

Public Document Pack

HEALEY AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday, 17 October 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Heakin and O'Neill and approximately 30 members of the public.

OFFICERS: I. Trickett, Greenspace Development and Countryside Manager, G. Finch, Township & Engagement Officer, PC Harvard and PCSO Vohra.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Wazir and 6 members of the public.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

236

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and reminded Forum members of the need to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the duration of the meeting.

The Forum was informed that the running order of the published agenda would be slightly amended as follows:

- item 2 – Greater Manchester Police including PACT meeting.
- Item 3 – Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
- Item 4 – Common and Pond Working Group Update
- Item 5 – Open Forum

Apologies had been received from six residents and Councillor Wazir.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING (START AT 6.30PM)

237

PC Harvard and PCSO Vohra attended the meeting for this item.

The following incidents had been reported since the last Area Forum meeting:

Burglary 4 + 4 attempts

Theft from motor vehicle 6 + vehicle interference issues

Theft of motor vehicle 1

Criminal damage / Anti-social behaviour – Patrols have been undertaken at various locations and times including the cattle grid area that was identified as a hot spot area at the last meeting. Incidents identified from these visits is very low with little evidence available to pursue prosecutions.

GMP Surgey's are being held at Tesco Express on a monthly basis. This will be advertised via social media links.

GMP are preparing to hold a community speed watch event in the Ward – residents are welcome to attend. Anyone interested should contact PC Harvard on 17397@gmp.police.uk

Residents raised the following issues:

- A resident informed the Forum of the Shawclough and Healey Facebook page that had been introduced to assist the community to become aware of criminal activity in the area. GMP commented that they are aware of this facility, however it was stressed that it is not a GMP site and any incidents must be reported to the Police on 999 – 101 or the live chat facility.
- It was commented that the 101 and live chat reporting facilities are poor and significant improvements need to be made.
- A resident described a serious assault on the moors and requested that GMP has more of a presence in the area. It was explained that there are logistical problems of attempting to police an area of this nature, the moors cover a number of police jurisdictions, accessibility can be a problem and land ownership can vary. However GMP will attempt to raise their profile in the area where possible.
- Residents are still experiencing problems with off-road bikes.

It was agreed the Forum priorities over the next three months will be – Burglary – Moorland visits (beyond Pot House Lane) – Anti-social behaviour.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

238

Sheila Acton was appointed Chair.

John Kennedy was appointed Vice-Chair.

COMMON AND POND WORKING GROUP UPDATE

239

Ian Trickett, Environmental Management attended the meeting for this item.

The update provided to the Forum can be accessed via the link below:

<http://democracy.rochdale.gov.uk/documents/s68990/Syke%20Pond%20Cronkeyshaw%20Common%20Update.pdf>

It was also explained to the Forum that a quote (£6420) had been received in connection with the repair of the footpath that had recently been subject to a number of thefts of flags from the area. It was agreed that £3000 could be used from Ward Funds to support this initiative, £3000 would be sought from delegated approval via Councillor O'Neill and Environmental Management would make a contribution of £420.

The Forum was also informed that a camera had recently been installed at the Base in an attempt to combat thefts in the area.

A resident also commented about the poor condition of the Coptrod Play Area.

In response to this it was explained that a detailed examination of all play areas will be taking place going forward.

OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN THE WARD (START AT 7PM)

240

Residents raised the following issues:

1. A pot hole has appeared on Dell Road. It was commented that this is being dealt with.
2. The steps at Waigap Rise / Stoneyheys require attention as they are overgrown with weeds.
3. Trees are overhanging onto the footpath on Syke Road. It was commented that the trees are on private land.
4. Hazelgrove Farm is now occupied.
5. A resident asked if the Public Space Protection Order is likely to be reviewed as a result of the dispersal of beggars / homeless people from the Town Centre into other areas.

It was commented that this dispersal has been managed and planned and offers those in need of support access to services.

6. The Story of Christmas will take place at Syke Chapel on Thursday 19 December.
7. A resident asked if the thirteen trees that had not taken when planted would be replaced. It was commented that Environmental Management had agreed to do this.
8. A discussion took place about the availability of dog waste bags.
9. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of installing a notice board onto the Common, close to Syke Base. The cost of this installation would be sought.
10. A resident commented that a traffic survey was undertaken on Shawclough Road recently.

UPDATES ON ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

241

Updates provided:

1. The steps at Waingap Rise are in a dangerous condition – No progress
2. Shawclough Road re-lining / re-surfacing – The work is planned for October.
3. Bentley Street Traffic Calming – Work completed.

MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS

242

The Forum was informed that at the commencement of the meeting the following funds were available:

Ward Funds - £7344

Councillor Heakin - £290

Councillor O'Neill - £1750

Councillor Wazir - £1750

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2019

243

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Thursday 22 August were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS AGENDA ITEMS

244

The Forum was informed of the following:

1. The following issues had been reported:
 - White goods which are for sale are still being stored on the pavement outside a shop on Whitworth Road.
 - Signs advertising a coffee morning have been secured to a tree at Horse Carrs. It is understood this has been resolved.
 - The trees at Hawley Green / bus shelter on Shawclough Road are overgrown and require cutting back. It is understood this has been partially completed. The bushes outside number 16 still require attention.
 - The triangular piece of land at the junction of Dell Road / Shawclough Road requires cutting. It is understood this has been resolved.
2. Lighting columns 35 – 22 – 12 will be used to facilitate the speed survey on Dewhirst Road.
3. Grit Bin – Pot House Lane / Dewhirst Road has been installed
4. The land at Ironwaters that had been identified for the placement of a litter bin is not Council owned, therefore it cannot be used. As an alternative it was suggested that a litter bin be placed on Council owned land nearer to Syke Base.
5. No response had been received regarding the request from Highways to undertake a speed survey on Whitworth Road.
6. Two new litter bins will be installed close to Shawclough Stores. The concrete bins currently in place will be removed. Councillor Heakin has agreed to fund this.

COUNCILLORS' NEWS

245

The following issues were raised:

1. 70% of Primary Schools have signed up to the 'Dippy' exhibition.

2. South Parade is currently being transformed to match the area around the river.
3. Drake Street is being targeted to increase residential accommodation in the area.
4. Rochdale Town Hall has featured on a number of television programmes recently – Peaky Blinders – World on Fire.

Peaky Blinders Tours and Ghost Tours are also available at the Town Hall.

5. A masterplan for the Station Gateway is nearing completion. This will be looking to improve traffic management in the area, provide additional car parking, improve station facilities and increase residential occupancy.
6. In response to a comment concerning the demise of the market it was acknowledged that the Council's plan for the area had not materialised as expected. It was commented that a trader has now taken responsibility for the initiative.
7. Because of damage being caused to flags on the Common, adjacent to Joy Street the cost of introducing a timber knee rail would be sought.
8. In response to a question about drones, residents commented that they had not seen any increase of use in the area. Additional information in respect of the use of drones can be found on the Civil Aviation Authority web site.
9. Consideration is being given to the introduction of a power supply to the triangular piece of land at the junction of Dell Road / Shawclough Road.

NEWS FROM PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND SYKE COMMUNITY BASE

246

The following issues were reported:

1. Syke Base has been successful in acquiring funding from two sources. The financial support received will be used to employ staff to run additional courses and seek additional funding opportunities.
2. A roast dinner will be served at the Base on Sunday 20 October at 12 noon. A £4 donation will be requested.
3. An Autumn Fair will be held at the Base on Saturday 19 October – 11am till 1pm.
4. Rochdale Ramblers will be having a litter pick in the area on Saturday 16 November – 10am till 12 noon.
5. A Beaver Group has recently started at the Base.
6. The Base received £300 from last year's Mayor.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

247

6th February 2020, commencing 6.30pm at Syke Base.

Minute Item 239

Syke Pond and Cronkeyshaw Common Update

Healey Area Forum October 2019

Syke Pond

- Environment Agency approvals obtained for moving fish out of the pond to enable it to be drained down. Health of fish stock checked to ensure we are not transferring fish diseases from 1 water body to another. Circa 8,000 fish removed by contractor at two netting sessions, mostly small rudd an inch or two long
- Drain down carried out by Rangers. Consultants Bradshaw, Gas and hope attended and carried out survey of the pond structures Friday 20th September. Full structural Survey Report provided by them to Council 7th October. Ian Trickett forwarded that to Ward Councillors and Cronkeyshaw Common working group the same day for information. Main items from the report:
 - Wall constructed large format concrete blocks, some with hollow concrete blocks at ontop and then the stone paving to give a more heritage appearance.
 - Mortar between blocks and between blocks and the paving has failed over the years due to repeat freeze – thaw of water. The depth of some of the mortar is a real problem. The coping stones vary greatly in depth and therefore so has the mortar. When a really deep layer of mortar fails that causes large scale movement in the coping stones
 - Obviously the area that collapsed suffered worst erosion of mortar but other areas are also problematic. It is recommended that areas not rebuilt to be monitored every 2 – 3 years
 - Multiple small repairs visible that have been carried out over the years but now needs major intervention
- A survey of the drains into and out of the pond is under way. This will require mechanical digging into the Common. Controlling the water into and out of the pond is required to ensure damage isn't caused to the wall structure / path around the pond. If water is pooling behind the pond retaining wall in the grassed area this can damage the structure as well.
- We have also carried out a topographical survey so we know ground levels / pond level / water in pond level and this will inform drainage works required and how the pond wall structure will be designed / built to ensure flow of water from the ground into the pond.
- Next step will be drawing up a specification of works and getting that out to tender. Because of the financial value of work we can't just go and get three quotes and crack on with the work. It needs to be a formal tendering process via the Council's procurement partner "star procurement" and that process normally takes 2 – 3 months until contract is awarded
- After that we will be dependent on lead in time of the selected contract. Paul Harris (Project Manager, Capital Projects), will manage the project implementation. He will be providing a timeline for the project very shortly but I would anticipate we would be looking at works starting February 2020.
- We can't give a definite completion date at this stage because there are too many factors beyond our control – how long star procurement take, how long lead in time is for selected contractor and weather: obviously at that time of year the weather can have a major impact on ability to carry out groundworks

Other Cronkeyshaw Common update:

- Quote obtained to remove the incongruous pink play area surfacing that forms part of the garden near Syke pond, soil up and lay turf. Gerard Proudman has agreed to fund from his parks budget code. Order raised with contractor and we are now awaiting him to start work
- Over the next month a draft management plan for the whole of Cronkeyshaw common will be completed and this will be put out to consultation with local residents, Ward Councillors etc. This will include project proposals to improve the Common whilst retaining its unique character e.g. selective tree planting to improve the quality of tree stock, replace trees lost over previous decades etc, areas for creating wildflower meadows etc. After consultation is complete the plan will be amended to take into account views raised and then Council and Cronkeyshaw Common working group will start the hard work of getting funding to enable works to be undertaken.
- Group would like to start a Cronkeyshaw Common volunteer group who can get their hands dirty and work with Council on tree planting, gardening etc projects. If anyone is interested they should e-mail michael.buczman@rochdale.gov.uk or tel 01706 922076
- The group will be nominating a member to provide a brief report to future area forums but if anyone wants to get more involved in the working group – attend meetings etc they should again contact Michael. Michael is one of my team and will be taking on the management of the wider Cronkeyshaw Common project but I will stay on as Client role for the Syke Pond specific project – ensuring the project is delivered in a timely manner and achieves everything that the funding allows / what our priorities are and that Members / Area Forum, Cronkeyshaw Common working group are kept fully up to date.
- Michael has found source free trees (whips, not full grown) which is the Woodland Trust. One of the Cronkeyshaw Common working group will be working with Michael on getting hold of those – probably looking at a spring planting time, by which time hopefully we will have community consensus what trees need to be planted where on the Common.