

MILKSTONE AND DEEPLISH AREA FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, 10 February 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Zaman and approximately eight residents.

OFFICERS: PS Shirazi, PC Waqas, PCSO Hussain, PCSO Beever, PCSO Tilley, M. Reynolds (Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Officer) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Brett and Councillor Zaheer, the Chair of the Forum and two members of the public.

INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES/CODE OF CONDUCT

165

Because of the absence of the Chair at the meeting the Vice Chair of the Forum (Ahmed Nawaz) managed proceedings.

Everyone was welcomed and reminded of the need to adhere to the code of conduct for the duration of the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Brett and Zaheer, the Chair of the Forum and two members of the public.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING

166

PS Shirazi, PC Waqas, PCSO Hussain, PCSO Beever and PCSO Tilley attended the meeting for this item.

The forum was informed of the following issues:

1. Inspector Yasin has taken over as the new Inspector for the Town Centre and Milkstone and Deelish Area.
2. A 47 year old man has been arrested on suspicion of 15 counts of theft and burglary.

In response to a question GMP stated that they are informed when a prisoner is released from prison and moving into the Ward.

3. Police Surgery dates – 21 February 10.00 – 12.00, 6 March 15.00 – 17.00 and 13 March 10.00 – 12.00

All the above will be at The Annex, Castlemere Street

It was asked if consideration can be given to having police surgeries on other days as all the ones advertised are Fridays?

4. GMP are supporting Safer Internet Day on the 13 February (#SaferInternetDay).
5. Town Centre Officers have been supporting the Samaritans by placing Samaritan posters at locations associated with suicide in Rochdale. The

posters are designed to reach out to those in need of support. The Samaritans can be contacted free of charge on 116 123

6. GMP Officers are working in conjunction with British Transport Police on the 9 March as part of a knife crime initiative.
7. Neighbourhood Police Officers are aware that vehicle and associated anti-social behaviour is a problem in the Ward. It was reported that five stolen vehicles were picked up last weekend and in the last 12 months 159 have been located.

It was also commented that many vehicles stolen from elsewhere are abandoned in Milkstone and Deeplich.

In response to a question GMP acknowledged that forensics were undertaken on stolen cars

Residents made the following comments:

- 1 It is good to see more police officers on the beat
- 2 Have GMP visited schools in the Ward?

In response GMP commented that by the next Area Forum all primary schools would have been visited.

- 3 Following a brief discussion concerning police resources it was stated that attempts are being made to set up Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Ward. Residents were encouraged to sign up to these initiatives.
- 4 A residents asked why prosecution rates are low.

In response GMP Officers stated that they put a lot of time and effort into collecting evidence, however it was the Crime Prosecution Service who had ultimate responsibility for securing a conviction.

- 5 Drug dealing and general anti-social behaviour is a problem on King Street South adjacent to the rear the Church
- 6 In response to a question GMP acknowledged that begging was a problem in the Ward and that any incidents should be reported.
- 7 A resident reported that car registration plates are being stolen.
- 8 In response to a question GMP stated that a hub in the Ward would only be possible if funding was available.

OPEN FORUM

167

Residents raised the following issues:

1. It was asked what the Council's Policy was on providing electric charging points for cars?
- 2 It was asked if Mosques could do more to alleviate parking problems / congestion by asking those attending at prayer times to use car parks.
- 3 Arundell Street regularly suffers from littering.

In response to this a general discussion took place in connection with littering / fly tipping problems within the Ward. Although Environmental Management and Rochdale Environmental Action Group do what they can it was agreed that residents and the community in general should be more proactive in dealing with issues of this nature.

- 4 A resident asked what is happening at the site of the former Weavers Arms.
- 5 A resident raised concerns about the lack of youth provision in the area.
- 6 Following a general discussion about attendance at the Forum it was agreed that Rochdale Council of Mosques should be contacted to promote Area Forums.
- 7 In response to a question the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Officer commented that all issues linked to his area of work which had been raised will be reported. He also commented that six deployable cameras had recently been purchased to assist with evidence gathering. However 52 requests had already been received for the siting of these cameras.
- 8 In response to a question it was confirmed that funding is in place for the installation of bollards on Tweedale Street.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

168

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Monday 4 November 2019 were approved as a correct record.

The following updates were provided:

1. Funds have been agreed to install a grit bin adjacent to the play area on King Street East.
2. The appropriate Councillor will be asked to attend the Area Forum meeting in June to inform residents of the regeneration plans to the Rochdale Railway Station area.
3. Attempts will be made to identify a representative from the Stoneyfield Park Friends Group to attend the meeting to discuss future aspirations for the park.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

169

Councillor Zaman reminded residents of Ward Councillor Surgery details:

- First Saturday of each month – 10am – 11am at Deeplish Community Centre.
- Third Saturday of each month – 10am – 11am at Castlemere Community Centre.

No appointments are necessary.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

170

Monday 1 June 2020, commencing 6.30pm at Castlemere Community Centre