

BAMFORD WARD AREA FORUM

Monday 23 May 2022
Bamford Chapel, Norden Road, Rochdale

MINUTES

Present: K Smith (Chair) and sixteen members of the public

Councillors: Stephen Anstee, Angela Smith and Pat Sullivan

Officers: Rochdale Borough Council: S Hay (Township) and GMP: PC Tim McCluskey

Apologies: David Armbrister

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 Bamford Ward Area Forum held on Monday 28 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Norden Road interactive speed sign

The interactive speed sign that was repaired and replaced on Norden Road is not working again. Street lighting will be informed and asked to attend to it.

4. POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PC Tim McCluskey reported on the crime statistics from the last area forum to date.

- 10 burglaries, down slightly from 11. Hotspot areas of Bury Road, Norden Road and War Office Road.
- 25 vehicle crimes including thefts of and from, up slightly from 21. Offenders are targeting keyless vehicles and in particular Range Rovers and Land Rovers. Extra security measures are recommended such as Faraday pouches, steering locks or clamps.
- 20 criminal damages. Hotspot areas of Manchester Road and Highlands Road.
- 20 reports of anti-social behaviour and Public Order offences, down from 24. Hotspot areas of Bury Road, Brimrod, Marland and Sudden including Springfield Park.

Operation AVRO in Rochdale resulted in 64 offenders being arrested in a single day. The Neighbourhood Task Force has been running burglary operations throughout the night across the district including Bamford which will continue and extra patrols have been patrolling hotspot areas.

PCSO Kiran Kazmi is in the process of organising surgeries in Bamford.

PCSO Tracey Tynan is in touch will pubs in the area with the aim of setting up a Pub Watch

Meeting.

A positive result was published in last week's Rochdale Observer about the arrest of five offenders for stealing Range Rovers.

Some CCTV coverage showed offenders arriving in a stolen vehicle and using a device whilst kneeling at the side of the vehicle; stealing it within seconds.

It was asked whether speeding Operations had been conducted since the last forum. PC McCluskey confirmed Operations had been conducted with both calibrated and none calibrated speed guns, but not as many as he would have liked, which was due to operational demands and a high volume of Grade One Response Incidents. Speeding Operations will continue including in the evening. A fatal speed related Road Traffic Collision was highlighted by a friend of the deceased and questions asked whether fixed speed enforcement cameras could be installed. The strict Department of Transport National Criteria of three Killed or Serious Injury Road Traffic Collisions within three years for the installation of such cameras was outlined and this information is available on the Department of Transport's website.

It was asked if the public could report speeding vehicles to the Police and whether a speed restrictor could be legally installed on repeat offenders' vehicles. Confirmed they can be reported but that particular incident could not be prosecuted. It would however be treated as intelligence and the roads monitored for this vehicle. There is no powers for speed restrictors to be installed.

May 2022 edition of GMP Neighbourhood Newsletter was made available to all.

5. WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT

Thanks were expressed for the support received in the re-election of all Ward Councillors who are committed to serve the community and work as hard as they can.

Issues at the former High Birch School site are still ongoing and they are being dealt with. There is a determination to resolve all the issues through Planning and Regulation.

Speeding in the area, particularly Bury Road, remains a priority.

Working with the Empty Properties Team who are conducting an investigation into the red house on Broadhalgh Avenue in the Conservation Area. The property is in a complete state of disrepair and the intentions of the owners of the last 12 to 18 months are not known. It is believed to be a safety problem as youths are frequenting it. An application has been submitted for the building of two houses on the site. It was asked if the Council has the power to enforce on the owner to restore it. The Council does not have the power but Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act allows service of a notice requiring proper maintenance. Ward Councillors will work with any and all concerned residents.

The Council's Highways Service has been brought back in-house and there is currently a backlog in dealing with Traffic Regulation Orders. It is hoped that the new arrangement will see more common sense used. All residents are encouraged to report issues such as pot holes or poor road markings. Moorgate and Woodlands are being patched and they will be considered for resurfacing. Diseased trees will be removed and replaced.

Ward Councillors true to their pledge are opposed to Green Belt development and continue to work with the Bamford Green Belt Action Group.

Support is being given to the Police in bringing more surgeries to the area and it is also hoped to reinstate the Brimrod, Marland and Sudden Area Forum.

The Automated Traffic Signals at the junction of Bury and Rochdale Old Road and Queens Park

Road are not working this evening and the issue will be resolved.

Township projects are under consideration and updates will be provided as they develop.

6. OPEN FORUM

Norden, Bamford and Heywood Bridleways Association

Pat Tough and others have formed a new bridleway group called Norden, Bamford and Heywood Bridleways Association. Pat is the Chair of the group and read out the following:

'Thank you for giving me the opportunity to introduce our new bridleway group to you all. This is called Norden Bamford and Heywood Bridleways Association. We have a website and Facebook page and were recently in the local newspapers. A lot of you will know me, I am Pat Tough and Chair of the new group, with me is Gill Morrell from Norden who is the treasurer. I have been resident in Bamford my whole life and have ridden horses around here for more than 50 years. The group was set up to help improve our Rights of Way (ROW), by reporting any problems found, helping to keep them clear, and getting some of the tracks we all use to be correctly graded. For example there are quite a number of routes we use which are not on the definitive map. If these are tracks we ride or drive horses on we will look to get them classified as Bridleways to preserve their usage for future generations. If they are tracks that you use as footpaths we will be able to advise you on how to proceed to get them classified as footpaths again so they can be preserved for generations to come. Of course any tracks that become bridleways will also then be open to cyclists and pedestrians, and will help to keep all vulnerable road users off the ever increasingly busy and dangerous road. Although there are a good number of PROWs in this area, we are all aware of the potential loss of off road tracks due to new housing developments in the pipeline. In addition the cyclists and horse riders have to contend with quite a lot of road work to join up the existing ROWs as they are so disjointed. We would be working with the Rights of Way Officer in the Council, local Councillors and the local community to ensure any loss of existing routes by development are minimised or avoided completely. This is where the Councillors will be of particular help. The ROW network needs to be looked at as an entirety and working with neighbouring wards to preserve and enhance a joined up network is imperative. It should be remembered that horse riding is not, as is often perceived, the leisure activity of well off middle aged women. Often families sacrifice many things in order to participate in the activity and it is of real value to the youth of the area with many children with Special Educational Needs benefiting from the close bond that is made between rider and horse. I know that Bamford Chapel have been trying to get a pelican crossing here at the church and we want to add our support to that. This will be of even more importance if the proposed houses are built here on the side of Jowkin Lane. We have already said we want a Pegasus crossing to be installed so that everyone can cross safely, and will be pushing for this at the planning stage. We are also considering how we can make representation to the Public Inquiry on Places for Everyone to bring the importance of our Green Belt and off road Rights of Way Network to their attention. We want to work with the local community, Rights of Way Officer, other community groups and Councillors. We recently wrote to our Bamford Councillors asking for a meeting to discuss an issue, and look forward to meeting with them soon. If any of you want a chat after the meeting we are happy to oblige but we are looking forward to working with the community going forward for the benefit of all vulnerable road users. If you are a rider or just interested in horses or know any in the area who would like to join our association we will welcome you to contact us. Our website is www.nbhba.org.uk

Oulder Hill parking issues

Bill Brown reported that he is part of a group who are looking at parking issues in and around Oulder Hill, a topic given much discussion and documented at the last forum. The consultation referred to at the last forum was subsequently rejected by residents.

The group have held a meeting at St George's Chapel recently and asked the Ward Councillors not to be involved in this. The group reported that they did invite Rochdale Council's Leader Councillor, Neil Emmott, to be involved and attend the meeting, which they say he did. Circa 20 residents attended this meeting. The group are speaking with businesses and they have issue with plans for

a new Estate Agents and extension to the dentists both of which will see an increase in staff, customers and vehicles. The group are formulating their own ideas for a solution which they will present by agreement to the Council Leader.

Ward Councillors reiterated their offer to work with the group and all local residents in the area. They proceeded to update the forum with the detail and Highways thoughts following the completion of the consultation. There is a diverse set of views in the area on how best to resolve concerns including those who do not wish for anything to change. These can be difficult issues to resolve as the root cause is often both the volume of vehicles and the sheer amount of bad and often dangerous parking on the kerbs. Any scheme which simply moves the problem is not a solution they consider would be appropriate. It was stressed that where there are no parking regulations in place only the Police have power to enforce.

Lori Reid from the Bamford Green Belt Action Group approached workmen a couple of weeks ago who appeared to be surveying or inspecting the proposed development land on Green Belt. None of whom would speak with her or answer any questions. They were possibly employed by potential developers and not appointed independent inspectors as that is a longer process.

Council staff return to office

A discussion took place on when post Pandemic all Council staff would return to the office. Some staff have returned to the office and there is a hybrid working model. All agreed that the service level must be effective with the best productivity.

Rochdale Senior Citizens Forum

Rochdale Senior Citizens Forum is seeking to recruit new members amongst the over 60's who attend the area forums which due to recent losses are no longer represented in the group. The Senior Citizens Forum meets bi-monthly, currently on Monday mornings at Castleton Community Centre, to discuss issues arising at the area forums affecting older people, health matters and any other topic impinging on the wellbeing of older people. They are in communication with Council Leaders and services to seek solutions and alleviation. The details of anyone interested will be passed on and the Secretary of the group will contact them direct.

Road markings on Bury Road and overgrown hedges on Wordsworth Way

David Armbrister whose apologies were given asked for two points to be raised. Road markings are worn out on Bury Road at the junctions of both Roch Valley Way and War Office Road. This issue has been reported to the Council's Highways Service. Overgrown hedges on Wordsworth Way have been reported to the Council's Environmental Management Enforcement.

Bamford Ward Councillors hold a surgery from 10.30 am to 11.30 am on the first Thursday of each month in Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church.

Ward Councillor contact details are available on the Rochdale Borough Council website:

Councillor Stephen Anstee
Telephone: 07870 172144
Email: stephen.anstee@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 Behavior Officer
Telephone: 01706 924979
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Greater Manchester Police

PC Tim McCluskey
Telephone: 07393 782312
Email: timothy.mccluskey@gmp.police.uk

PCSO 72831 Kiran Kazmi
Telephone: 07814 072902
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PCSO 62960 Tracey Tynan
Telephone: 07393 286017
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7. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Meetings at 6.30pm in Bamford Chapel

Monday 15 August 2022

Monday 7 November 2022

Monday 27 February 2023