

# Public Document Pack

## LITTLEBOROUGH AND WARDLE COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday 17 December 2019  
Littleborough United Reformed Church, Victoria Street,  
Littleborough

### MINUTES

**Present:** Ian Jackson (in the Chair) and approximately 15 members of the public

**Councillors:** Councillors Besford, Dearnley, Emsley, Hartley, Paolucci and Taylor

**Officers:** Tracey Knight (Rochdale Borough Council), PC Lucas McGregor, PCSOs Alan Shaw and Katie Hughes (GMP)

**Apologies:** 3 members of the public

#### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

#### 2. PACT - GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

PC Lucas McGregor, Neighbourhood Beat Officer for Littleborough, introduced himself and gave the following updates.

#### Crime figures for the last quarter

##### Wardle and West Littleborough

Criminal damage	9	Previously	13
Burglary dwelling	9	Previously	4
Burglary (other than dwelling)	1	Previously	3
Theft of motor vehicle	5	Previously	5
Theft from motor vehicle	9	Previously	11

##### Littleborough Lakeside

Criminal damage	8	Previously	7
Burglary dwelling	8	Previously	4
Burglary (other than dwelling)	5	Previously	2
Theft of motor vehicle	8	Previously	9
Theft from motor vehicle	14	Previously	1

ASB – 29 incidents reported across the two wards; five of which were youth related.

Littleborough Dispersal Order was introduced in response to a number of thefts and ASB issues experienced by Sainsbury's supermarket. The store is working with GMP and Rochdale Borough Council (RBC) with regards to improving their security and minimising incidents.

The high frequency of road traffic accidents occurring on the A58 was discussed. The safety of this road needs to be a priority for GMP and RBC through the Road Safety Group.

A discussion took place about the impact on the traffic network and delays to motorists following a recent serious road traffic accident on the A58. It was explained that preservation of life is the first priority for Officers when attending such incidents followed by protecting the scene and identifying witnesses.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

#### **Action Updates**

##### **Action 1: Resurfacing Calderbrook Road**

Residents again expressed their concern regarding the road surface and the dangers this brings. Councillors have spoken with Highways Officers to insist that this road is a priority. Highways have advised that they will look at the programme and make some suggestions to Ward Councillors to help prioritise both sections of this road for resurfacing. Highways will report to Township and look to include both sections.

##### **Action 3: Littleborough ASB and crime**

PC McGregor met with a resident and spoke with her at length about the ongoing issues and the challenges that the Police face when trying to prosecute juvenile offenders. The resident was reassured that the Police are aware of the incidents and steps are being taken to tackle the issues.

##### **Action 5: Dog bags**

Environmental Management has confirmed the Council no longer provide dog bags.

##### **Action 6: Surface issue on Hare Hill Road**

Highways response – We are aware of the repair outside the new development and currently work is ongoing concerning a solution for this area. Our drainage engineer is going to be carrying out work in the near future. We will continue to monitor it.

### **4. COUNCILLORS UPDATES**

**Approved funding updates:** The Nightbus - Drag Queen Story Time at Littleborough Library; Welbeck Avenue grit bin; Wardle Christmas tree fence; Ribble Avenue tree work; Brookfield Drive ditch/watercourse clearance; Shore in Bloom Community Project; Wasp Mill Drive grit bin.

**Clean and Green Schemes:** Hollingworth Lake flagpole site; Top of Shore Road; Kirkstall Avenue to Sawley Avenue; Wildhouse Lane; Footpath off Wildhouse Lane; Ramsden Road.

**Other Councillor updates:** A bench has been installed in the bus shelter on Church Street; Missing street sign on Barnes Meadow has been replaced; New trees planted and new wood sculptures installed in Hare Hill Park; Dealing with unlicensed traders; Christmas Window Judging Competition (winner was Art of Interiors and runner up was Busy Beans Café); Lobbying First Bus regarding tickets being transferable; Gully cleaning; Clearance of vegetation from the rear of Brookfield Drive has been completed; Stone wall at Barkers Wood has been constructed; Grass verge at Alderbank; Work commencing to resolve the problems at St James Church, Wardle; Removal of a tree growing through the wall on Whitelees Road, Meeting with the history group to relocate some of the items to Wardle Library; St Andrew's School attending Wardle Library on a weekly basis thus helping to improve the use of the library as an important community facility in Wardle Village; Alderbank verge improvement work is ongoing; Shore flood improvement works completed; railings replaced; New street signs have been ordered.

Thanks were given to LEAF and the Friends of Hare Hill Park for their recently held festive community events.

## **5. OPEN FORUM**

### **Littleborough Flood Resilience Group update**

Work has taken place, by Liverpool University, The Environment Agency, Rochdale Borough Council and the Rivers Trust, to install monitoring equipment on Blackstone Edge. The group will take official handover of the equipment on 10 January 2020.

### **Littleborough Civic Trust (LCT) Group update**

Local developments are causing concern due to increased congestion, lack of infrastructure, etc. Developers and the Council's Planning Department came under heavy criticism for allegedly flouting the rules. Councillors explained the difficulties in retaining staff within this department and the number of current vacant posts.

A number of historic issues were discussed concerning the New Street development, all of which have been reported and have been dealt with.

LCT met with Homes England who have confirmed the process to consult with developers will be started afresh in April 2021 following due diligence checks.

A resident asked whether a decision was made regarding the necessity for an Environmental Impact Assessment for Hollingworth Road.

**Action 1: Advise resident of this decision (Councillor Besford)**

### **Save the Greenbelt Group update**

A newsletter has been produced covering the group's activities over the previous ten months. Further fundraising activities are planned for the New Year. Attendees were thanked for their support.

GMSF updates are not yet available. Residents asked for any new consultations to be more widely publicised and Councillors agreed that this needs to happen.

### **Littleborough's new school**

The plans to build a new school are still moving forward. Councillors are being kept up to date with progress.

### **Akzo Nobel**

Barry Cropper is challenging the Coal Authority regarding the mining records especially with reference to clay mines. A full update will be available on the Council's website as an appendix to the minutes.

### **Bus consultation**

Attendees were encouraged to complete the consultation which ends in January 2020.

### **Request for bollards**

A resident asked whether bollards could be installed on Hare Hill Road, opposite to Sainsbury's Local, near to the bus stop, to prevent illegal parking.

**Action 2: Establish whether this request for bollards is feasible (Tracey Knight)**

### **Church Street, Littleborough parking**

A discussion took place regarding the vehicles which park on the double yellow lines on Church Street, on the stretch of road near to the Post Office and taxi rank.

**Action 3: Request additional parking enforcement (Tracey Knight)**

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10 March 2019

**Rochdale East**

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Email [rochdaleeast@gmp.police.uk](mailto:rochdaleeast@gmp.police.uk)

Facebook [GMPRochdaleEast](#)

Twitter [@gmprochdaleeast](#)

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Police non-emergency calls 101

Emergency calls 999

**PC Lucas McGregor**

Email: [lucas.mcgregor@gmp.police.uk](mailto:lucas.mcgregor@gmp.police.uk)

# Minute Item 5



The Coal  
Authority

Resolving the **impacts** of mining

## **Statement – Akzo Nobel site, Littleborough, Rochdale**

A spokesperson for the Coal Authority confirmed that in its role as a statutory consultee in the planning process, its planning team has been providing responses to the local planning authority about this site since 2012.

He added: “We utilise coal mining legacy information that has been lodged with us or our predecessor bodies. In addition to specific records of historic coal mining activity, our bespoke GIS based system also accounts for locations where unrecorded probable shallow coal workings are likely to have taken place, based on the presence/depth/quality/quantity of coal resources and the methods of working practices adopted over the centuries.

“Our remit within the planning system lies as a statutory consultee dealing with the risks posed to developments by past coal mining activity. We do not provide responses in relation to the extraction of other minerals, such as clay, for which we have no statutory responsibility and no associated records.

“Our current records for this site indicate the presence of two mine entries. Both of these have been treated to recognised industry standards and our previous comments noted that the development layout had been designed to avoid these features. On the basis of the information we previously reviewed we raised no objection to the development as proposed.

“Mr Cropper provides annotated letters from the planning teams records which he says, indicates that information was withheld in the formal response back to the local planning authority. We have reviewed the information he supplied and can see where the misunderstanding may have come from.

“The mining information team clarified and amended a misconception around the existence of the ‘Upper mountain’ seam. Our research of the area leads us to believe the seam is present under the site. However, it is quite thin and we believe this would have made it uneconomical to have been mined.

“Having reviewed this letter it would appear that the response amended a misconception in light of technical advice received from our Mining Information Team, who are specialists in understanding geological data.

"This was corrected retrospectively and is not the authority redacting any data. We do not have any records or evidence of workings in the Upper Mountain Seam beneath this site. The seam thickness is likely to suggest it would have been uneconomical to have been mined. However, the un-worked seam is highly likely to be present.

"Our statutory role is to provide advice to local planning authorities as the decision makers. We expect planning authorities to ensure that applicants demonstrate that sites are safe and stable for proposed developments. This may result in them asking for a coal mining risk assessment in the first instance and if necessary, asking for additional information, including the carrying out of intrusive site investigations."

Ends.....