

# **BAMFORD AND OAKENROD AREA FORUM**

**Monday 20 January 2020  
Bamford Chapel, Norden Road, Rochdale**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** I. Sturrock (Chair) and twenty five members of the public

**Councillors:** Angela Smith and Pat Sullivan

**Officers:** Rochdale Borough Council: S. Hay (Township) and GMP: PC Giblin and PCSO Renshaw

**Apologies:** Councillor Jane Howard and two members of the public

### **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

### **2. CODE OF CONDUCT**

A copy of the code of conduct was circulated with the papers and all were asked to abide by the code for the duration of the meeting.

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

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 28 October 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and the following updates were given.

#### **Burnthorpe Close with Murrayfield junction road surface and Martlet Avenue resurfacing**

All the Highways issues were reported and inspected as part of Highways Day of Action (Martlet Avenue, Burnthorpe Close with Murrayfield, Jowkin Lane with Norden Road). Concerning the numerous faults reported following the resurfacing of Martlet Avenue, defect notices to the contractor were applied. The contractor is aware of all outstanding areas where remedial works will be required and they will reinstate these areas in the Spring season as the application process is weather dependent and cannot now be re-applied in the winter season. The works carry a two year guarantee period in which the contractor will carry out any necessary repairs to Highways satisfaction or completely resurface at their own expense.

The blocked gullies were also listed as defects, passed to the contractor to investigate and cleared. A further back sweep programme of all micro asphalt areas was completed at the expense of the contractor.

#### **Overgrown hedges**

Environmental Management Enforcement Officer, Mick Ball, visited the addresses on Northdene Drive and confirmed the hedges were overhanging and obstructing the highway for pedestrian use. He wrote to both property owners under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 giving them fourteen days to cut the hedges back to the property boundaries. If this work is not carried out within the timescale, the property owners would be issued a further Notice that if the hedges are not cut back then Rochdale Council will undertake the work under default and charge the property owners. There is no action he can take concerning the burnt out hedge on Greenvale at Norford Way which

is an eyesore as is not obstructing the highway.

### Malvern Street West closure

Conflicting advice has been obtained about the closure of Malvern Street West to prevent rat running, namely that the work had been ordered from the contractors versus the purchase of land necessary to complete was still outstanding. Highways will be asked to clarify the situation.

## 4. POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PC Martin Giblin and PCSO 71119 Becky Renshaw presented the crime statistics from the date of the last forum on 28 October 2019 to today's date and gave the following overview:

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Burglary residential	10	4	2	16 (19)
Opportunist burglaries offender(s) are using unknown implement to force entry via doors/sheds and outbuildings. Nine shed break ins mainly on Hinton Close and Birdy estate throughout the period. Primary times are 0000 – 0600 hours. Items stolen include power tools and jewellery.				
Community burglary	1	0	0	1 (3)
Similar MO as the residential burglaries, power tools and motor vehicle stolen.				
Criminal damage	0	1	1	2 (1)
Cars targeted with conflicting MOs at mainly evening times.				
Theft from motor vehicle	2	0	1	3 (5)
Primary target location is around Bamford Precinct and surrounding area. Prime time during the evening.				
Theft of motor vehicle	4	0	0	4 (0)
The Neighbourhood Team conducted plain clothes patrolling at peak times between 2200 – 0300 hours. In addition, the team have provided updates and crime prevention advice to the area via Home Watch coordinators, initiated additional Whats App Groups and GMP social media.				

## OVERVIEW

### Speeding

Serious concerns have been expressed due to speeding on Bury Road and Norden Road. Neighbourhood PCSOs conducted a speed watch on Bury Road on the afternoon of Saturday 18 January 2020. Approximately 118 vehicles checked with an average speed of 31.4 mph. Letters have been produced to be delivered to those over the 40 mph limit in that area. Officers have asked the community again for volunteers to carryout future Neighbourhood Speed Watches.

### Half Acre Lane

The Neighbourhood Team have conducted high visibility patrols on Roch Valley Way and through the Half Acre Lane where the no entry sign is located. These patrols have been at different times and days however no issues sighted whilst patrolling.

### Re-introducing surgeries

PC Giblin and PCSO Renshaw are re-introducing a surgery for the Bamford Ward with the first surgery being held on Thursday 20 February 2020 at Bamford Chapel 11am – 12pm. Also an afternoon surgery possibly at Tesco's is being considered.

### Pulse policing

Pulse policing is an operation where the police on night shifts as a whole team in Rochdale visit various different hot spot areas which may be having problems with issues such as ASB and burglaries, and to provide reassurance in the area.

\*\*Residents were reminded that due to the nature of the burglaries consideration should be given to changing their routines. In addition, review their home security, in particularly access points,

lighting, alarms and ensuring all keys are kept in a safe place\*\*

### **Home assessments**

Home assessments have been conducted around selected areas which were at high risk from the burglaries - mainly Birdy estate, Hinton Close and South View. The assessments consisted of providing homes with the opportunity to have the security of windows, doors and sheds upgraded free of charge through the Council.

### **Norden Road speeding**

A discussion took place about speeding on Norden Road. A resident was the victim in a very serious injury speed related Fail To Stop Road Traffic Collision at 1730 hours on Monday 23 December 2019 involving an alleged stolen motor vehicle on Norden Road which required him to be cut out of his vehicle by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service. He has since complained to Rochdale Council's Highways and MP Chris Clarkson about speeding on Norden Road, the design of the road and lack of preventative measures to deter speeding. MP Chris Clarkson visited with Norden Councillor Peter Winkler and he will be writing to Highways in a bid to find a solution. The victim of the Road Traffic Collision is of the firm opinion that given the varied types of speed humps and designs of physical preventative measures available, there should be some measures which are appropriate and approvable. Highways stated that the road is too narrow for chicanes and it is classed as a main arterial route so speed humps cannot be installed. The current broken interactive speed sign heading towards Norden is beyond repair and it would need to be replaced; a cost has been requested from Highways. The acquisition of a calibrated speed gun is still being investigated by GMP following a letter sent to the Divisional Commander by Councillor Sullivan. Department of Transport criterion for the introduction of static Speed Enforcement cameras was discussed.

Traffic Operation Considerate will take place in the area in February and March 2020.

## **5. WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT**

### **Hawthorn Road grit bin**

The burnt out grit bin on Hawthorn Road has been replaced.

### **Highways schemes**

Ward Councillors are increasingly concerned about the delay by Highways in carrying out schemes Members have funded. The funding has been agreed for most if not all of the below works and some of the delays are now over two years. Ward Councillors will chase up all these works and report back to the next Bamford and Oakenrod Area Forum on Monday 27 April 2020.

### **Malvern Street closure**

The funding and agreement with residents to close the end of Malvern Street onto Sandy Lane to prevent rat runs were obtained three years or so ago now. Residents contact the Ward Councillors frequently and attend the Bamford & Oakenrod Forum regularly to ask about progress. There have been two latest and contradictory updates; one that the Rochdale Council's Legal Services are still considering it and the other that the work has been ordered.

### **Footpath between Bury Road and Northdene Drive**

Horse riders using this footpath is the issue and the last update was Rochdale Council's Legal Services were considering it. This scheme has been going on for two years and residents and horse riders also attend the Forum to complain about the delay.

### **Norden Road bollard**

A bollard has been funded to be placed on the pavement on Norden Road near the Grapes Public House. Ward Councillors were informed that the contractors had agreed an appropriate placement area and the bollard had been purchased; after months there is no bollard and no update.

### **Traffic issues**

No progress has been made on the Traffic Regulation Order or the painting of yellow lines on the

corners of Spencer Lane, Arnside Drive and Wordsworth Way. Also there is one ordered for Springbank Lane, however, this is a more recent scheme.

In addition, there has been no progress on Traffic Regulation Order or painting of yellow lines at the bottom of Elbut Lane to prevent hospital staff using the main road as a car park. There is great urgency here as sight vision is impaired and traffic is blocked.

Two resident parking issue questionnaires are outstanding: one for Mansfield Road and one for Chadwick Hall Road.

Councillors have not yet had sight of a commissioned survey, in the possession of Highways, into the dangerous junction at Bury Road, Sandy Lane and Roch Valley Way. After years of petitions, letters, residents' complaints at the Forums, funding was provided over three years ago for a survey to be carried out by Highways and TfGM to investigate the junction to provide a safe pedestrian crossing.

## **6. OPEN FORUM**

### **Land at the old Butterworth Fold Farm**

A third planning application, reference number 19/00643/FUL, following two refusals, to build a house eight times the size of the average house on Green Belt land at the old Butterworth Fold Farm is not yet decided and there is no Planning Committee date set. Objections can still be submitted right up to the day of any Planning Committee. There are currently 90 public comments on the application with 74 of those being objections.

### **Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

The Spatial Framework is currently at a standstill and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has stated it is not his decision but that of all local Councils.

### **Council Recycling Centres**

The Council's decision to restrict the number of times residents can deposit items at the Council Recycling Centres was questioned with comments that it would increase fly tipping. Councillor Sullivan stated the matter was up for discussion at the next Full Council Meeting and she will object.

### **Martlet Avenue resurfacing**

The centre white lines have never been replaced following the resurfacing of Martlet Avenue. Highways will be asked to reinstate the lines.

### **Oulder Hill Shops**

Councillor Sullivan will meet residents at her next surgery to discuss parking and demarcations at Oulder Hill shops.

### **Bamford Precinct parking**

Parking at Bamford Precinct has worsened and the location is very often chronically congested. The area is privately owned and Rochdale Council has no powers whatsoever to control the car park.

### **Bamford Green**

A request will be made to have the old Bamford Christmas tree removed as soon as possible. Good news for Bamford Green is that Section 106 Planning monies from Butterworth Grange will fund the development of the back of The Green consisting of levelling off, clearance, installation of paths and a natural walking park area. The question of ownership of the road dissecting The Green into Bamford Mews was again raised. Conflicting advice has been given in the past as to whether the road is privately owned or not with some informed it is owned by Rochdale Council, so clarification will be sought. The Friends of Bamford Group continue to work hard and the group's Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 7.30pm in The Bowling Club.

### **Greenvale resurfacing**

Councillor Sullivan will arrange for the resurfacing of Greenvale to be placed on the list to be carried out.

Bamford Ward Councillors hold a surgery from 10.30am to 11.30am on the first Thursday of each month in Bamford Chapel, although they often go beyond 11.30am. Ward Councillors contact details are available on the Council website:

Councillor Jane Howard  
Telephone: 07870 172144  
Email: jane.howard@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Angela Jennifer Smith  
Telephone: 07710 297377  
Email: angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk

Councillor Pat Sullivan  
Telephone: 0161 762 1129 or 07967 985240  
Email: patricia.sullivan@rochdale.gov.uk

### **Rochdale Borough Council Officers:**

Stuart Hay, Township Officer  
Telephone: 01706 922230  
Email: stuart.hay@rochdale.gov.uk

Mick Ball, Public Realm Inspector  
Telephone: 01706 922634  
Email: mick.ball@rochdale.gov.uk

Mark Reynolds, Community Safety, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Officer  
Telephone: 01706 924979  
Email: mark.reynolds@rochdale.gov.uk

### **Greater Manchester Police**

PCSO Becky Renshaw  
Email: 71119@gmp.police.uk

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

Mondays at 6.30pm in Bamford Chapel  
27 April 2020  
20 July 2020  
12 October 2020