

HEALEY AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday, 30 May 2019

PRESENT: Councillors O'Neill and Wazir, S. Acton (Chair) and approximately 24 members of the public.

OFFICERS: PC Harvard, PCSO Vohra, M. Reynolds (Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Officer) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Heakin, L. Wardle (Public Realm Inspector) and two residents.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT 215

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and reminded the Forum of the need to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Heakin, L. Wardle (Public Realm Inspector) and two residents.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING 216

PC Harvard and PCSO Vohra attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed of the following which relate to the last three month period:

- There has been a decrease in burglary, theft from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicles and anti-social behaviour. However there had been an increase in criminal damage.
- A significant drug arrest had taken place in the Ward.
- Reports had been received about sales people approaching residential homes selling products. Residents were urged to remain vigilant.

Residents raised concerns about off-road biking, speeding on Fieldhouse Road, Whitworth Road, Syke Road and Dewhirst Road. Residents also commented that although cars are still parking on Syke Road, allegedly selling drugs it was acknowledged that the situation was better and that these incidents have become more sporadic. Concerns were also raised about the number of nitrogen oxide containers being discarded in the area.

In response to these issues GMP informed the Forum that an operation had taken place recently targeting off-road bikes, speeding is a concern on the roads mentioned and very few reports had been received concerning anti-social behaviour on Syke Road.

It was commented that it is very difficult to stop the nitrogen oxide problem as it can be legally obtained. It was also reported that it is difficult to prove if someone has inhaled the substance as it dissipates from the system very quickly.

GMP encouraged residents to report concerns on the 101 number, although a new on-line chat facility is available via the GMP website.

The following contact information was also circulated:

PC Harvard – 17397@GMP.POLICE.UK

PCSO Vohra – 07393 009181

Monthly GMP surgery's also take place at Syke Base.

It was agreed that the priorities for the Ward over the coming months will be speeding, drugs and off-road bikes.

The Chair advised the Forum that consideration was being given to purchase an electric bike for PCSO Vohra to assist with his duties. Funding for this would be sought from the Proceeds of Crime Fund. This was supported by the Forum. In further support of this a visiting Whitworth District Council Councillor commented he would contribute £50 from his Members Allowance towards this as did Councillor Wazir.

OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN THE WARD

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The following issues were raised:

1. Representatives from 'Save Ashdene Woodland' attended the meeting to inform members of a planning application that has been submitted which would result in a number of protected trees being removed from a site that runs adjacent to 2 Ashdene. Forum members were being asked to support the group and object to the proposals.

Forum members were informed that any objections would have to be submitted via the planning portal on Rochdale Council's website. The closing date for the application was the 3 June 2019.

Councillor O'Neill and Wazir, who are members of the Council's Planning & Licensing Committee left the room for the duration of this discussion.

2. A resident asked if the double yellow lines on Shawclough Road could be extended to Harriagebank as cars are parking in the area.
3. It was reported that the triangular pocket of land at the junction of Dell Road and Shawclough Road requires cutting.
4. A resident asked if a grit bin could be placed at the junction of Pot House Lane and Dewhirst Road.
5. It was asked if a litter bin could be placed at Ironwaters.
6. It was suggested that a litter pick be organised around the Common.
7. It was reported that a white line is required at the junction of the road with no name and Dewhirst Road as the current road markings are potentially dangerous. The Forum was advised that this had been requested.
8. It was asked if the safety barrier around Syke Pond could be removed.

9. Representatives of the Common and Pond Working Group commented that the recent meeting was a productive one.

A resident also commented that the Council's Conservation Officer is keen to progress conservation status for the area, although no time frame can be given to this at this stage.

10. It was commented that the mound around the common is going to be turned into a wild flower border..

11. It was stated that the island at Mizzy Road needs re-lining.

12. The results of the Whitworth Road Survey were distributed to the Forum. The survey was commissioned to review the restrictions on Whitworth Road from the County boundary to Mizzy Road roundabout with the aim of identifying where improvements can be made to improve traffic flow and road safety.

It was agreed that Forum members should take the opportunity to read the findings of the survey with any views being feedback via the Ward Councillors or Township and Engagement Officer.

13. It was reported that no progress had been made regarding the notice board / shelter proposal outside the Chapel.

UPDATES ON ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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It was reported that no updates were available in relation to:

- The land adjacent to 1 Bentley Street
- The fencing on the alleyway adjacent to One Ash Close
- The steps at Waingap Rise
- The area clean up between Shawclough Close and Paton Street.
- The bus stop clearway on Falinge Road.

It was commented that all the above will be re-visited.

The Forum was informed that the highway work at the junction of Shawclough Way / Shawclough Road will need to be undertaken during dryer months as an element of the work involves laying textured surfacing.

Bentley Street traffic calming was due to be completed by the 24 May, a revised date will be sought.

MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

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Members / Ward Fund allocations will only be known following Rochdale Township Committee on the 11 June 2019.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2019

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The minutes of the Healey Area Forum held on Thursday 30 May 2019 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS AGENDA ITEMS

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Matters arising from the minutes included:

1. The bollards, near to the Talbot Head have now been installed.
2. It was explained that Environmental Management have again denied removing the concrete bin at Shawclough shops which has been challenged by the shopkeeper.

A Ward Councillor said he would raise this issue directly with the service.

3. It was commented that a resident had contacted the Chair querying the reference to land requiring cleaning at Gandy Lane.

COUNCILLORS' NEWS

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The following issues were raised:

1. Rochdale Township has been split into two – Rochdale North and Rochdale South.

Rochdale North will include the following Wards – Healey, Spotland & Falinge, Central and Norden.

Rochdale South will comprise – Balderstone & Kirkholt, Bamford, Castleton, Kingsway and Milkstone & Deepdish.

2. Councillor O'Neill is Chair of Rochdale North Township.
3. Councillor Sheerin is the Mayor.
4. The Christmas Lights switch on has been organised for Wednesday 27 November at 6pm. The Mayor has been invited to the event.
5. H&M have agreed to become a new addition to the shopping centre development in the Town Centre.
6. Weston Angling Society are holding a taster day on Saturday 8 June, commencing 10am. Veterans can join the Society for free.
7. The Council are now maintaining the small pocket of land on Baillie Street.
8. A grant has recently been received to help with the redevelopment of Drake Street.

NEWS FROM PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND SYKE COMMUNITY BASE

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Forum members were informed that:

1. An Heritage Event will take place on the 1 and 2 June.
2. Responses to the recent Street Eat initiative have been positive.
3. The Heywood 40's event will take place on Saturday 22 June.
4. Syke Base has been successful in receiving two grants from Awards for All and The Health Trust.
5. Syke Methodist Chapel has also received a grant to develop the site.
6. A quiz night is taking place at the Base on Friday 31 May
7. Thrum Hall Methodist Church has been assisting with community engagement in Rochdale and Whitworth.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

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22 August 2019

17 October 2019

8 February 2020

All at Syke Base, commencing 6.30pm