

STEPPING HILL WARD COMMITTEE

Meeting: 10 September 2008
At: 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Ben Alexander (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Maggie Clay and Mark Weldon.

1. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meetings held on 19 March 2008 were approved as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declaration of interests were made.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Neighbourhood Policing

Sgt Lee Barrow (Greater Manchester Police) and Elaine De Fris (Community Safety Unit), attended the meeting to answer questions from Councillors and members of the public in relation to neighbourhood policing issues within the Stepping Hill Ward.

Sgt Barrow reported on statistics for key crime indicators in the area, which showed a decrease in crime over the last month, but a slight increase over the same period in 2-2007. He further reported that a number of arrests had been made in the last week which were likely to have a significant impact on crime levels.

Sgt Barrow also reminded the public to ensure that doors and windows were locked when unattended, and to ensure that homes appeared occupied when residents were away on holiday. He also stressed the importance of ensure valuables were not left in cars.

Elaine De Fris reported that ongoing work with young people in Great Moor by the Council's Youth Service, and the positive engagement that was taking place.

Members of the public as questions and raised concerns about the following issues in the area:-

- Speeding traffic on Woodsmoor Lane;
- Nuisance behaviour on Archer Street;
- Retailers selling alcohol to young people and individuals already intoxicated.
- Drug taking in pubs in Great Moor.

RESOLVED – That Elaine De Fris and Sgt Barrow be thanked for their attendance.

(ii) Public Question Time

No public questions were submitted.

(iii) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

(iv) Area Flexibility Funding

There were no applications to consider.

4. FRIENDS OF BOOTHBY STREET PARK

The Chair reported on work to establish a Friends of Boothby Street Park Group, which included a meeting in Great Moor Park with members of the existing Great Moor Park group to discuss what could be achieved at Boothby Street.

It was emphasised that Friends of groups had been very successful at attracting additional funding not available to the Council to help improve facilities.

Members of the public interested in joining the new Friends Group were invited to attend a further meeting on 8 October 2008 in the Pavilion.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. CHERRY TREE LANE – EXPERIMENTAL PROHIBITION OF DRIVING ORDER – RESULTS OF THE POST IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTATION

A representative of the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) informing the Ward Committee of the outcome a recent public consultation on the Experimental Prohibition of Driving Order on Cherry Tree Lane, Great Moor. The consultation response was 45%, with a majority 66% of respondents expressing satisfaction with the current closure against 34% who were unhappy.

Members of the public present expressed views both for and against the proposals. A number of questions were asked and specific comments made, including the following:-

- The installation of the closure had coincided with work on Dialstone Lane carried out by North West Gas Alliance which had lead to traffic problems.
- Had sufficient consideration be given to the impact of the closure on the already busy alternative routes at Dialstone Lane, and Mile End Lane?
- The alternative routes were more suitable for traffic than Cherry Tree Lane.
- Closure of the road has improved safety, of both vehicles travelling on the road, and damage caused to parked vehicles.
- Consideration should be given to altering the filters on the traffic signals at the Dialstone Lane/ A6 junction to ease traffic congestion.
- Parking for residents on Cherry Tree Lane and Maxwell Avenue would be easier.
- Consideration should be given to signalling Cherry Tree Lane and Dialstone Lane to slow traffic and make it easier to leave Cherry Tree Lane.
- There had been an impact of the closure on local businesses as residents living on the Offerton side of the closure found it difficult to access the shops in Great Moor.
- The closure had an adverse impact on people with mobility difficulties who now

Stepping Hill Ward Committee – 10 September 2008

have further to drive to Great Moor local centre.

- The closure was causing problems for residents on the Dialstone Lane side with vehicles having to turn around.
- The signage of the closure was poor and did not assist driver by indicating the house numbers that could be accessed.
- The road closure had led to youths congregating in this area and which could be intimidating for residents.
- Motorbikes were still using Cherry Tree Lane as a through route.
- The closure was causing problems for Gladstone Street / St Saviours with extra traffic, and causing damage to the road and parked vehicles.
- HGVs continued to travel up both sides of Cherry Tree Lane seeking to access the other half, and were having difficulty turning.
- Emergency vehicles were not aware of the closure and were having difficulty with accessing the roads on Dialstone Lane side of Cherry Tree. There were a number of elderly residents who were likely to suffer.
- Elderly people were now safer using Cherry Tree Lane as there was less speeding traffic.
- If the closure was to remain, consideration should be given to altering the location of the closure to ensure Hampstead Road would be accessed via the A6.
- Moving the closure point beyond Hampstead Road would increase traffic exiting and entering via the A6 which would cause further problems at this junction.
- The problem requiring the closure was 'rat-running' of non-residents, not residents using the road to access their homes.
- The closure had made the road safer for children to walk to local schools which was better for their health.
- The parking problems in and around Great Moor Street and Archer Street still persisted, caused by customers of the shops, and by business owners and staff, who often park all day.
- Issue with parking in the area needed addressing, irrespective of the closure.
- There appeared to have been an adverse impact on the library usage caused by the closure.

Councillors commented that the consultation had been very successful with a high response rate, and had shown a clear majority in favour of retaining the closure, and would be of benefit to the wider community, although more work would need to be done to address the additional issues around parking and signage.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Stepping Hill Area Committee be recommended to make permanent the Experimental Prohibition of Driving Order on Cherry Tree Lane, Great Moor, subject to confirmation of no objections having been received from the Emergency Services.

(3) That the Service Director (Transportation & Planning) be requested to investigate the following additional issues:-

- The signalisation of the junction of Cherry Tree and Dialstone Lane.
- Measures to address vehicles turning on Gladstone Street and St Saviours Road.
- Problems on Meadow Street.
- Improve the signage and lighting as a matter of urgency once the Order is confirmed.

Stepping Hill Ward Committee – 10 September 2008

- Reducing the extent of the waiting restrictions on Cherry Tree Lane.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.