

MILNROW, NEWHEY AND FIRGROVE AREA FORUM

Thursday 6 December 2018
Milnrow Cricket Club, Harbour Lane,
Milnrow OL16 4HF

MINUTES

Present: Ian Rigby (Vice Chair), D. Dawai, M. Ahmed, K. Hall, N. Cunliffe, J. Edge, L. Brookes, G. Lennon, N. Statham, D. Greenhalgh, B. Morris, P. Greenhalgh, M. Greenhalgh, Mr. Hughes, Mrs. Hughes, Z. Cranny, D. Cranny, D. Kendall, R. Charnock, E. Mellor, D. Hannant, J. Williams, N. Butterworth, J. Evans, G. Hoyle and V. Cordwell

Councillors: Bamford, Davidson and Kelly

Officers: Tracey Knight (Townships, Rochdale Council), Insp. Robert MacGregor, PC Martin Adams, PCSO Katie Hughes and PCSO Tracy Welsh (GMP)

Apologies: Councillor Mir, I. Bland, C. Houston. A Turner, S. Lowe and Glyn Broady (Rochdale Council)

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Ian Rigby agreed to chair the meeting and welcomed everyone, the code of conduct was referred to, in particular the addition stating that alcohol is not permitted during the meeting.

2. PACT - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Insp. MacGregor introduced himself and his Officers and explained that he wanted to attend the meeting to provide an update to residents on current policing resources in order to better manage their expectations. It is a difficult message that he wanted to impart personally as he understands the value of straight talking. The service is poorer than that of ten years ago and Officers are not able to provide the same response due to the loss of 1,800 Officers during the last eight years, which is saddening. When assessing reported crimes they are prioritised using threat, harm and risk criteria, victims of serious crime can be assured that the Police will be there to protect them, less serious crimes will however be dealt with based on priority. Recent serious crimes were referred to, and Insp MacGregor stressed that he doesn't want residents to be victims of circumstance and his Officers are determined to do their best with the resources available. He is keen to move forward positively, move past the anger and consider new ways to work. PSCOs Tracy and Katie were introduced; they are both new to the area and bring with them a lot of experience.

Crime Figures:

Milnrow & Newhey

	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
Residential burglary	12	14	1
Commercial burglary	1	5	0
Theft from motor vehicle	4	9	2
Theft of motor vehicle	2	2	1
Criminal damage	7	10	5
Drug related	2	0	0

Firgrove

	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
Residential burglary	6	3	1
Commercial burglary	2	0	1
Theft from motor vehicle	0	3	1
Theft of motor vehicle	1	3	0
Criminal damage	6	3	1
Drug related	0	0	1

Reported ASB incident figures

	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
Milnrow & Newhey	6	3	0
Firgrove	0	1	0

Police updates

- The recent increase in burglaries is not unusual for this time of year. Operations will be running to alleviate the number of incidents. A third of these incidents are due to insecure properties.
- The Cray has experienced a recent spate of racially aggravated offences. Officers are working in partnership with Rochdale Boroughwide Housing to address issues, and enquiries are ongoing.
- The safe plate scheme event on 13 October 2018 was successful with over 40 vehicles taking part.
- GMP are hoping to receive their evidential speed gun in January 2019.
- There are 249 call handlers on the 101 call centre, some of which are still in training.
- 3.50 seconds is the average call answering time.

Rochdale Division - calls via 101 and live chat

Nov: 5,487 (183 daily average)

GMP - calls via 101 and live chat

Aug: 103,315

Sept: 94,506

Oct: 102,540

999 demands for the same period saw **51,999 calls**

Residents' Questions and Concerns

- How many Officers are there in the Pennines?
15 Response Officers; 6 Neighbourhood Officers (not including other departments e.g. CID, Organised Crime, etc)
- A resident thanked the Police for their honesty and said that the figures don't appear to add up and bear any resemblance to residents' experiences. How do we work together to get more Officers?
There will be some additional student Officers on the Neighbourhood Teams.
- There appears to be a threat of vigilantes on social media, and a risk that people will take matters into their own hands.
- Is it likely that there will be any further funding?
The Police or Councillors were unable to answer this question.
- A discussion took place regarding the recording of crime statistics and the scrutiny of Police reports to the Council that highlighted inconsistencies. There is an acceptance that low level crime is not dealt with by the Police so they are not recorded which lowers statistics and distorts the actual experiences of residents and issues faced by communities.
It was acknowledged that the first point of contact is the issue, the service is poor but there has been a recruitment drive and the Live Chat facility has also improved. There is also the need to consider whether other agencies are best placed to deal with some of the issues that are being reported.

- Residents need to be prepared to give evidence and be willing to be a witness if necessary.
- A resident made the following requests and comments:
 - trends and abandoned call figures to be shown in the data/statistics
 - investigation and prosecution is one way of dealing with crime, can there be more focus on education
 - frustration that there is not enough action taken; residents watch is not enough
 - how are quality of life issues defined
- A resident asked whether it is worth investing in CCTV system for their private use.
Despite rumours, GMP can and do use good quality CCTV evidence in convictions and for intelligence purposes.
- A resident advised a car parked on Larchway, near to the junction of Rochdale Road, was causing an obstruction of the footway and obscuring sight lines for road users and pedestrians.
- Question submitted in advance - Dirt bikes, mopeds and quads are still speeding around Milnrow and Newhey.
The Police acknowledge this is an issue affecting residents. Officers have recently apprehended an offender resulting in the off road bike being crushed. Please continue to report intelligence regarding these offences.
- Question submitted in advance - Huddersfield Road is getting more dangerous; dangerous overtaking is now happening.
The Community Speed Watch scheme lead by Councillor Davidson could assist with issues of this nature.
- Question submitted in advance - Are the figures reported actually reported crimes and if so what is the clear up rate?
It was confirmed that the figures are an accurate recording of the crimes reported. Because of the investigation time and the nature and severity of each crime the clear up rate would not be indicative of performance.
- What percentage of the 101 calls quoted are abandoned calls?
Information supplied following the meeting - In October 2018 12,513 non-emergency calls were abandoned. This equates to 25% - a 4% increase on September's abandonment.

3. MILNROW AND NEWHEY RESIDENT WATCH

David Kendall, founder of the group, introduced himself and firstly addressed the following issues already raised in the meeting.

- The reason for the group not being fully operational is because they don't want to rush; it is crucial that the project is managed properly and safely.
- The offer of help with governance was appreciated but the group have already sought and accepted governance advice.

David gave some personal background and explained that he had been invited to speak at the forum following a recent meeting with GMP and Pennines Township where it was evident that the joint vision for the community seemed like something everyone can all work on together.

Milnrow and Newhey Resident Watch was created three months ago as a Facebook page. The idea is for all the useful crime, antisocial behaviour and safety information, affecting the villages, to be in one place. Gill Lennon came on board shortly after, after proving to be like minded in striving for a positive future for the communities.

Some of the project's aims are –

- Extend the project into the wider community not just online
- Promote looking out for and getting to know your neighbours
- Having a mechanism to report anything suspicious or impart intelligence
- Having Police crime statistics that reflects the issues affecting the community
- Improving relations and reporting via local Police Officers and PCSOs

Residents have already started working together and, thanks to the work Gill has put in, they have gained the support from local businesses and schools to run different schemes to improve the

issues they are having and provide each other with information.

The ultimate goal is to have a non-confrontational visual resident presence around the area. Advice has been sought from Street Pastors and Street Angels who already have a proven track record with similar projects. The governance of the group is key and will determine the set principles, core policies and codes of conduct; there is still some way to go before it is operational but things are moving in the right direction.

Volunteers are needed and recruited via application; anybody wishing to get involved can contact the group via their M&N Resident Watch Facebook page or email milnrow.newhey@gmail.com

David and Gill were thanked for their presentation and their positivity, and the following questions were raised:

Milnrow and Newhey Ward Councillors asked how they can help.

There will be training needs for the group and volunteers. Councillors agreed to support a Pennines Township funding request for this purpose.

What is being done to identify and protect the vulnerable people in the community?

Being in the community as a visual presence will have a greater reach; there will be safeguarding issues which will be addressed as part of the training needs.

Community Speed Watch

Councillor Davidson gave a brief presentation to the forum regarding the plans for the speed watch project. Volunteers are needed to operate the non-evidential speed gun. Registration of speeding vehicles will be recorded and warning letters sent by the Police. The project is due to start in January 2019 and it will concentrate on the village centre, and a joint project with Littleborough Lakeside Ward will take place on Wildhouse Lane.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record apart from the following corrections:

- It was noted that Mr Turner had attended the meeting but his name was omitted from the list of attendees.
- The lodge referred to is Coronation Lodge in Newhey and not Newhey Lodge as previously recorded.

Action updates

Write to GM Mayor

Councillor Blundell wrote to Baroness Beverley Hughes to highlight the concerns of the forum.

Milnrow and Newhey Masterplan

Options are still being looked into.

Request damaged bin replacement on Sycamore Avenue/Laburnum Way

This issue was reported to Environmental Management and confirmation has been received that the request has been allocated to Street Services for actioning. Residents confirmed that the bin is still missing.

Action 1: Chase up progress with Environmental Management (Tracey Knight)

Seek Highways advice regarding the installation of bollards on Huddersfield Road

Response from Highways – the area would require a total of 20 bollards (14 from Beresford Street to Wolseley Street and 6 from Wolseley Street to Metrolink Bridge) cost approx. £2,540. The forum was consulted regarding this proposal and it wasn't supported. An alternative of installing two parking bays was suggested.

Action 2: Request Highways' advice regarding the installation of parking bays on Huddersfield Road (Tracey Knight)

Parking on double yellow lines near Milnrow Post Office

Request made to the Parking Services Manager that this location be identified as a hot spot area for enforcement.

Matters Arising

Back field at Severn Drive

Residents advised that the fence is still in place; the issue is land ownership.

Action 3: Refer the issue to Glyn Broady (Tracey Knight)

Ladybarn development

Further planning issues are ongoing; the Ward Councillors will deal with these outside of the meeting and liaise with the resident.

5. OPEN FORUM

Resurfacing Willows Lane

The recent resurfacing has left loose chippings which have collected at the kerbside and wasn't cleaned up by the contractors.

Action 4: Report issues to Highways (Tracey Knight)

Resurfacing Newfield View

The recent resurfacing works don't appear to be up to standard. The contractors were also rude to a resident.

Action 5: Report issues to Highways and request the work is inspected (Tracey Knight)

Pot holes on Sir Isaac Newton Way

Highways have confirmed that the surface is beyond patching, and it has been included for structural maintenance during summer 2019.

Parking at Hollingworth Academy

A resident raised concerns regarding the dangerous parking situation at peak times outside Hollingworth Academy. It was reported that the double yellow lines are faded and barely visible.

Action 6: Request repainting of double yellow lines (Tracey Knight)

Remembrance Sunday

Question submitted in advance - I would like to raise the matter of why and who was responsible for the Remembrance Day fiasco, as to why the minutes silence was carried out before the correct time, (it was carried out before 1050), and why no one will apologise.

The response from the Council -

There are a number of Remembrance parades and services that take place across the Borough each year. A group of representatives met prior to Remembrance Sunday to plan this event. Typically groups involved in planning these events can include representatives from a number of organisations, including the Police, the Council, Royal British Legion, Veterans Associations, and Mayor's Office. There is no one person or group with overall responsibility for the events, they are organised and facilitated by the collective and usually run with precision.

A walk through took place in Milnrow prior to November 11th and it was stressed that it was crucial to observe the silence at 11am. Unfortunately on this occasion, the event in Milnrow did not run according to those pre-agreed timings. The Council is unable to say why the band started off early, or why the service began prior to the agreed start time. We share the disappointment of the wider community, and we understand the distress caused as a result.

We will ensure that the failings of this year's event are fed back when plans start to be made for the event in 2019 and going forward, and we would like to reassure residents that all possible steps will be taken to ensure that there is no repeat of this unfortunate occurrence in future years.

Clean and Green request

Question submitted in advance - Overgrown brambles, etc are blocking the footpath on Two Bridges Road.

This issue has been reported to the Clean and Green Team and the work is planned for 10 December 2018.

Dangerous roads

Comment submitted in advance - Over six pet cats have been killed on the roads in Newhey in the last couple of months, not including the missing ones, they may just be animals to some, but they are people's pets, how long before it's a human killed.

Traffic lights at Huddersfield Road junction

Question submitted in advance - Continual jumping of red lights on Huddersfield Road/Shaw Road including HGVs. Can we not have cameras on lights?

Highways response - Cameras can only be installed if the strict national criteria are met which includes analysing collision statistics. As there are none since the junction was signalised it will not meet the national criteria.

Parking on Huddersfield Road

A resident submitted the following question - Can we also address residents' parking so close to junctions that it's endangering lives, only today my neighbour has nearly been hit pulling out of Travis Street off Huddersfield Road, Newhey. This is not just one off, it happens every day. It has been reported before but nothing gets done, it is an accident waiting to happen.

*Highways response – The current restrictions on Huddersfield Road are No Waiting Mon – Fri 8am until 6.30pm and Sat 8am until 1 pm. Outside these times of operation there is nothing to prohibit parking. Many of the rules in the Code are legal requirements and if you disobey these rules you are committing a criminal offence. You may be fined, given penalty points on your license or be disqualified from driving. In the most serious cases you may be sent to prison. Such rules are identified by the use of the words '**MUST/MUST NOT**'. In addition, the rule includes an abbreviated reference to the legislation which creates the offence.*

*Although failure to comply with the other rules of the Code will not, in itself, cause a person to be prosecuted, The Highway Code may be used in evidence in any court proceedings under the Traffic Acts to establish liability. This includes rules which use advisory wording such as '**should/should not**' or '**do/do not**'.*

Rule 243 of The Highway Code does state do not stop or park, opposite or within 10 metres of a junction. This is therefore an advisory rule which in itself cannot be enforced as stated above.

6. EXTERNAL FUNDING UPDATE

Ellenroad

A grant application has been submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £38,000 for internal and external improvements. Residents were encouraged to attend the open days which occur on the first Sunday in the month, starting in February 2019.

St James Church

Councillor Kelly is meeting with the Church Warden with a view to submitting a HLF grant application to restore the war memorial.

Milnrow Clock

Works will begin soon to clean the internal structure, and a structural/condition survey will then commence. This survey will give a more accurate indication of the costs.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The forum was advised that as of April 2019 this will be a paperless meeting to fall in line with other Council meetings. We will continue to email papers to attendees but will not be providing paper copies on the night.

Thanks was given to Ian for chairing the meeting, and he also kindly agreed to be the Vice Chair.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

28 March 2019

Police contact details:

Rochdale East

Tel 0161 856 8549
Email rochdaleeast@gmp.police.uk
Facebook GMPRochdaleEast
Twitter @gmprochdaleeast

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 www.crimestoppers-uk.org

GMP Live Chat <https://goo.gl/KsUjhd>

Police non-emergency calls 101

Emergency calls 999

PC Martin Adams email: martin.adams@gmp.police.uk

Milnrow and Newhey Resident Watch: [M&N Resident Watch - Home](#)