

## **SPOTLAND AND FALINGE AREA FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday, 5 March 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Cocks, Massey and Rana and 21 members of the public.

**OFFICERS:** PC Jones, PCSO Robinson, L. Wardle (Enforcement Officer) and G. Finch (Township & Engagement Officer)

#### **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

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

#### **GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE INCLUDING PACT MEETING**

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PC Jones and PCSO Robinson attended the meeting for this item and informed the Forum of the following issues:

1. Theft from motor vehicle – Since the last Area Forum crime prevention patrol and awareness advice has continued in the affected areas due to a successful reduction of theft from vehicles. However the Ward has suffered from three theft's from vehicles which involved works vans and numerous tools being taken.
2. Residential burglary – GMP have recently been working with Rochdale Council's Burglary Crime Prevention Team in carrying out home visits in the areas affected by burglary, for example Falinge Road, Spotland Road and the Brotherod Estate.

Reported burglaries during January was 10; February 2 and March 0

If anyone would like a crime prevention home visit please contact PCSO Robinson.

3. Robbery on Greave – At the last meeting the Forum was informed of two taxi drivers that had been robbed on the Greave Estate. A male has been arrested who has now pleaded guilty and is on remand and awaiting sentence at Crown Court on the 24 March.
4. Bogus callers – Ravendale Close and Martin Lane areas have experienced bogus callers claiming to be from United Utilities and charity workers.

Patrols are in place at the times reported that the bogus callers have been in the vicinity.

Forum members were reminded to remain vigilant.

5. Anti-social behaviour

The areas around Spotland Methodist Church and Ravendale Close have seen a downturn in anti-social behaviour related incidents. Rooley Moor Road / Daniel Fold Junction and Denehurst Park are currently being monitored.

6. Vehicles seized – numerous vehicles have been seized in the Ward for a variety of reasons.
7. Speeding concerns throughout Spotland area – Since the last forum two Neighbourhood Speed Watch schemes have been undertaken on Rooley Moor Road and Prickshaw Village. More of these schemes will be organised and anyone who would like to assist should contact PCSO Robinson.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team are also investigating how they can acquire an official speed gun.

8. Drugs – A suspected drug dealer was arrested on Cutgate Road which resulted in a significant quantity of cash and drugs being recovered.

A cannabis farm has also been recently discovered in the Ward.

In both the above cases information from the public was vital in carrying out these arrests.

High visibility patrols are being conducted by the Neighbourhood Policing Team at drug dealing hotspots. Intelligence gathering also continues.

The following issues were raised by residents:

- A lock is required for the gate on Knacks Lane
- The mosquito recently installed is working.
- In response to a question it was confirmed that excessive exhaust noise is an offence.
- In response to a question it was stated that vehicles idling is not an offence.
- It was reported that a rider of a trials bike is causing anti-social behaviour on the Spotland Estate.
- In response to a question it was confirmed that it is illegal for child scooters to travel over 13 mph.

## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES**

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The minutes of the Area Forum meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2020 were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising / updates included:

1. The Forum agreed to Roger Heap joining the Forum's Sub-Group.
2. The Sub-Group had agreed to fund the installation of bollards adjacent to The Little Day Nursery – cost £530
3. The installation of bollards at the junction of College Road / Holmes Street is unlikely to go ahead.

4. The application in relation to the improvement of a gravel path from Caldershaw Road to Caldershaw Brook pathway will be going to the next Rochdale North Township Committee to seek funding.
5. The damaged traffic sign at the junction of Ings Lane / Phoenix Street has been reported.
6. The Traffic Regulation Order for Rooley Moor Road was agreed at Rochdale North Township Committee on the 16 January 2020.
7. The concerns raised regarding the poor lighting in the Meanwood / Churchill Street area has been reported.
8. A resident reported that the (old) speed activation sign on Rooley Moor Road is not working.
9. Concerns were raised about the cost of the newly installed speed activation sign on Rooley Moor Road. It was also asked if the sign recorded any data. This would be investigated.
10. Concerns were raised about footpath safety on Preston Street. A site visit would be undertaken.
11. A general discussion took place in connection to a response received from Rochdale Council concerning the TBA site. The response was as follows and was in reply to concerns raised by a resident:

*'All concerns regarding the site and the riverbank stability and further erosion have been passed onto the site owner's representatives. Photographs provided by residents have also been passed on. The Council has again asked that the site owner's representatives confirm what action is being taken to deal with this issue.'*

*'Due to the continued concerns being raised about riverbank erosion and the lack of response from the site owners, the Council is now looking at conducting some targeted investigation to understand and evidence the risk this erosion is having on the river quality and asbestos release to atmosphere. The Council has undertaken site visits and the targeted investigation is being scoped and planned. We will obviously make the results of all sampling and testing publicly available after appropriate analysis and interpretation.'*

*'Queries have been raised as to whether the Council owns the riverbank where the erosion is of greatest concern. Land ownership records have been checked and the land on the eastern side of the bank of the River Spodden is entirely within the curtilage of the TBA site (as is the majority of the embankment on the western side of the River Spodden with exception of a small stretch near to the weir). As such the Council believes the areas of erosion concerns are within private land ownership.'*

The general tone of the discussion was one of concern with reference being made to the following:

'The state of the site and erosion of the banking'

'The recent prosecution of a company by the Environment Agency for illegal tipping on the site'

'Updates are required on the Council's web page regarding the TBA site'

'More rubbish is being tipped'

'Can the Council undertake work and charge the owners?'

'What is the Environment Agency's role in this?'

'Is there an Emergency Plan in place?'

'Water course contamination'

### **MEMBERS/WARD FUNDS**

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The Forum was informed that all Members / Ward Funds for 2019/20 had been allocated and that it would possibly be June before 2020/21 budgets are known.

A list of the projects supported from Ward Funds during 2019/20 had been circulated prior to the meeting. However the list is as follows:

Rooley Moor Road to Catley Lane Head Speed Survey

Donald Clarke Memorial Concert

Stoney Hill Community Wildlife Area Information Board

Rooley Moor Road Litter Bins

Falinge Road Footway Improvement

Clement Royds Street Grit Bin

Rooley Moor Road Grit Bin

Edenfield Road / Churchill Street Bollards

### **COUNCILLOR UPDATES/NEWS**

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The following updates were provided:

Councillor Massey's newsletter can be accessed via the link below

Councillor Rana informed the forum that he has recently been involved in a number of financial management related initiatives aimed at looking at the possibility of freezing Council Tax in the future and attempts to change the formula used by Government when allocating funding.

Councillor Rana also encouraged residents to notify him of projects they would like to see in the Ward.

Councillor Cocks informed the forum:

1. That this would be her last forum as a Ward Councillor.

2. That she had been looking at safety concerns at Cutgate steps.
3. Of a scam roofer operating in the area.
4. That she had been involved in climate emergency plan work and a giving up smoking initiative.
5. That a great deal of positive work is going on in the Ward

The Chair of the Forum thanked Councillor Cocks for her hard work and commitment to the Ward.

### **OPEN FORUM - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMMENT ON ISSUES IN THE WARD**

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The following issues were raised:

1. A resident commented that a number of scrapped vehicles are at the rear of India Lounge on Spotland Road.
2. A resident thanked the Forum for the recent installation of litter bins and a grit bin in the Rooley Moor Road area and asked when the speed survey would be undertaken on Rooley Moor Road.

In response it was explained that all the funding has been agreed for the speed survey and we are waiting for Transport for Greater Manchester to undertake the work.

It was also commented that the footpath that runs along Rooley Moor Road to Catley Lane Head is in poor condition.

3. A resident informed the Forum:
  - Of a scam email professing to be from the Post Office being in circulation.
  - That the gates at Falinge Park will be closed for four weeks from the 16 March.
  - A number of Yorkshire flags are surplus to requirements at Falinge Park.
  - That a number of events over the year will be run at Falinge Park.
4. A resident commented that clarification was required with regard to the working relationship with Environmental Management when completing environmental projects.

### **DATES AND TIMES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

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The next Area Forum meeting will take place at Falinge Park Community Hub on Thursday 25 June 2020, commencing 7pm.