

# CASTLETON AREA FORUM

Tuesday 4 June 2019  
Castleton Community Centre, Manchester Road, Castleton,  
Rochdale OL11 3AF

## MINUTES

**Present:** M. Magner (Chair) and approx.3 members of the public

**Councillors:** B. Sheerin

**Officers:** R. Hudson (Townships, Rochdale Council), G. Shahzad (GMNWA) and  
PC M. Farmer (GMP)

**Apologies:** Apologies from Councillor J. Hornby, Councillor A. Rashid and also 4 members of the public

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

Introductions were made and all were welcomed to the meeting. The code of conduct was circulated. All attendees were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

### 2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2019 were approved and the following updates given.

#### **Chesham Avenue**

A resident had requested an inspection to the area outside the park as potholes still exist. Highways have now marked up these potholes and they will be repaired as part of the resurfacing works to be carried out there in the future.

#### **Cherrington Drive road surface**

A resident again raised the issue that there is still subsidence to the pavement and roadway outside number 7.

**Action 1: Township Officer to raise the matter again with Highways as urgent.**

### 3. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

The Castleton PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting was incorporated into the forum.

**Forthcoming PACT dates for 2019 are as follows:**

#### **Castleton Community Centre (7-8pm)**

2 July 2019	22 October 2019
27 August 2019	19 November 2019
24 September 2019	17 December 2019

PC Farmer gave an update on the crime statistics since the last forum in March 2019. She reported there have been 12 burglary dwellings, 7 commercial burglaries, 28 thefts from motor vehicle, 9 thefts of motor vehicle and 8 reports of anti-social behaviour incidents.

Several cannabis farms in the ward have been raided by officers recently with approx. 30+ plants being removed at addresses. One plant alone can be sold on the street at a value up to £1,000.

Another safe number plate initiative event was held and it was well attended with over 20 vehicles being seen by officers.

The forum previously raised concerns over speeding on Manchester Road and a multi-agency operation 'Considerate' will be run again this month which will address the issues of speeding, no vehicle documentation, not wearing seat belts, use of mobile phones and vehicle worthiness.

The priorities agreed at last month's PACT meeting were vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and GMP can report that both of these issues have reduced in numbers. Officers have recently spent a lot of time around the Moor Park Avenue area, which has been a hot spot for ASB for a number of months. Reports of incidents of ASB have been reduced due to officers speaking to youths and bringing matters to the attention of their parents. A derelict garage was identified as a hotspot for youths congregating in and around, and GMP along with the Council have been in contact with the owners to tackle this issue. Problems concerning littering, fly tipping and abandoned cars have also all been addressed.

All residents were reminded to be aware of home and vehicle security, and not to leave valuables or tools on show in vehicles as there had been a spate of thefts recently. A Homewatch newsletter is produced every month by GMP and emailed to Homewatch members. New members are always encouraged to join up and get involved in the initiative. G. Shahzad from the Rochdale Area Neighbourhood Watch Scheme attended and spoke at the forum about the importance of the involvement of public to the scheme's success.

A 'Safe for Summer' scheme will be run again by GMP, GMFRS and the Council, also working with partners Link4Life and the Youth Service. This scheme is run within the school summer holiday period and is also rolled out by all 10 other local authorities in Greater Manchester. The initiative looks at reducing any possible risks to children and involves officers visiting children in secondary schools to advise on safe practices to adopt in their holidays for example around reservoirs, etc.

PC Farmer stressed to residents the importance of reporting all matters and their attendance at PACTs in order to validate the need for support and necessary resources within GMP to be allocated. The 101 number is a national line and matters can also be reported on GMP's website.

The Chair gave thanks to GMP for their efforts and attendance.

#### **4. TETROSYL**

No update.

#### **5. OPEN FORUM**

##### **Rochdale Environmental Action Group (REAG)**

A representative from REAG attended the forum and he advised residents that the group meet every Saturday between the hours of 10-11.30am to target the clear-up of litter/fly-tipping in any areas put forward by residents or deemed necessary. Residents are advised to make suggestions of any areas of concern to the group.

##### **Kingsland Common**

The extension works to the knee rail fencing previously installed to prevent vehicles driving on to the Common was raised again by a resident. It was queried as to why the fencing is incomplete in places or appears not fully finished. GMP and the Council advised that not all areas needed protection as some are not accessible by cars due to levels and also the area still needs to remain accessible to the public as it is essentially a Common. The cost was also a factor as it would have cost thousands to enclose the full perimeter, so the areas deemed most at threat were protected as a priority first.

### **Fly tipping**

Councillor Sheerin spoke about the Council's efforts regarding tackling the issue of fly tipping/littering within the ward of Castleton. Fines have been given out recently to commercial premises that regularly leave out used/unwanted large electrical items on the streets, not ensuring their proper disposal, ie fridges, and also venues that hold sporting events who do not ensure the full clear up of litter generated.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **Castleton EC Residents**

No planning application has been received yet for the land to the rear of Leander Drive and Cowm Top.

### **Friends of Carnegie Castleton**

The building was officially opened by the new Mayor, Councillor Billy Sheerin of Castleton, and is host to a solicitors, a virtual reality studio, a museum and a reading room. The downstairs area is open to the general public.

### **Friends of Castleton Station/Support the Oldham, Rochdale & Manchester Rail Lines/East Lancs Railway**

The cancellation of morning services has been the subject of a recent STORM campaign. The group are also trying to raise funds to pay for the installation of notice boards at the station via Tesco tokens given to shoppers at the store when buying goods.

### **St. Gabriel's**

Children from the school choir recently attended the Mayor making ceremony at Rochdale Town Hall.

### **Rochdale Township in Bloom**

Judging date for Rochdale Township in Bloom this year is 26 July with the route starting in Rochdale centre and arriving in Castleton by lunchtime. The group are hoping to carry out more work within the Thornham area this year and they are aiming to retain the gold medal as awarded in previous years.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No further matters raised.

## **8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 9 September 2019 at 7pm in Castleton Community Centre.