

NORDEN AREA FORUM

Tuesday 10 December 2019
Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road
Norden, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: N. Morrell (Chair) and approx. 22 members of the public

Councillors: Councillors Gartside and Holly

Officers: R. Hudson (Rochdale Council, Townships & Engagement Officer)
PCSO T. Tynan (GMP)
PCSO S. Haider (GMP)

Apologies: PC M. Giblin (GMP), Councillor Winkler and 3 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 17 September 2019 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

CCTV

Councillors are working hard along with the appropriate officers to bring this scheme to the village as soon as possible. At present the costings for the adaption of the lighting column are being sought and the application to secure the allocation of monies for the scheme will be heard at the next funding committee in January 2020, which had been rescheduled due to the parliamentary election. A temporary affixture of a mobile camera will then be erected in the short-term, before a permanent measure replacing it will be installed once the contract for monitoring has been agreed accordingly.

Rochdale in Bloom

The team did really well in winning so many awards. Rochdale won gold and for the first time ever gained a win in the category of 'Best Small City'. Norden contributed greatly to the list of achievements for the Borough with Jubilee Park, Moss Row Allotments, Ashworth Valley and Norden Bowling Club winning several awards. The Chair congratulated the team.

Former Turner Brothers Asbestos Site

The Chair advised the forum that there are still concerns regarding the River Spodden's bank/wall sections that are breaking away, potentially leaving vast areas of asbestos open to enter the water course. This situation has been the case for a number of weeks and there is no apparent progress on the issue. The matter is one of concern for Norden ward because a number of asbestos victims live in the ward and air quality is monitored within the ward.

Bamford Hall – Planning application

S. Cresswell attended once again to give an update on the third attempt by a developer 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. 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 – planning application ref is 19/00643/FUL. The forum attendees expressed support once again (by a show of hands) for the rejection of this application.

3. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Crime statistics

GMP advised on the following crime statistics since the last forum (17 September 2019):

Residential burglaries

7 reported. Occurred primarily at mid to very early morning via patio/rear doors.

Commercial burglaries

1 reported. Norden Post Office. 2 arrests made.

Theft from motor vehicle

2 reported. Various times of the day. Residents reminded to leave vehicles empty and locked.

Taking of motor vehicle

2 reported.

Criminal damage

5 reported. Occurred at various locations.

UPDATES

Burglaries

Officers advised the forum they had been actively leafletting local areas of concern and liaising with neighbourhood groups to circulate any relevant intelligence and crime prevention advice.

'Operation Dark Nights' had resulted in shift patterns being temporarily changed to allow beat officers to patrol through the night in plain clothes covering hot spot areas. This action had resulted in a reduction in the reports of burglaries. Advice was given to the forum attendees regarding home safety and crime prevention.

Pub Watch

The successful 'Pub Watch Scheme' is set to meet again on 23 January 2020. Meetings are held quarterly throughout the year in alternate public houses to share local information.

Operation Dragster

Operation Dragster took place on 28 October and 3 November 2019. Three seizures were made (2 bikes and 1 van), four Section 59 warnings were issued to deal with offences such as no insurance, etc.

Speeding Operation

GMP advised of a recent speed operation carried out along with officers from the Spotland & Falinge ward. Another one will be carried out in January 2020.

Residents queried matters with GMP including:

- What happens to vehicles which are seized? GMP advised the vehicle is taken to their compound and a fee is payable for its release (£150 + £25/day) on the proviso there is a valid insurance certificate. If not collected in 28 days the vehicle is crushed.

- Could there be a policy drawn up to fine those people whose irresponsible activities cause fires to start on the moors? Oldham Council were fining people recently in the spate of fires started upon Saddleworth Moor. Councillor Gartside advised he would be in support of this action.
- **Edenfield Road speeding and parking issues**
GMP clarified the extent of what measures can be undertaken including requesting ANPR cars to patrol areas and monitoring equipment to be placed on the road by the Council. Parking Wardens can issue tickets and GMP can get involved in any obstructions. Areas of concern can be reported to either the Council or GMP via their websites.
Action 1: The Chair advised he will raise the matters with an associate who collates statistics on non-injury accidents, etc. and report back to the forum.
- **Shawfield Lane speeding and parking issues**
Residents requested assistance from Councillors and GMP concerning speeding on Shawfield Lane stating that 20 mph speed restriction signage that used to be situated at the top of the lane doesn't exist anymore. GMP advised they would add the area of concern on to their list of locations for future speed initiatives. Councillors advised that they will ask Highways about replacement signage. Other suggestions included making the road wider to improve parking provision near to the school by removing grass verges and also changing the road to one-way.
Action 2: The Chair advised he will raise the matters with PC Giblin regarding a speed initiative and Councillors will escalate the signage request to the Council's Highways Department.

4. WARD FUND

The Chair advised the forum that the two primary aims at the moment are the need for additional CCTV to be installed on Edenfield Road and the deer fencing to be installed on Ashworth Road. The Norden Area Forum Sub Group will meet early January 2020 to discuss 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 any proposal in more detail.

5. FURBARN LANE - UPDATE

Pat Tough from Rochdale and Bury Bridleways Association attended the forum to advise on the issue of Furbarn Lane and its status, as it is currently not on the Rights of Way Register nor is it recognised as a footpath/bridleway due to the fact it is classed as an unadopted track. Members of the association have been working hard gathering evidence of its historic usage in support of the application, gaining statements and maps and working alongside J. Simpson from the Council to prepare the case which needs to be made before 2026 to get it on the definitive map. They also asked the attendees to advise them of any other tracks which may need to be highlighted to them so they can advise the Council's Highways Department. The Chair of the forum informed members of his work to secure a barrier with a pedestrian access gate to be installed on Furbarn Lane to prevent fly-tipping along the route, which has been approved via the National Grid. Approximate date for installation is in six months.

6. ROOLEY MOOR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Alan Rawsterne from Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF) attended the meeting to give an update. He advised that although the group's efforts had previously been working towards the Neighbourhood Plan in order to protect the local history, greenspace and views including putting the decommissioning of the windfarm on the inspector's radar; at the point of going to the external examination the trustees decided not to proceed. This decision was due to lack of support from a small but vociferous group of local residents. In addition, there are indications from a report by the Local Government Association that Local Plans are not accorded the weight which they were intended to, in local planning matters. RMNF has, however, received several compliments from other forums on how well they formulated their initiative and can now be a model for other area's future plans.

7. FRIENDS OF THE MOORS UPDATE

The significance of this group is to bring together people from the local neighbouring areas of Rochdale, Rossendale, etc who are passionate about protecting the moors. Anyone who is interested in this initiative can get further information from the Chair.

8. VILLAGE WINTER EVENTS

Norden Christmas lights switch on was a fantastic event attracting around 1500 people. In attendance was GMP who were glad to be involved. Villagers and friends enjoyed an evening of entertainment including Christmas markets, music, food and drink stalls, choir singing and also a visit from The Grinch. Monies raised went to local good causes including the NSPCC.

The Chair gave thanks to Paul Ellison and congratulated him on his award of Rochdale Man of the Year along with Ray Smith, Chair of Pennines in Bloom.

St Paul's will be holding the usual Christmas Fair (weather dependant) along with a small gathering of residents to sing carols at Norden recreational ground on Thursday 12 December 2019 at 7pm where there will be mulled wine, mince pies and music from the Salvation Army band.

9. COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Councillor Winkler

No update.

Councillor Gartside

Councillor Gartside reiterated the need for support for the opposition to the Bamford Hall planning application as mentioned earlier, stating that even if people had previously submitted objections to submit them once again as it will in effect be treated as a new application.

He advised there is a new home watch scheme being started in the new Greenbooth estate area and he urged residents to support this initiative and get involved as much as they are able. The Chair agreed with Councillor Gartside and invited members of the new scheme to attend the Norden PACT meetings in the village.

The Mayor's Big Service will be held at St John's Church, Rochdale on Sunday 15 December 2019 at 3pm and the event is an open invitation to all in the borough.

A Councillor's surgery will be held on Saturday 15 December 2019 at 10am in St Paul's Parish Hall, Norden and then at 11am at Jericho Church, Birtle.

Councillor Holly

The objection period is now closed for the traffic regulation order for Elbut Lane/Bury and Rochdale Old Road. One objection has been received and as the location is between the Heywood and Rochdale Townships, the matter will need to be heard at both committees.

Results of the recent beat survey by local Ward Councillors and officers from the Highways Department will be available to residents in the near future.

10. OPEN FORUM

Greenbooth Village developer/drainage issues

Residents attended to raise their concerns with Councillors and the Council regarding their newly purchased homes in the Greenbooth Village Estate, situated on the former Rainshore Mill site off Overtown lane, off Edenfield Road. They have experienced severe drainage issues including wet, sinking gardens and also the public open space in the area has a series of open drains showing visible effluent. The developer has been contacted on several occasions in an attempt to address their issues, but the residents feel they are not being fully heard and they are still waiting for assistance.

Residents requested Councillors seek assistance from the Head of Planning at the Council to both ensure all the planning conditions have been adhered to and also to try and secure a meeting with Russell Homes, the builder, in an attempt to rectify their problems and to be held to account.

The Council's Highways Department have already inspected the site and an officer stated:

An engineer has visited the site and it would appear that there are land drainage issues with the fields at a higher level than the houses/gardens, water is therefore running off the fields into the gardens. With this in mind, it is not something the Council would have any influence, it would appear to be a private matter between the residents and the developer. I have asked for the road drainage to be checked and this is installed as approved and we do not anticipate any issues on the Highway.

Action 3: Councillors will escalate the request to the Council's Planning Department to try and arrange a meeting on site regarding the residents' issues.

11. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3 March 2020 at 7.00pm

Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road, Norden