

## CENTRAL ROCHDALE AREA FORUM

### MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 10 June 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ali Ahmed and Sultan Ali, B. Lloyd (Chair) and approximately 20 residents.

**OFFICERS:** PS Sutcliff, PC Marvell, PCSO Stewart, M. Reynolds (Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Officer), P. Maynard (Housing Services Officer), S. Parkington (Community Flood Resilience Officer) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Iftikhar Ahmed and two residents.

#### INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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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.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Iftikhar Ahmed, PC Ahmed, PCSO Whitehead and two residents.

#### PACT MEETING - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

150

PS Sutcliff, PC Marvell and PCSO Stewart attended the meeting for this item.

In response to a question the Forum agreed that since the last Area Forum meeting in March residents had noticed a more visible GMP presence in some areas in the Ward – South Street park, Ramsay Street and Entwistle Road near to the Leisure Centre being identified.

However it was also commented that some areas are being neglected -Greenbank Road being cited.

GMP then provided a brief overview of activities / issues they had been involved in since the last meeting:

- Increased presence around Oswald Street as a result of concerns raised by residents at the last meeting.

It was also commented that the Council is looking at ways in which access to the area can be restricted although this is a complex issue as the area is adopted highway therefore legal processes apply to any changes introduced.

In response to a question GMP acknowledged that early hour responses to incidents is poor. It was explained that this occurs because of the shift patterns of Officers, however this is being looked at.

- Seizure of cars on Oswald Street, Ramsay Street and Gower Street.
- The introduction of a Homewatch Scheme.

- Introduced a 'pulse' policing initiative which involves GMP Officers flooding a particular area which in turn increases police presence and visibility. Results from this type of operation have been positive.
- Consideration is being given to the introduction of Ward surgeries / pods to improve engagement between GMP and residents and provide another mechanism to aid communication in addition to the PACT meeting which occurs every three months.

The Forum thought this would be a good idea with suggestions being put forward about possible locations – Mosque, hot spots anti-social behaviour areas – Oswald Street, Jack McCann Court and the lodge area adjacent to Hamer Hall Crescent being identified as ASB areas.

- Ongoing investigations into drug activity in the Ward with four drug warrants being issued.
- GMP suggested the introduction of area walkabouts with Ward Councillors.
- A neighbour dispute is currently ongoing concerning access to the Ajnabi Community Garden. It is hoped that an agreement between the parties can be reached. This was supported by the Ward Councillors.
- A number of CCTV enquiries are ongoing.
- Contact cards have been distributed.
- Incident figures for the last three months demonstrated that anti-social behaviour, residential burglary, community burglary and robbery were down, whereas criminal damage was up. No changes had occurred in relation to theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles.

It was also commented that GMP's investment in recent years had focussed on front line officers, serious crime officers and specialist operations arguably at the expense of neighbourhood policing. However the current Central Ward Team are looking to improve this particular element of policing. The Forum was also informed that plans are in place to recruit another Sargeant into the area.

The Forum congratulated GMP on their approach and plans for the Ward.

## **FLOOD UPDATE**

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Sarah Parkington, Flood Resilience Officer attended the meeting for this item

The Forum was informed that the Rochdale phase (phase 2) of the Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme was planned to commence construction in Spring 2020. However delays in submitting the Phase 1 planning application and increases in costs have resulted in delays which are likely to have a knock-on effect to Phase 2.

Proposals for Phase 2 include the construction of several potential large flood storage areas which are designed to temporarily hold back flood water until it can be safely realised back into the river. These flood storage areas will hold water both from the River Roch and from several tributaries including the River Beal and Hey / Buckley Brook

A number of areas will need new or raised flood walls or embankments including the riverside wall next to Number One Riverside.

Updates in relation to this will be provided when possible.

### **COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN WARDLEWORTH**

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Peter Maynard, Housing Services Manager attended the meetings for this item.

Residents were informed of the current planning / development status of a number of small pockets of land in the Ward. In the majority of cases residential housing development was planned for the sites.

The Forum was also informed that a condition of the High Court Injunction being granted; which has proved extremely effective in deterring unauthorised traveller encampments in the Borough, was the introduction of a temporary traveller site in Rochdale. As a consequence of this a number of sites in the Borough, including one in Central Ward (land behind KYP) were being considered. The Officer clarified that he would be compiling a report of potential site options for Elected Members to identify the appropriate site.

Following a lengthy discussion Area Forum members, including Ward Councillors commented they were against the idea of a temporary traveller site in the Ward.

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

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The minutes of the Central Rochdale Area Forum meeting held on Monday 18 March where approved as a correct record.

### **OPEN FORUM**

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The following issues were raised:

1. A resident raised concerns about the current condition of the land at the corner of West Street and Buckley Street. It was also stated that a large container has recently been placed on the land.

It was acknowledged that the Council was aware of the issues on the site and attempts were being made to contact the owner with the aim of the area in question being significantly improved.

2. A resident raised concerns about a double decker bus being parked on Regent Street which has been there for a long time.

### **WARD NEWS**

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No Ward news was presented.

### **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

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19 August 2019

11 November 2019

3 February 2020

All the above meetings will commence at 6.30pm at Wardleworth Community Centre.

