



THE WORK OF ROOLEY MOOR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area is north of Rochdale, the village of Catley Lane Head and roughly at the centre of the area is the gateway to the Cotton Famine Road and Rooley Moor.



Our forum was formed in 2016 following a couple of aggressive planning applications that would have effectively destroyed the area and our community, so I guess we owe a great debt of gratitude to those companies for pulling us together. Who would have thought such a small group of people could achieved so much in such a short space of time! We were apparently the first of the neighbourhood forums to achieve charitable status in its own right. Our area and forum has designated status with Rochdale Council and when we opened our bank account, a process bound by strict money laundering rules, we were able to start thinking about raising funds to help our forum make a difference in our area.

Last year we were approach by the BBC to be a part of their Black History of Britain series. In August we amalgamated our forum launch event with the BBC filming a feature on the Cotton Famine Road and we had a brilliant day! It was great to see all our planning come together and the whole community getting involved. Even better to see in November the Cotton Famine Road being featured in episode 3 of the BBC2 series 'Black and British — A Forgotten

History'. This was very positive publicity for Rochdale and a story, which explained the history of the Cotton Famine Road and its links to the abolition of slavery, of which local people can be proud. There were some fantastic shots of our area, the Cotton Famine Road and our event.

David Olusoga (the historian and broadcaster who put the Cotton Famine Road on the map in the BBC2 series) agreed to be the Honorary President of our forum. This is fantastic news and having David associated with our forum will help us to build on his good work by protecting & sharing the history and recreational value of our area.



We've been involved in other stuff too. Several forum members attended the Scout Moor Windfarm Extension Public Inquiry at Bacup and presented their views for consideration. Two of our members, Liz and Bill, produced our very first RMNF calendar, which shows off our area in a very positive way and put a few bob into our bank account as well! There have been a couple of village clean ups that proved to be fantastic

events and thanks go to everyone involved, especially Nick & Margaret for organising them. Greater Manchester Police has donated some money to our forum for a village sign in Catley Lane Head. The basic idea is to promote safe driving, and we are working with Rochdale Council to install the sign in the near future. Other organisations have shown interest in our forum, recently the Rotary Club of Rochdale East invited forum members to give a talk.

We have a very positive relationship with Rochdale Council and can't thank them enough for supporting our events and removing

the foliage and tons for rubbish we bagged up at our clean up events. Thanks also go to the Council team who carried out the work to manage the water leaking from the fields abutting the cobbled road adjacent to the fishing lodge in Prickshaw, improvements to the bridleways and the installation of a new cattle grid near Knacks Farm. And last, but definitely not least, thanks to the Council's Conservation Officer for completing a heritage appraisal of Catley Lane Head and recommending the area should be considered for conservation status. The Township committee has approved the appraisal documentation and the proposal for the appraisal to go to consultation — fantastic news that if successful can only help to preserve our heritage for future generations to enjoy. The Cotton Famine Road has also been given its own page in the Council publication, 'Great Days Out in Rochdale', hopefully this will encourage people to come and enjoy the area.

The big one for 2017 is to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for our area that will reflect the views of the people who either live, work or regularly pursue leisure activities - walking, horse riding, cycling, fishing, ornithology etc. The basic idea is to set a vision and define a policy for our area for the next 20 years. This is no easy task! Our forum has been awarded a £7k grant towards technical help and we have circulated a detailed questionnaire so residents and stakeholders can have their say about how they'd like our area to develop over the next 15 to 20 years. We hope to present a draft neighbourhood plan for the council to consider by the end of this year.

And finally, a date for your diary! Sunday 13th August 2017 - We are planning another community event to take place in Catley Lane Head from 12:00 to 16:00 . We plan to have a fun day with folk music, clog dancing and much more.

You can find more information about our area, forum and events on our website <http://www.rmnf.org.uk>