

MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 9 September 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Brett, Zaheer and Zaman, S. Mohammed (Chair) and approximately 11 residents.

OFFICERS: Inspector Callahan, PS Shirazi , PCSO Nasir, PCSO Hussain and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: 4 members of the public.

INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

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The Chair introduced himself and other Officers present and welcomed all to the meeting. He referred to the Code of Conduct and asked all to abide by the Code for the duration of the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

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The Forum agreed to defer this item until the next Area Forum on the 4th November 2019 at Castlemere Community Centre.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

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Inspector Callahan, PS Shirazi and PCSO Nasir and Hussain attended the meeting for this item.

The Forum was informed that because of events being organised nationally, for example Extinction Rebellion, Brexit protests it may be necessary to deploy staff elsewhere. However, wherever possible removing staff from the Neighbourhood Team would be done as a last resort. In addition supplementary staff from elsewhere can be deployed into the Milkstone & Deeplish Area if required.

GMP provided a summary of activity linked to the PACT priorities agreed at the last meeting;

1. Drugs – A number of arrests have been made over recent months, vehicles have been seized and a sizeable amount of drugs have been seized from a storage container. GMP stated they are aware of key targets in the area.
2. Anti-Social Behaviour – Two weeks of action with partners has taken place in the Town Centre to reduce begging. GMP informed the Forum that they do receive negative public reaction to initiatives of this nature, however GMP commented that in the majority of cases undertaking begging is a life style choice. GMP advised residents to use other options, for example The Big Change initiative when supporting homelessness.

Residents were also encouraged to contact Petrus or Sanctuary Trust regarding concerns over homeless people.

3. Prostitution – It was commented that Operation Streetshield is responsible for dealing with this complex issue which involves work across many partner

organisations. GMP commented there is still a lot of work to do on this issue although there has been a reduction in street activity.

It was also reported that:

- There had been a key arrest with regards to the theft of motor vehicles in the Ward.
- Anti-Social Behaviour has been a recent problem at St John School. Young people have been accessing school grounds. Community Safety have been dealing with this.
- A knife crime operation with Transport Police has recently been held.
- More traffic operations – Operation Considerate will be organised in the Ward.
- A family fun day was held at Deepdish Community Centre on the 29th August 2019. More community engagement events will be held over the coming months.
- There is still an ongoing problem with catalytic converters being stolen. Residents were reminded to remain vigilant.

In response to a number of questions GMP commented that:

- School visits will be undertaken at Ashworth Valley School.
- Funding applications have been submitted for target hardening initiatives at places of Worship.
- They are aware of the increase in beggars on Milkstone Road but are of the opinion that this may be caused because of town centre displacement.
- They are aware of the wrist bands that can be quickly changed into a knife.
- In providing information in relation to reported and repeat reports of domestic violence GMP advised that providing information in this format may not provide an accurate picture of the context of incidents. Following discussion it was agreed that the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator employed by the Council should be asked to contact the Councillor who raised this issue.
- The non-emergency number is 101. GMP also provide a chat line facility to assist communication / engagement.
- GMP operates a grading system when dealing with reported incidents.

OPEN FORUM

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Residents raised the following issues:

1. Concerns were raised about the number of lids that were damaged on brown bins. It was commented that the damage is caused by the way in which Council operatives handle the bins.

Residents were advised that they could report instances of this nature to Ward Councillors or via a portal on RBC's website.

2. A resident reported extensive littering close to 26 Vivian Street.

The Township and Engagement Officer agreed to visit the area to understand the nature and extent of the problem.

3. A resident commented that there was a lack of youth facilities in the area.

This perception was challenged as it was argued that youth facilities are no longer provided in the way they have been historically, that is via a specific base. Youth services are now 'displaced' and facilities are available locally.

4. Concerns were raised about dog waste not being picked up.

Residents were encouraged to report incidents of this nature with as much evidence as possible. This would aid the ability of the Council to prosecute.

5. A resident asked what the timeframe was for the Countrywide housing developments in the Ward.

The Township and Engagement Officer will attempt will to obtain this information.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

155

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Monday 17 June were approved as a correct record.

No matters were arising, however the following updates were provided;

1. Rochdale Railway Station Regeneration.

It was suggested that this item should be placed on the agenda of February's Area Forum meeting.

2. Milkstone Road Traffic Regulation Order

This has been agreed.

3. Anti-Social Behaviour – Clara Street

This has been reported to the relevant services and partners.

4. Bollards – Tweedale Street and Mere Street

Site visits with an Highways Inspector will be undertaken soon.

5. Signs – Tweedale Street and Mere Street

These have been moved.

6. Stoneyfield Park

It was commented that most of the work that had been planned for the site had been completed. The remaining work will be completed as soon as possible.

It was explained that the Ward Councillors are supportive of developing the park further if funds can be identified. In addition it was important that local residents informed the Council how they think the park should be developed.

It was suggested that the Friends Group could be involved in pulling together ideas concerning future developments and that a member of the Friends Group should be invited to the next Forum meeting to discuss this issue.

7. Kent Street – One-Way System

This had been agreed.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

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No updates were provided, all issues had been covered earlier in the meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

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4 November 2019, 6.30pm at Castlemere Community Centre

10 February 2020, 6.30pm at Deeplish Community Centre