

ROYTON COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING
Monday 27 November 2017
6.00pm
Royton Town Hall, Rochdale Road, Royton

Minutes

Present	
Cllr H Roberts	Royton North
Cllr J Larkin	Royton North
Cllr C Phythian	Royton North
Cllr M Bashforth	Royton South
Cllr S Bashforth	Royton South
Cllr A Chadderton	Royton South
Matt Gilray	Oldham Council Regeneration Team.
Liz Fryman	R,S & C District Coordinator
Members of the public x 13	
Apologies	
NBO Paul Rainsford	Neighbourhood Police Team
NBO Craig Dickinson	Neighbourhood Police Team

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- Cllr James Larkin welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes of the last meeting for approval:

- Noted and agreed

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

3.1 Cllr James Larkin advised that the 402 Bus will be going along Newark Park Way from January 2018 onwards.

3.2 Cecil St is not a right of way itself but a number of other rights of way and bridleways meet Cecil St.

3.3 Church Lane – resurfacing will be considered for the remaining 2018/19 Highways funding, but the result of this will not be known until around April 2018.

4. Police Update:

The Police update was presented by NBO Rob Fitzgerald who was standing in for the Royton NBOs.

4.1 Police report – Violent crime rates look to have increased but this is due to changes to how reports are now categorised. The ‘violent crime’ category now includes issues such as stalking, cyber bullying.

4.2 HGVs are overnighting on Edge Lane Street once again – reports that there are some tonight with engines running. Fixed penalty notices can be issued. Rob will attend the site following the meeting.

4.3 A resident asked if the presence can be increased around Heyside – Rob talked about current operations that are happening now. Householders have been leafleted in this area regarding reducing crime.

Action 4.3: Cllr S Bashforth is already in contact with NBO Craig Dickenson to arrange a community meeting to discuss house burglary and car crime etc.

Action 4.4: Police will try to arrange a leaflet drop advertising the date and it will also be put on 'Heyside Watch' facebook page

5. Royton Regeneration – Royton Town Hall & Library

Matt Gilray from the Regeneration Team attended the meeting and discussed the plans that are being consulted on presently.

5.1 Q: There was a suggestion from the floor to put an orangery on the back of Town Hall building

A: Financial restraints restrict the possibilities and councillors have had to fight hard for resources we already have. Comments have been listened to by Matt Gilray, Regeneration Team, who are conducting the consultation.

5.2 Q: Residents asked what do we think the Library building will be used for?

A: We will have to wait for expressions of interest to be made when the tender goes out and decide what and who the tenant will be.

5.3 Q: Royton precinct – Can it be improved?

A: Not by Oldham Council as this is privately owned, but Cllrs are now working regularly with the owners.

5.4 Q: Why is the front entrance of the Town Hall not going to be used in the new design? A: Unfortunately due to a lack of space at the front to create disabled access, the entrance has had to be moved to the back. Having an entrance at the rear creates a better use of the square and connectivity with the health centre and the leisure centre, but Matt agreed to take suggestion back to the design team to look at as a second library entrance.

Action 5.4: Matt will take suggestion to have the front door as a second entrance back to the design team to look at.

5.5 Q: When will the old clinic site be marketed?

A: The site will be marketed over the next 6 to 9 months but in the meanwhile could the land be top soiled and seeded. *Matt will look into this.*

6. Councillor Updates:

Cllrs gave a flavour of the work they have been involved in since the last meeting:

Royton North:

Cllr H Roberts:

- Worked on the Christmas lights switch on, which was very successful.
- Thanks were given to staff in the District Team and volunteers from across the council who worked hard to make the event such a great success.
- Work has been ongoing at the Thornham Mill site to remove advertising boards.

Cllr J Larkin:

- Councillors have been working hard about the problems caused for residents due to application of Universal Credit and the way this is implemented in Oldham
- Work has continued in regard to the flooding issues at Firbank. An application is with Environmental Agency to remedy the problems.
- Dogford Road/Rochdale Rd junction – Work has now finished and the junction to be used as it was previously.

Cllr C Pythian:

- Working hard on the increasing level of casework.
- Cllr Pythian asked for help to promote the Veterans breakfast in Chadderton which takes place on the 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am – 1pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
- Meetings are continuing with Regeneration and the Precinct owners.

Royton South:

Cllr M Bashforth:

- Busy with case work
- Meeting with Regen and landlord of the precinct
- Overview and Scrutiny – Recent issues worked on are the Miocare commission and housing.

Cllr S Bashforth:

- Case work increasing - Questioned if this might be due to other services reducing
- Planning committee – many controversial issues. Cllr Bashforth discussed the white paper which demands the LA's increase the land available for housing which is proving very challenging.
- Heyside Christmas Festival – Sunday 3rd December 2017

Cllr Chadderton:

- Very busy with casework.
- All indications are that housing will be a major issue in the coming year
- Dealing with reports of speeding on Hibre Avenue plus other issues connected to Latics and 24-hour gym.
- Highways work: for example resurfacing of Holden Fold and the condition of St Phillips Drive

7. Public Questions

7.1 Q: There is an overflowing gutter and drainpipe with vegetation growing out of the gutter, on the Library side of the building.

A: Liz will ask Library staff to report.

7.2 Q: Although the Council does not run the buses, it does commission them, and so what can be done about unreliable services.

A: Cllr Hannah Roberts explained that consultation will be taking place regarding the recommissioning of bus services across Greater Manchester. TfGM is carrying out a consultation exercise to make recommendations to the GM Mayor on the best way of organising services in the future. Options being considered are an enhanced partnership or a bus franchising model which would give more control to the Mayor.

7.3 Q: Junction at Dogford Road – A resident reported that there is no visible traffic signal when approaching the junction from Rochdale and turning right, once in the middle of the junction.

A: Councillor Chadderton said that the functioning of the junction would be reviewed in the New Year

7.5 Q: Greyhound Pub – Traffic is still speeding on those roads to and from the mini roundabout.

A: On further discussion, the problem was not believed to be one of speeding, but more of poor driving. Residents were advised that people need to follow the highway code and drive accordingly.

Cllr Chadderton also reported that residents had reported speeding further up Netherhey Lane and that speed monitoring will be requested for this stretch.

7.6 Q: Are there any plans for Salmon Fields regarding flooding and speeding

A: No

7.7 Q: Is there going to be a right turn filter installed at the Middleton Road/High Barn St junction?

A: **Action 7.7:** James is organising a speed survey and will report back

7.8 Q: Fly tipping – a resident asked what can be done about it?

A: Residents were advised that flytipping can be reported to the council on the webpage or by phone on 0161 770 6644.

7.9 Q: Remembrance Sunday – residents reported not being able to hear due to much higher numbers and asked if a stronger PA system could be used?

A: **Action 7.9: LF to request a stronger PA system for next year from the Mayors' office**

7.10 Q: What is the progress on Tandle Hill memorial?

A: Cllr Roberts reported that there has been a meeting with Environmental Services and that it has been agreed the site will be tidied up and a plan put together for possible renovations to the monument.

Action 7.10: LF to check progress regarding the Tandle Hill monument with Environmental Services.

7.11 Q: Council Tax evasion – A resident quoted from a recent press article stating that Oldham had the 4th biggest percentage increase in the country for using private bailiffs/enforcement agents.

Note: These can be self-employed or who work for private companies, including as high court enforcement officers. It also includes cases where local authority employees have visited a property to execute a warrant.

A: Some of these are historic debts. People leave and become untraceable. Councillor Chadderton explained our current position and the Council is acutely aware of the issue. The transfer of 8,000 people onto Universal Credit compounds the problem and is a very complex issue.

7.12 Q: What percentage and amount of unpaid council tax has now been recuperated by the bailiffs'

A: Action: LF will obtain these figures for the next meeting.

7.13 Comment: There was extremely positive feedback from residents regarding Royton Christmas lights switch on which really brought the community together and was extremely well attended.

LF will pass on thanks to the team and all the volunteers who helped.

8. Any Other Business

Nothing to note

9. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 15 January 2018, 6.00pm at Royton Town Hall