme will take place in the New Year and it will be publicised.

**Action 1: Residents requested that publicity be in a number of languages and distributed via community centres and mosques (Township Officer)**

##### **West Street Graveyard**

Councillor Ali again reported that the West Street graveyard is becoming a real problem in terms of dumped rubbish and vermin. He has reported it to the Waste Services Manager on 3 December 2018 and continues to chase up this request.

#### **145. OPEN FORUM**

##### **New Benches**

A resident thanked the Council for the new benches recently installed on Hector Avenue, funded by the Ward Councillors via their Members Fund.

##### **Taylor Street – Memorial Request**

Further to the tragic road traffic accident that resulted in the unfortunate death of 11 year old Marianne Haboc, a resident asked for consideration of a permanent memorial on Taylor Street. The forum was informed that it has been previously suggested that a bench could be installed in memory of Marianne, however, whilst the Council is sympathetic to the requests, regrettably it does not feel the proposed site is appropriate due to the area being extremely busy, especially at school drop off/pick up times. There are also car parks close by and congestion in the area.

**Action 2: Contact resident to update on this request (Township Officer)**

##### **Taylor Street – Pot-hole**

The Chair reported that a deep hole has begun to appear on the road at the junction with Whitworth Road.

**Action 3: Contact requestor to update on this issue (Township Officer)**

#### **146. MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS**

The balance of Members Funds were confirmed, with the majority of funds now allocated. There is a balance of £3,000 in the Ward Fund after the bulky waste amnesty has been agreed.

##### **Red Lane Survey**

Councillor Ali enquired about which stretch of Red Lane will be surveyed, and when?

**Action 4: Contact Highways to clarify (Township Officer)**

##### **Area-wide Traffic Survey**

A request was made for a traffic survey to cover the whole area. Whilst it was acknowledged that it would be difficult as the area is quite wide, the forum asked that the possibility be looked into, particularly around Greenbank Road, Blanch Street, Dewhirst Road, Taylor Street and St. Patrick's School.

**Action 5: Liaise with Ward Councillors/Highways to identify a solution (Township Officer)**

## **147. WARD NEWS**

### **Rochdale AFC**

A representative from Rochdale AFC attended to inform the forum about a project he is currently running at Stoneyfield Park that encourages young people to take up football. It is hoped that the project can be developed to include activities in the Wardleworth and Spotland and Falinge areas. Projects are also taking place with Rochdale Thai Boxing Club and Kashmir Youth Project. Information can be found on the club's website:

<https://www.rochdaleafc.co.uk/community/community-trust-activities/>

### **Mohammed Sheraz**

The forum was given the following information:

- Cricket sessions will begin on Sunday 20 January 2019 for 20 weeks in partnership with Link4Life. Boys and girls aged 8–15 years can attend these sessions.
- Lancashire Cricket Club have an initiative that is encouraging girls to get involved in cricket.
- Rochdale Hornets are running sessions that will include free tickets to rugby matches and the chance to play on the pitch at half time.
- A joint project with 'Ambition for Ageing' will facilitate gym sessions for older ladies.
- Link4Life are recruiting a female swimming instructor.
- A homeless feed will take place at the old Magistrates' Court on Christmas Day.

### **John Doyle**

John is the Street Services Operative for the area, and he was presented with a gift on behalf of the forum to thank him for all his hard work in the ward.



## **148. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 18 March 2019 at 6.30pm in Wardleworth Community Centre