

# **NORDEN AREA FORUM**

**Tuesday 17 September 2019**  
**Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road**  
**Norden, Rochdale**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** N. Morrell (Chair) and approx. 20 members of the public

**Councillors:** Councillors Gartside, Holly and Winkler

**Officers:** R. Hudson (Rochdale Council, Townships & Engagement Officer)  
M. Reynolds (Rochdale Council, Community Safety ASB Officer)  
PC M. Giblin (GMP) and PCSO T. Tynan (GMP)  
C. Heathcote and T. Dawson (United Utilities)

**Apologies:** 6 members of the public

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Chair introduced himself and officers present, and welcomed all to the meeting. He referred to the code of conduct and he asked all to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

### **2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 May 2019 were approved as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

#### **PC Andrew Harper & Cyril Brandford (Methodist Church)**

The Chair held a minutes silence in remembrance.

#### **Tour of Britain**

Councillor Winkler gave an update on one of the biggest sporting events to come through the village in recent years. Three months in the planning with local ward Councillors, the Township Office and the Council. Thanks to V. White of the Townships Office for all her assistance, the Council's Highways Department for its remedial works to the roads in advance of the race, Fab Dance from Rochdale for the entertainment, the local businesses and public houses who all got involved, P. Ellison for assistance and also signage and also to J. Irving at The Community Café at Norden Old Library for arranging activities aimed at children. Everyone should be proud of their involvement. The Chair seconded the thanks.

#### **CCTV**

Councillors are working hard along with officers to bring this scheme to the village sometime this year and costings are being looked into at present.

#### **Rochdale in Bloom**

Decision day is Friday 1 November 2019. The Chair of the forum thanked the committee and wished them luck.

#### **Scout Moor**

A discussion was held about the future decommissioning of the Scout Moor Wind Farm and

examples of other issues experienced in locations in Yorkshire and the Lake District. Forum member A. McKeown explained that she had recently attended the Public Inquiry into the re-powering of Kirkby Moor Wind Farm in the Lake District, where the cost of decommissioning a wind turbine is approximately £75,000 each. At the present time, Rochdale has 7-8 years before this situation will need to occur, however, answers are needed beforehand as there is little clarity as to many questions being asked regarding proper plans for their removal. Because of requests at a previous forum, Councillor Winkler wrote to the Council's Planning Department asking a number of specific questions about Scout Moor and its decommissioning. The reply received has not given specific answers to a number of those questions.

### **Footpaths Update**

J. Oliver, Secretary for the Rochdale Rambling Club, provided the update. The areas he has recently looked into regarding stiles and gate matters include Woodhouse Lane, Keeper's Drive and Shawfield Drive. He reported that he had received good support as always from the Council's Rights of Way Officer, J. Simpson. A resident thanked J. Oliver for his assistance provided recently regarding an issue to the rear footpath near his property.

## **3. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE**

### **Crime statistics**

PC Giblin advised on the following crime statistics since the last forum (19 May 2019):

#### **Residential burglaries**

12 reported in total. Occurred primarily at night via patio doors.

#### **Business burglaries**

2 were reported.

#### **Theft from motor vehicle**

10 reported in total. Increased patrols have been made.

#### **Taking of motor vehicle**

2 reported in total.

#### **Criminal damage**

12 reported in total. Occurred at various locations; 6 at filling stations.

## **UPDATES**

### **Neighbourhood Speed Watch**

A Neighbourhood Speed Watch initiative, subject to volunteers, will be scheduled again in the Norden ward sometime in the future. An ANPR vehicle may also be made available to the ward. Councillor Holly thanked GMP on behalf of the local Ward Councillors, the Chair and residents for their assistance with this issue.

### **Pub Watch**

The Pub Watch Scheme now has 8/9 pubs involved and three meetings have taken place. Meetings are held quarterly throughout the year.

### **Operation Dragster**

Operation Dragster took place on 10 August 2019 and GMP thanked United Utilities for their support. Unfortunately, heavy rainfall resulted in the Operation being cancelled due to health and safety concerns for the bikers. Another initiative will be carried out before the year end.

### **Computer System – GMP**

The system is still a work in progress and unfortunately it has had a knock on effect on the production of the newsletter which gets circulated to residents.

## **Advice for residents**

With the dark nights drawing in soon as we approach Autumn/Winter, GMP's advice to residents is to keep their property and vehicles securely locked and any valuables out of sight. Also the use of timers for lights was recommended.

## **4. WARD FUND**

Allocations/amounts for the Members Fund and Ward Fund as discussed at the first Township Committee of this financial year are as follows:

Members Fund - £2,000 per Elected Member

Ward Fund - £8,000

The Chair advised the forum that the Norden Area Forum Sub Group will meet mid-October to discuss any ideas for new projects/schemes to be funded, and any further recommendations are welcomed for consideration. Contact your local Ward Councillor or the Township Office to discuss.

## **5. COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

### **Councillor Winkler**

A successful community safety event held last year will be replicated on Saturday 19 October 2019 at 10am–2pm in Norden Bowling Club. Councillors, Police and Community Safety Officers from the Council will dispense safety and security advice to residents on an open invitation.

Councillor Winkler also spoke about a push to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Norden (not Homewatch) as an information sharing exercise. Residents would commit only a very small amount of time to the initiative to keep local neighbours informed of any local matters of concern. The scheme would also assist the Police in their attempts to share and receive intelligence and serve as a network of information for all concerned.

### **Councillor Gartside**

Councillor Gartside reiterated the need for the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Norden stating that any commitment by residents would be minimal in terms of time, yet beneficial to the cause.

He advised there is a heritage weekend arranged in the borough this weekend from 10am – 12 noon whereby residents are welcome at certain places of worship including churches and mosques with refreshments available.

A new freestanding bin has been installed at the top of Caldershaw Road to replace the former old one.

### **Councillor Holly**

The traffic regulation order for Elbut Lane/Bury and Rochdale Old Road to assist concerns for safety has been submitted for public consultation by Bury Council's Highways Department. This traffic regulation order is supported by the Birtle Trust. The Chair called for a show of support from the forum.

The parking survey that was carried out at the beginning of July by the Council's Highways Officers will now be compiled into recommendations. Councillors will be updated first and then will in turn update the residents accordingly on any plans agreed.

Works to replace fencing and a gate adjacent to Broadstone Close have been arranged by Ward Councillors and part-funded with the Council's Environmental Management Department. The improvements will ensure that access to Caldershaw Green is not open to attract unwanted anti-social behaviour/activities.

## **6. OPEN FORUM**

### **United Utilities – Presentation**

C. Heathcote and T. Dawson (United Utilities - Catchment Controllers for the local reservoirs) gave

an update. United Utilities (UU) own a total of 177 dams, the average age of which is 130 years old with the last dam being constructed in the 1970's. Operating under the 1975 Reservoir Act, UU inspect all the tunnels, towers and pitches and do a full walk around of all their dams and reservoirs every 48 hours, compiling any issues into a report. Officers are also on-call. Every six months the dams and reservoirs are also inspected by an engineer and every ten years an inspection is carried out by an external engineer who compiles a report of any improvements that are needed to the structure. UU have £50 million in their budget for dams and reservoirs for 2020-2025. The Environment Agency also report bi-annually on dams/reservoirs producing a list of any 'at-risk' structures.

Residents queried concerns recently because of the incident at the Toddbrook Reservoir. UU stated there is a robust system for reporting issues and test exercises are continually carried out for risk management reasons. A report/feedback is still pending on this incident.

The Chair thanked C. Heathcote and T. Dawson on behalf of the forum and Norden residents for the excellent work the controllers and UU provide to the environment of the local Moors under their ownership. The approach of UU to the preservation of the Moors and measures to eliminate inappropriate use was widely praised.

### **Bamford Hall – Planning application**

S. Cresswell, resident from the Bamford ward, gave an update. He explained how a third attempt to gain planning permission to build a property, nine times the size of a normal house, on the green belt land in the grounds of Bamford Hall has recently been made. He appealed for support again from the forum and Norden residents to register an objection with the Council's Planning Officer dealing with the application. The Chair requested that forum members express their view on the matter (by a show of hands). Ten residents expressed their support for the rejection of this application; no residents expressed support for the application. The Birtle Trust has also submitted an objection letter to the development.

### **Bamford – Green belt land**

A. Smith, Councillor from the Bamford ward, gave an update. She expressed her support for the previous item of the objection to the planning application for the property on the grounds of Bamford Hall. She also reiterated the fact that residents can contact the Council's Planning Officer to gain any information they require and pass on their opinions in respect of applications. A resident spoke about her objection to another planning application at Higher Clough at Carr Wood as she considered it is not in-keeping with the local area and it will destroy local history with its demolition. A number of members expressed concern about the impact of inappropriate development in the green belt. A motion was then proposed urging officers to utilise the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework so as to give maximum protection to local green belt. Eleven members voted in favour of the motion, none voted against.

### **Former Turner Brothers Asbestos Site**

M. Coats, resident from the Spotland ward, gave an update. The issues surrounding this matter were highlighted again to those in attendance, especially the fact that local residents expressed the opinion that they are not kept informed. There has not been any update in the past two and a half years due to problems communicating with the private company based abroad who own the site. It was reported that the on-site security guards have been reduced from two to one and there is a continual issue with illegal fly tipping on the site. A recent positive update is that the local MP has written to the government minister in respect of the site. The Chair applauded the efforts of the action group for the site in seeking the highest levels of security and public health protection for its future.

## **7. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 7.00pm

Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road, Norden