

St Mary's Community Council

Date & time: Wednesday 23 January 2008 at 7.00pm

Venue: Salvation Army, Roundthorn Road, Oldham OL4 1YS

Present:

Chair:	Abdul-Rehman Khayal
Councillors:	Qumer and Salamat
Co-optees:	Dilys Fletcher, George Kenworthy, Reverend Dave Skinner Lisa Woolfenden
In attendance:	Inspector J Clarke, John Dinsdale, Jenny Hollamby, Cliff Jackson, Cathy Lingard, Bruce Penhale, Paul Rafferty, Mark Simmons, Will Wills

Apologies:

Councillors:	Riaz Ahmad
Co-optees:	Asif Rashid Lohdi

1. Notes of the meeting held on 12 September 2007.

- Were confirmed as an accurate record.

2. Police Area Action Team update

- Inspector Clarke updated the Community Council. He paid particular attention to crime figures and asked residents to stay after the meeting to discuss any individual arising issues. Particular areas of concern for the St Mary's Estate were increasing car crime and Bonfire night 2008. Inspector Clarke referred to Beatsweep and directed residents to the Newsletter, which was available at the meeting for further information. It was reported that a Police Surgery would be taking place at St Stephens Church to encourage people to sign up to Homewatch although any matter could be discussed confidentially.
- A Co-optee raised concerns about the playing fields at Oldham Edge and Inspector Clarke AGREED to progress the issue with the Area Action Team and report back to the Co-optee.
- Regarding reported motorbike problems in Higginshaw Village, Inspector Clarke AGREED to take details from the Co-optee after the meeting.
- Concerns were raised about anti-social behaviour in particular hot spots in the St Mary's Estate and Inspector Clarke provided a verbal list of problem areas, which the Police were targeting and had issued several ABC's.
- An Elected Member discussed with Inspector Clarke the areas where the car crime was highest. Inspector Clarke reported that Ben Brierley and Ammon Wrigley Avenues were cause for concern and suggested that 'closed access' to these areas would solve the problem.

3. You said we did – Feedback from Agencies

Cathy Lingard (Youth Services)

- A presentation on the work carried out since the last meeting was provided.
- A question was raised about having more youth provision in the Clarksfield area. The Officer explained that the Youth Service was deploying the youth Buzz on Wednesday evenings on Arundel Street, Thursday evening in Higginshaw and Monday evenings in Derker.

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- A Co-optee praised the work of the Youth Team in Higginshaw Village and explained what a difference it had made.

Paul Griffiths (Environmental Services)

- A presentation on the work carried out since the last meeting was provided.
- An Elected Member praised the work of the dandyman in the area.
- A resident complained about the Council's 'closed lid' bin policy, the amount of rubbish in the area and what caused it especially near Swinton Street. It was explained that the Service was looking into the types of matters raised at the meeting.

John Dinsdale (Environmental Services)

- Briefly updated the meeting on new legislation in relation to the Clean Neighbourhoods Act. Residents were given a Community Enforcement Questionnaire and information on Dog Control Orders. The Department would welcome feedback from the questionnaire.
- Concerns were expressed about dog fouling around the Salvation Army and the Officer AGREED to investigate the matter. The telephone numbers for the Department and to report dog fouling were 0161 770 4444 or 0161 770 3447. The council website www.oldham.gov.uk could also be used to report incidents.

4. Cliff Jackson (Highways Maintenance and Street Lighting)

- A presentation on the work and scope of the department was provided.
- Residents were asked for help in identifying particular roads and or footways that needed resurfacing in the Ward and was provided with a form to complete.
- An Elected Member raised concerns about unadopted passageways that needed alleygating. The Officer explained that unless there were problems with anti-social behaviour or crime then the passageway would not be alleygated. He AGREED to report the matter to the Community Safety Team to progress the issue.
- In response to a request for a pelican crossing on Park Road/Hardy Street it was explained that a survey had been completed and it was deemed inappropriate in the area due to the pedestrian flow and a bend in the Road. An Elected Member was unhappy with the response and AGREED to progress the issue.
- A resident raised concerns about lorries parking on Cranbrook Street and how the dangerous situation would escalate when the new Tesco's was built. Officers explained that a survey was being carried out and solutions were being investigated. The Police reported that they had warned Tesco's and would revisit the situation. An Elected Member detailed the Councils plans on improved plans for parking on Lees Road and also a pelican crossing on Brewerton Road.
- The Chair asked how many Roads in the Ward would be resurfaced this financial year. It was explained that only two Roads would be resurfaced due to a lack of funding although work would continue on a reactive basis to repair potholes and road humps.
- An Elected Member reported that the lights on the railings on Yorkshire Street were not working and the Officer AGREED to look into the matter.

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5. Will Wills (Street Scene)

- The meeting was provided with a presentation on the work of Street Scene.
- Residents were asked for their involvement in a meeting to identify local initiatives and to look at the issues in the area in further detail. It was AGREED that the Co-optees would meet with Officers to look at the cleaning schedule for the area and make recommendations.
- A resident asked if drains were cleaned by the Council and the Officer explained that there was a reactive service in operation although the Council was looking to reinstate planned maintenance.
- Residents praised Shaun Kenny's work and suggested he should be nominated for a Star Award.
- A discussion took place regarding the work of the dandyman in the area and how the Service was trying to secure a full time employee however, it was noted there were budget restraints.
- Particular problems were reported about grass verges on Kew Road and Eric Street, the Officer AGREED to investigate the matter. It was explained that grass verges were filled in and re-seeded however, the Officer was unsure if they could be tarmacked.

6. Public question time

- The Area Manager explained that he had received a complaint about the Grocers on Waterloo Street displaying goods on the pavement. It was reported that Trading Standards had visited the premises and they had been warned not to display goods on the pavement. Further incidents could lead to prosecution.
- It was reported that the Area Manager would progress the complaint from Mr Vickers on parking on pavements, lack of litterbins and enforced alleygating.
- A Co-optee asked what was happening to the derelict site on St Mary's (where the flats used to be). An Elected Member explained that the Council was going ahead with a new plan.

7. Delegated budget report

- A presentation was received from the Area Manager on the spend to date.
- It was explained that the hanging baskets would be funded from the Delegated Budget Funding Scheme and not the Councillors budget, which would be spent on helping local charities/organisations across the Ward.
- It was noted that Hollies had not claimed their funding.
- Following the Co-optee meeting where Co-optees requested more input on the Agenda, it was noted that St Scene were at the meeting as a direct result of the discussions.
- It was noted that the Salvation Army would be applying for funding and requested an application form. It was suggested that they speak to one of the Elected Members.
- It was highlighted that funds needed to be allocated this financial year otherwise they would be lost.

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8. Co-optee presentations and selection

- Following a short period of deliberation by the Elected Members appointed Mohammed Mazir and the Reverend David Skinner as Co-optees of the St Mary's Community Council for the 2007-08 Municipal Year.

9. Local reports including Oldham Partnership and Co-optee meeting feedback

- The Area Manager reported school governor vacancies at Beever Primary School, Glodwick Infant/Nursery School and Horton Mill Primary School.
- The Chair provided the meeting with verbal feedback from the recent Co-optee meeting. Items that were discussed included budgetary matters, Street Scene, Highways and the Oldham Partnership meeting.

10. Suggestions for future meetings

- A Co-optee stated that meetings should be on public transport routes and the Community Council AGREED that the next meeting should take place in the Higginshaw Area (Groundwork).

11. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 12 March 2008 at 7.00pm at Roundthorn Primary School, Roundthorn Road, Roundthorn, Oldham OL4 5LN.

The meeting opened at 7.10pm and closed at 9.00pm.