

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 6th JUNE, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Copeland, Curran, S. Foster, T. Foster, Francis, MacKnight, L. Walton, Wiper and N. Wright

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Amanda Cattle	- Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Zoe Channing	- Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Les Clark	- Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Jane Eland	- Quality Assurance Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Bill Forster	- Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Mr. Mike Foster	- Head of Schools and Learning, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Gillian Gibson	- Primary Care Trust
Ms. Nicola Hestlewood	- Groundworks
Ms. Julie Lynn	- Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council
Insp. Lisa Musgrove	- Northumbria Police
Mr. Ron Odunaiya	- Executive Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council
Mr. Andy Old	- North Area Response Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Dawn Rugman	- Policy Officer (Diversity), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Senior Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Ken Teers	- Strategic Development Director, SAFC Foundation
Mr. James Third	- NEXUS

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the new Councillors, invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting. He welcomed the new Vice Chairman, Councillor Bonallie and thanked Councillor Copeland for her services as the previous Vice Chairman. He also asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the former Councillor Graham Hall who had lost his seat in the recent elections.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Charlton, Howe, Shattock and Stewart

Declarations of Interest

Item 2 a) - Community Action in the North – Annual Report

Councillor MacKnight declared a personal interest in the report as a Board Member of the Ear 4 U project.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 28th March, 2011

Councillor Francis referred to page 6 of the minutes and asked if the works to be carried out to the area behind the Seaburn Centre had been completed. Mr. Andy Old, Area Response Officer, advised that some work had been undertaken on the graffiti there and that shrubs were being removed adjacent to the Pullman Lodge, and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28th March, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in the North – Progress Review

Annual Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the Annual Report for the Committee for its work plan for 2010/11.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report advising that it provided a snapshot of the Committee's work over the 2010/11 municipal year, informing Members that there had been some major achievements and success made throughout the year and changes implemented in the way the Committee operated which had seen a greater alignment with priorities and a clearer focus on delivery.

She took Members through the report providing a summary of key achievements, service improvement and budget allocation (where made) against the Committee's work plan for the year which had covered the following topics:-

- Heritage;
- Greening of the North Area;
- Specialist and Generalist Youth Provision to be in all North Area Wards;
- Motorcycle Disorder; and
- Responsive Local Services.

Ms. Lynn then invited Ken Teers, SAFC to give an update on projects in relation to the Youth Provision priority, Ms. Nicola Hestlewood, Groundworks, to provide an update in relation to the Greening of the Area and Mr. Andy Old in relation to the Responsive Local Services.

With regards to the two projects undertaken through the SAFC Foundation, Kickz and Tackle It, Councillor Bell commented that they had proven to be very successful and should the Foundation need further financial assistance in the future the Committee could consider further applications through SIB/SIP. Mr. Teers thanked the Area Committee for the funding they had received and advised that they were looking to try and sustain provision of the projects without having to be reliant upon funding streams. He explained that they were trying to diversify the projects to continue deliver them and hopefully to sustain them in the longer term.

Councillor Copeland referred to the issue surrounding the Southwick Sports Hall and the future of the facilities being provided for the community following the closure and possible demolition of the venue. Mr. Odunaiya reminded Members how relevant organisations had been offered the chance to come forward with viable business plans for the site but agreed to speak with Councillor Copeland directly outside of the meeting.

Councillor Wright shared Councillor Copeland's concerns regarding the site. It was correct to say that a way forward had been agreed on in inviting interest from outside organisations but that due to current financial constraints this had not been possible. However, she went on to say her concerns remained and she would have liked to see the facility remain open and asked that her comments were noted in the minutes.

With regards to the Greening of the North Area update, Councillor Francis asked that the Fulwell Ward Members be advised when works were due to start on the allotment site at Shields Road which Ms. Lynn agreed to do.

In response to a query from Councillor Copeland regarding the clearing of the allotment sites, Ms. Hestlewood advised that two sites had been developed to be used as community allotments and five had been cleared and handed back to the Council. She also advised that there had been some level of interest already in the two community sites and that they would be looking in the first instance for groups from local schools, care homes or residents to work within them.

Councillor Copeland went on to ask a further question around those using the community allotments working alongside the allotments current management structure. Ms. Hestlewood advised that they currently worked with the management committee of the allotments and that once volunteers had been invited to start working on the site they would form their own management committee which would then feed into the allotments committee through a representative.

To answer a question from Councillor Curran regarding the apprenticeship placements between Groundworks and the City of Sunderland College, Ms. Lynn advised that the placements would be advertised through the local job centres and that there were no restrictions as to who could apply for them.

Councillor Foster referred to the programme within secondary schools by the enforcement team targeting litter and waste and asked which schools had issues. Mr. Old advised that Monkwearmouth School had issues around Dovedale Road shopping area on a lunch time and after school. Although the school kept a certain number of the pupils in school, some older pupils were allowed out and residents had raised litter as an issue.

Councillor Francis commented that he was aware that senior staff from the school did come out and police the areas on lunchtimes and that he personally had visited the area and never seen children misbehaving.

Councillor Copeland commented on the thinning out of bushes and cleaning areas in Southwick as it was one of the main routes into the City Centre and many areas had been identified during the River, Rubbish, Relay. Mr. Old advised that the areas in this instance referred to the Albion Public House site where reports of dumping had been made so they had thinned out the bushes around there and they had also removed some around Vedra Street so that it could now be seen into. He also advised that they had had the probation team around the area carrying out a litter pick.

Councillor Wright commended the work the Area Response Team were doing and some of the changes they were introducing as well as some of the timely responses she had received to date around issues, She did however have two examples of issues where there had been unsatisfactory responses and were increasingly frustrating.

The first issue was regarding premises in Southwick which had been ongoing for some years and still had no satisfactory resolution. She asked how owners could carry on getting away with it, even when having been threatened with taking to court and asked how situations like this could be dealt with.

The second issue Councillor Wright raised was in relation to garages in the North Area parking cars for sale across roads and on grassy verges. Even though owners had been approached and told not to do it, they were still parking cars in inappropriate areas and she asked if there was a way fencing could be provided in areas so that this could not happen. Mr. Old advised that costings for fencing in some areas identified had been requested.

Ms. Lynn also referred to one of the garages referred to by Councillor Wright and advised that it was in hand and they were looking at the suggestions made and she would be happy to feedback directly to her outside of the meeting.

Councillor MacKnight also raised that she had come across similar issues and Mr. Old advised that he would speak with the enforcement team to look into what penalties, if any, could be issued.

Councillor Wiper referred to litter bins overflowing on the seafront following weekend and asked if they could be emptied on a Monday morning. Mr. Old commented that he would look into this issue as they should be getting emptied but if not he would ensure that they were in future.

Councillor MacKnight raised the issues that had been faced by the probation service carrying out works in the Hylton Dene area. The service had undertaken works in the area previously with magnificent results but as there were no toilet facilities they now had a problem in returning. Mr. Old advised that previously they had used the base of the Sunderland Family Zone but unfortunately this room was no longer vacant so could not be used. It was an issue and they were currently looking at this with Gentoo to see if they could come up with a suitable solution.

In response to a query from Councillor Francis regarding having a speed camera on Shields Road at the junction with Dovedale Road, Inspector Musgrove advised that cameras were allocated to specific spots due to the number of incidents that were recorded at that site but she would look into the matter.

Ms. Lynn then provided Members with a brief update on how finances had been allocated for the year and the next steps for the Committee with regards to their work plan for this municipal year. She congratulated the Committee on being much more proactive in their approach to meeting the priorities within the work plan and advised that only a small amount of funding had gone to projects which did not make up part of the set priorities.

Councillor Walton asked that all Ward Members be consulted when projects were being developed so that they were aware of any effects it may have on residents in the area and referred to an incident whereby access had been blocked off along the seafront but no indication of when the access would reopen was given. If local Councillor had this prior knowledge they would be able to answer residents queries when they came to them. Ms. Lynn agreed to feedback the issues to the relevant department and ensure that Councillors were advised of any future similar works that were to be undertaken.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- the content of the report be received and noted; and
- the progression of lessons learned for the future year be agreed.

2011/12 Priorities and Work Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided for members the next steps regarding the process to be used in shaping and

informing the final work plan, against the provisionally agreed emerging priorities for the North Sunderland area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report, thanking all those who had supported the process in developing the work plan and in relation to Youth and Play Provision introduced, Jane Eland, Quality Assurance Manager, who provided Members with an update report on the allocation of £3,000 to provide activities during the Easter and May half-term school holidays.

With regard to the Work Programme, Ms. Lynn advised that its purpose was to clearly identify the key priorities for the Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within North Sunderland.

It would provide a transparent framework for elected members, partners and officers to work from, as well as, acting as a focal point for local residents to find out what the Area Committee was doing to make a difference within their neighbourhood.

If adopted, the work plan would inform the majority of work for North Sunderland Area Committee for 2011-2012, as it would form part of the standing agenda, along with progress updates being provided on Sunderland City Council's website after each Area Committee meeting. The Work Plan would be made up of five key priorities for Committee and a Task and Finish Group would be set up for each of the priorities and nominations were sought from Committee Members for them, as set out below;-

1. Attractive and Cared for Environment (incorporating Greening of the Area); Membership of the Task and Finish Group would remain as already established with the addition of Councillor Wiper;
2. Anti Social Behaviour (incorporating Motorcycle Disorder); Councillors Bell, Bonallie, Copeland, Francis, MacKnight and Wiper;
3. Activities for Young People; Councillors Bell, Bonallie, Copeland, Curran, S. Foster, MacKnight and Walton.
4. Heritage: Membership of the Task and Finish Group would remain as already established.

Ms. Lynn then explained she would circulate confirmation of the nominations to Members and request further interest from any Members who were not in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Copeland referred to issues around the community using the facilities of Southwick Primary School outside of school hours and during the holidays. Councillor Bell commented that some schools were more proactive in promoting this and that he was aware that there had been a number of problems with this school which were trying to be addressed and that it could be an issue the Task and Finish Group could look at how better to engage

with schools in the area. Mr. Mike Foster agreed to look into the matter further and report back to the Area Committee.

With regards to issues raised around motorcycle disorder, Ms. Lynn advised that a number of projects were currently underway, including:-

- an article in the July edition of Community News advising where individuals could ride legally;
- a leaflet which had been developed to be distributed around the North Sunderland Area;
- Secondary Schools signing up to events regarding anti social behaviour which motorcycle disorder would be incorporated into; and
- the issue being raised with the Safer Communities Business Support Group to help in pulling together a more targeted operation.

So as Members could see they were trying a several pronged approach of informing and enforcing to help in addressing the issue and this issue would be picked up and continuously monitored by the Anti Social Behaviour Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Wright referred to a recent visit to the Quarry site she had undertaken and how picturesque and beautiful it had been and felt that it was a facility which could be better promoted. She asked that the Task and Finish Group look into possibly renaming the site as it was a fantastic resource which nothing was being done with. Councillor Bell asked that a full report be submitted to the Task and Finish Group to be considered.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- the work plan for 2011/12 be agreed;
- the call for projects protocol to be used in the allocation of SIB funding be agreed;
- the establishment and maintenance of Task and Finish Groups to take work against the priorities forward be agreed;
- nominations for the Task and Finish Groups be agreed as set out above;
- the previous young people's activities as described at Annex 2 be agreed and that they continue as a priority and be funded from the identified £30,000;
- the use of £3,000 funding for activities during school holidays as described at 2.3.7; and
- the Committee consider allocating a proportion of 2011/12 SIB budget in line with Children's Services funding of £30,000 per area to deliver positive activities for children and young people as part of the Task and Finish Group.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn went through each of the applications in detail and answered Members questions, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statement as set out in section 2.1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/2012 budget as a contribution towards the Sunderland Festival of £3,000;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/2012 budget as a contribution towards the International Oral History Conference of £9,800;
- (iv) approval be given to the 8 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £6,250 from the 2011/2012 budget, as set out in annex 2c of the report;

The Chairman then thanked the Committee, Officers and Partners for their worthwhile contributions and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.