

## **SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday, 19 September 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Cocks and Rana, P. Massey (Chair) and approximately 18 members of the public.

**OFFICERS:** PC Jones, PC Hameed, PCSO Robinson (GMP) L. Wardle (Enforcement Officer), Mark Reynolds (Community Safety), Tracey Knight (Township and Engagement Officer)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Massey and 9 members of the public

#### **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

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The Chair introduced himself and officers present and welcomed all to the meeting, he also asked all present that the Code of Conduct be adhered to throughout the meeting.

The forum was informed of the apologies that have been received.

#### **GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING**

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PC Jones, PC Hameed, PCSO Robinson attended for this item.

The forum was informed of the following issues:

1. Violence on the Greave Estate – investigations are ongoing. A police operation has been in place since the incident with increased Police patrols of the area. Updates will be provided when available
2. Speed Enforcement – GMP are aware of the problems. Officers are actively pursuing the calibrated speed gun equipment and necessary training, at which point regular operations will be carried out
3. Anti-Social Behaviour – Officers are continuing patrols of hot spot areas; there has been a decrease in reported incidents, resident were encouraged to continue reporting issues via the GMP website or 101
4. Operation Dragster – incidences of off-road vehicles are high however the number of reported incidents has decreased. A recent operation failed due to the inclement weather, further operations will depend on the number of reported incidents received.
5. Theft from Motor Vehicle – The PCSO has been patrolling the hotspot areas which appear to have had a positive impact on the number of crimes reported. There has been at least three incidents on 15 September - the crimes indicate that valuables were left visible, which could easily be avoided.

6. Crime Prevention – The forum were reminded to lock their vehicles and remove valuables; use burglar alarms at home; lock all windows and doors; use timer switches; keep car keys out of reach.
7. Falinge Park Partnership Fun day – Was a very successful day, £450 raised for the Mayors Charity and £111 for the Blood Bikes Charity
8. Officers – New and Future Plans – A new school based Officer is in post, she will work closely with the local school which will improve the cohesion and result in fewer incidents.
9. New IT – the new system has experienced some teething problems in particular not being able to produce crime figures and statistics, this is being worked on and things are improving.
10. Police Surgery – is taking place on Monday 14 October at Spotland Library everyone is welcome to attend.
11. Priorities – ASB & drug dealing; Off Road Bikes; Speeding

A resident asked if there is an opportunity for cross border joint working, GMP advised Yorkshire Police don't have a dedicated off-road bike team

The PCSO advised that he is actively working to gather intelligence on the drug dealing in the ward.

Comments were made regarding the intimidating behaviour of the beggars at the St Mary's Gate junction. Resident where advised the issues are being dealt with and are being processed for court.

A discussion took place regarding GMP's policy on setting off fireworks in regards to complaints around the former Dexine site. GMP officers use their discretion when dealing with complaints of this nature.

Streetcheck.co.uk website provides information relating to crime statistics relative to an individual's postcode.

#### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES**

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The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Thursday 27 June 2019 were approved as a correct record subject to the following change.

Amend Minute 136

Remove - A Ward Councillor commented that consultation had taken place in the area and the changes made to the proposals at the recent meeting were based on discussions held with the Community.

Add – Sounding have been taken by a Ward Councillor and suggestions for changes made.

Matters Arising included:

Action 13 Spotland Bridge Junction - A resident asked for an update and was advised as per the circulated update sheet that a discussion has taken place between Township and Highways. A formal response from Highways is still awaited.

Action 2 Missing bins – Cllr Cocks update that the bins have been removed for safety, they have been relocated nearby.

Action 7 TBA progress – An officer was unable to attend, an update had been provided and circulated prior to the meeting. A discussion took place regarding the need for an officer to attend; a show of hands identified this not to be a priority for the forum as only two residents were in favour of an officer attending. Further discussions took place regarding the TBA land being in private ownership; The TBA site not on the current list of priorities for the Healey Area Forum; the recent correspondence from Tony Lloyd MP can be viewed on the website; Japanese knotweed is visible on site; the erosion of the riverbank.

Action - Request the TBA information on the RBC website is kept up-to-date

Action – Seek Council advice regarding the knotweed issue

Action – Request a copy of the technical assessment of the stabilisation of the river banking

#### **MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS**

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Members Fund Balances

Cllr Cocks                    £2,000

Cllr Massey                £1,988

Cllr Rana                    £0

Ward fund balance    £6,900

Northern Baroque Orchestra presented a grant application to the forum to request a grant of £500 towards the cost of Donald Clarke Memorial Concert.

Decision: The forum agreed this allocation would come from wards funds.

SETRA presented a grant application to the forum to request a grant of £1465 towards the cost of the supply and installation of a heritage style information board and lockable cabinet.

Decision: The Forum agreed to the spend from the Ward funds

Remaining Ward Fund Balance £4935

## **COUNCILLOR UPDATES/NEWS**

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The following updates were provided.

Councillor Rana informed the forum of the following:

- Assistant Portfolio Holder for Finance, working on setting the budgets for 20-21, savings needs to be made and there are increasing pressures
- A member of Friends of the Maternity Unit, busy campaigning for a specialised midwifery unit at Rochdale Infirmary
- Lead for Climate Change, working on various schemes at GM level for example solar parks, new build houses being equipped with electric car charging points
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles; Identifying grot spots whilst out walking
- New planters at Spotland junction brighten the area up
- The resurfacing programme is now complete, the lining and relining is underway
- Members fund has been used to purchase two new grit bins

Councillor Cocks informed the forum of the following:

- Assistant Portfolio Holder for Health and Well-being, the current priority is the move of North Manchester General Hospital
- The GM Clean Air Plan also includes hospitals and their transport
- Chair of the Age Friendly Rochdale Steering Group, current focus is engaging with the hard to reach groups and individuals
- Thanks were given to the Rochdale In Bloom group, the judges were delighted when they visited. The Awards day is on 30 October
- Vice Chair of Rochdale Township North, currently working on the Township Priorities, we hope to encourage more alleyways in bloom
- The OVO Energy Tour of Britain Cycle Race took place recently, the bikes and blooms display at Cutgate shops were a great addition and very popular.
- St Edmonds Church are holding a public meeting on 10 October at 6.30pm to discuss the future of the church

The Festival of Light will take place on 29 November in Falinge Park

Councillor Massey's newsletter can be accessed via the link below.

<http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s68294/Councillor%20Massey%20-%20Summer%20Newsletter%20Sept%202019.pdf>

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

150

Residents raised the following issues:

1. Wildflower meadows look great, can they be extended on Ings Lane and the recently cleared area at Spotland Bridge?

Action - Seek advice from Environmental Management and report back

2. Public Rights of Way are in need of way markers, they are increasingly popular and are included as part of the heritage trails.

Action – Seek advice from Julie Simpson ROW Officer

3. A resident reported that the footpath on Preston Street is overgrown and considered to be dangerous, the land is privately owned. A discussion took place that established that the status of the land needs to be clarified as either a Public Right of Way or a preferred route, the Council's responsibility will be determined by the path status.

Action – Seek advice from Julie Simpson ROW Officer

4. A resident reported repeated fly-tipping at the rear of the hairdressers on Edenfield Road

Action – Lee Wardle to inspect and report back to the forum

5. The litter bins on Rooley Moor Road near to the bus terminus are concrete, litter easily escapes, can they be replaced with lidded bins?

Action – Request cost to replace the litter bins

6. A resident requested an update regarding the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). The forum was advised that analysis of the consultation responses is being undertaken, it is not likely to have a revised version before next year.

Action – Add GMSF agenda item to a future forum and provide update when available

7. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the traffic regulation order (TRO) proposed to introduce double yellow lines on junctions on Rooley Moor Road, the following points were raised and discussed –

- Councillors were asked what evidence highways presented to them in order for them to change their minds to agree to the TRO
- A resident commented that Highways didn't present any statistical evidence or accident data as evidence for the proposal because the data doesn't exist
- Councillors advised that they made changes to the first proposal to reduce the amount of lines

- The advice from Highways officers to Councillors was around sightlines at junctions and the highway code
- Discussion took place regarding the attendance of Highways Officer at the meeting, following a vote it was agreed to request an Officer attends the meeting

Action: Invite Highways Officer to the next meeting

- A resident advised that the length of the lines was reduced from 15m to 10m at the request of Cllr Massey
  - The purpose of introducing the lines isn't to reduce the speed vehicle speed
  - Safety is paramount, Councillors have received a number of complaints from residents about the difficulties experienced when exiting these streets. Councillors have acted upon this, and appreciate it may not be a popular decision for everyone
  - At the end of the consultation period the following process will apply – if objections are received a report will be submitted to a future committee meeting of the Township; the report will detail the proposals, objections and highways responses. Residents can attend the meeting, however, addressing the committee is at the discretion of the Chair
  - The consultation proposal is inadequate, it doesn't provide residents with enough information in order for them to make an informed decision
  - Enforcement of double yellow lines was discussed, resident are not confident that the lines would be enforced
  - The Statement of Reason from Highways says that they have received no complaints from members of the public, a resident argued that if members of the public/residents were involved in the preliminary consultation it wouldn't have led to a flawed TRO, in their opinion. Councillors advised that complaints were raised to them by residents and they in turn raised them to Highways
8. Funding has been approved to install an illuminated speed sign on Rooley Moor Road, installing speed humps is prohibitive and doesn't always solve speed issues

9. A resident suggested that the Area Forum have a dedicated website, a brief discussion took place regarding lack of resources available, however this is something that the forum wanted to pursue

Action - Establish the feasibility of an Area Forum website

#### **DATES AND TIMES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

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Thursday 12 December 2019 – Spotland Methodist Church at 7pm (AGM)

Thursday 5 March 2020 – Spotland Methodist Church at 7pm