

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the BETHANY CHRISTIAN CENTRE, HETTON ROAD, HOUGHTON LE SPRING, DH5 8PF, on WEDNESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Lawson in the Chair

Councillors Allen, Blackburn, Cummings, Ellis, Heron, D. Smith, Speding, Turner, M. Turton, W. Turton and G. Walker.

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Steve Burdis	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Charlotte Burnham	Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements	Sunderland City Council
Melanie Caldwell	Head of Operations Houghton/Hetton	Gentoo Ltd.
Wendy Cook	VCS Representative, Youth and Community Co-Ordinator	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Joyce Dixon	Member of the Public	
Paul Finch	VCS Representative	Hetton New Dawn
Ashton Greenshields	Member of the Public	
Pat Greenshields	Member of the Public	
Debbie Hall	Area Response Manager Coalfields	Sunderland City Council
Ken Heads	Network Development Manager	Sunderland City Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Johnston	Member of the Public	

David Kirkpatrick	Engineer	Sunderland City Council
Susan Kirtley	Member of the Public	
Dave McCreedy	VCS Representative	Fence Houses YMCA
Michael Mordey	Councillor and Portfolio Holder for City Services	Sunderland City Council
Norman Moss	Member of the Public	
Lisa Musgrove	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
John R. Ritchie	Member of the Public	
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Glenis Wallace	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Linda Wood	Member of the Public	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Ms. Laura Hope, Commissioning Manager, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Heron made an open declaration as a Council appointed representative on the Management Committee of Fencehouses Y.M.C.A.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th June, 2015 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to it being noted that the open declaration made by Councillor Turner as a

Y:\Governance\Committee\Holding files for email reports etc\Coalfields Area\15.12.02\Item 1d - Minutes of the Last Meeting.doc

Member of the Management Committee of Hetton New Dawn and also as a volunteer, was with regards to an application made by the organisation for Strategic Initiatives Budget funding and not Community Chest funding.

A690 Stoneygate Junction – Public Engagement Exercise – Presentation

Councillor Michael Mordey, Portfolio Holder for City Services gave a presentation to the Committee on the consultation the Council had carried in relation to the proposal to close the central reservation gaps at the A690 Stoneygate junction to reduce the number of collisions at those locations.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes).

Councillor Mordey advised that the engagement exercise had been considered successful in that it had resulted in a 39% return rate. Around 80% of those responding were opposed to the total closure of the central reservation however recognised that safety improvements were needed at the junction. The presentation provided details of the collisions occurring in the location during the period 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2015 and the causes; the main cause being vehicles making a right turn from High Lane/into High Lane or from Stoneygate Lane. Details of the main issues for the responses being opposed to the proposal were set out in the presentation together with alternative options which included the installation of traffic signals, a roundabout or safety cameras.

Councillor Mordey stated that the Council had given consideration to the alternative suggestions of installing traffic signals or a roundabout but these had been ruled out mainly because of the cost, £1.5m and £3m respectively and also because of the negative impact that they would have on the flow of traffic.

Councillor Mordey commented that the Council had listened to the responses received from the consultation and had amended the proposal as a result and was now proposing to maintain the right turn into the side roads but remove the right turn from the side roads and consult on the new proposal. This would mean effectively that vehicles would not be able to cross 4 lanes of traffic on the A690 to the other side which it was hoped would significantly reduce the risk of accidents and answer the concerns of residents.

Members of the Public were given an opportunity to ask questions on the revised proposal which Mr. Ken Heads, Network Development Manager responded to. He advised that further consultation would be undertaken on the revised proposal which would then be submitted to the Council's Planning and Highways Committee for consideration in January. Subject to satisfactory consultation the Council would commence on the statutory legal procedures needed such as Traffic Regulation Orders and subject to a satisfactory outcome of this, construction would take place in August/September 2016.

Full consideration having been given to the report, and the Chairman having thanked Councillor Mordey and the officers for the presentation and their attendance, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that results of the consultation and details of the revised proposal in respect of the A690 Stoneygate Junction, be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's 2015/16 Place Board Work Plan and provided an update on performance.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the proposed relocation of the two seats from Market Street, Hetton to King George V play area, Eppleton and to the consultation carried out by Nexus on the revision of the route of the Demand Responsive Transport Service. Ms. Hopper advised that the service would be widely marketed throughout the area once it was operational as it was currently underused.

Ms. Hopper highlighted the review being undertaken of parking restrictions in and around Newbottle Street by a Working Group consisting of Elected Members, Council Officers, Houghton Traders Association members and the Neighbourhood Police Team.

Ms. Hopper referred to the educational programme underway with Hetton Primary School where a litter awareness programme had resulted in a poster competition and Shiney Row Childcare had taken part in a 'grow and eat' project as part of the Love Where You Live project. Ms. Hopper also drew attention to the work undertaken as part of the project to tidy up areas of neglected land which included the proposal to create a wild flower meadow on the vacant land adjacent to Easington Lane Primary School. Ms. Hopper briefed Members on the proposals included in the area priority to celebrate local events and celebrations.

In response to Councillor Blackburn, Ms. Hopper confirmed that the proposal to create a wild flower meadow on the vacant land adjacent to Easington Lane Primary School was a temporary measure to keep the site tidy and would be surrendered if any development proposal came forward.

Councillor Walker advised that the traders from the shops at Barnwell were meeting informally and enquired whether there was any spare capacity which could be diverted to support them.

Ms. Hopper advised that support for local shopping centres was the priority for discussion at the February Place Board meeting and this would be taken into consideration at that point.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 be noted and the proposals for future delivery be approved;
- (ii) approval be given to the two seats being removed from Market Square, Hetton being relocated at King George V play area, Eppleton, to replace the current seats; and
- (iii) approval be given to the creation of a wildflower meadow on the site adjacent to Easington Lane Primary School.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's 2015/16 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Billy Turton, Chair of the Coalfield Area People Board briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the urgent care centre at Houghton-le-Spring and advising that an article was to be included in an issue of the Coalfield Community News to promote the services on offer to patients there and raise awareness of the centre.

Councillor Turton also highlighted the Care Homes Project which had resulted in a reduction in emergency admissions and A&E attendances by 45% and the Active Sunderland Partnership and the changes made through this to the sports centres at Houghton and Hetton as a result of the new working arrangements.

Councillor Turton referred the Committee to the projects which had been funded through the Health and Greenspaces Project and the CAN DO Fund.

Councillor Turton drew Members attention to the proposal to increase support for existing and new groups to deliver services and increase support and co-ordination of volunteers which was detailed later on the agenda, together with the funding requirements from the Strategic Initiatives Budget for Members' consideration.

Councillor Walker referred Members to the Work plan for the February Board meeting and advised that 'Youth Focus North East' rather than 'Young Minds' would be interested in engaging with the priority 'Emotional and Mental Wellbeing'.

4. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 be noted and the proposals for future delivery be approved.

Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network Progress Update

Ms. Wendy Cook, Mr. Dave McCreedy and Mr. Paul Finch, Area Network Representatives submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative briefed the Committee on the report highlighting that the Coalfield Area VCSN had met four times since the last meeting of the Area Committee in June 2015.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) the Area Committee continue to support the Sector when developing and implementing actions against local priorities.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove provided the Committee with a verbal update on crime in the Coalfield Area. She advised that overall crime across the area was up. There were new national crime recording standards and changes in policy from other organisations which might have contributed to this increase. For example wheelie bins had to be recorded as 'stolen' in order for residents to receive a new one free of charge. There had been an increase in the number of burglaries from both domestic dwellings and commercial premises however a number of arrests had been made and offenders had been charged and remanded in custody. There had been an overall reduction of 19% for the year to date in respect of cases of anti-social behaviour. Youth anti-social behaviour was down by 41% and in general instances of anti-social behaviour were down by 7%. Easington Lane and Hetton Town Centre continued to be hotspots for youth anti-social behaviour where reduction continued to be a neighbourhood priority and there had been reports recently also at Hetton Bus station. There had been less reporting of motorcycle disorder at Easington Lane and certain country parks. Houghton feast had gone very well in that there had been only 5 arrests. The only problem had been an insecure gate at Rectory Park where youths had been storing alcohol.

In response to Members, Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove confirmed that there had been general disorder in Hetton whilst police resources had been directed at Houghton Feast.

Full consideration having being given to the information presented, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Station Manager Steve Burdis, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1st June, 2015 to 31st August, 2015 compared with the same period in 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Steve Burdis, Station Manager Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service briefed the Committee on the report highlighting that there had been no deaths or injuries recorded during the time frame of the report. There had been 1 accidental fire in a dwelling and 4 deliberate primary fires excluding road vehicles.

Mr. Burdis informed the Committee that the Fire Service was writing to farmers asking them to plough their fields when they cut their crops in order to reduce the number of fires started.

Mr. Burdis highlighted that there had been a 10% increase in the number of fires in the Shiney Row Ward whereas elsewhere in the Coalfield there had been a reasonable reduction. He advised that the Shiney Row area would be targeted to make people realise the damage that can be caused by items being deliberately set on fire.

Mr. Burdis drew to Members attention the map detailing the hotspots for anti-social fires in the Coalfield Area and invited Members to let the service know of any others they were aware of.

In response to Councillor Speding who enquired about fires on allotments, Mr. Burdis advised that the guidelines around fires were complicated as there were European Union Agreements to be followed but if there were concerns the fire service would come out if called and if the fire was deemed to be dangerous it would be put out. Mr. Burdis added that Fire Officers were trying to get in touch with Allotment Associations to see if extra wheelie bins were being taken onto the sites as if burned they were very toxic.

In response to Councillor Heron who enquired where the two Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) were based, Mr. Burdis advised that they were at Sunderland and Washington. He added that the TRVs had a target response time of 10 minutes, however the Coalfield Area used the appliance based at Rainton Bridge due to the rural nature of the area.

In response to the Chairman, Mr. Burdis advised that if Fire crews notice items on the street, they are reported to the Council and Gentoo who remove them in order to prevent fires; more of this would be taking place in the run up to Bonfire Night.

Ms. Melanie Caldwell, Head of Operations Houghton/Hetton, Gentoo Ltd. confirmed that if an enquiry came in, it would be checked and a recharge made to the householder if it was in Gentoo ownership as the removal of items was not a

free service however Gentoo would still talk to the householder if it was in private ownership.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Burdis for his report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the information brought out during the discussion be received and noted.

Area Budgets Report

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest funding and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the financial position as set out in paragraph 2.1 advising that the SIB balance was at that time standing at £264,792.

Ms. Hopper highlighted the three applications for SIB funding presented for the Committee's consideration set out at paragraph 2.2 and Annex 1 and briefed the Committee on the detail in relation to each one.

In response to Councillor Speding's enquiry in relation to the Volunteering and Community Support Project, Ms. Hopper advised that this work would not be part of someone's existing job but would be an additional worker and a recruitment process would be followed. The intention was that the successful organisation would sustain the project and only come back to the Area Committee for funding if all other avenues had been exhausted and consideration would then be given to the next step. Ms. Hopper advised that the People Board were keen for the project to be reviewed after one year.

The Chairman added that whoever the successful applicant was they would be working exclusively in the Coalfield Area.

Ms. Hopper advised that the Youth Social Action Project was a spin off, although be it a separate project to the Volunteering and Community Support Project, for young people. The projects would need to work together as well as with all of the existing projects in the area.

All applications for the above projects would be scored against the briefs drafted for the projects and considered at the People Board meeting in November. The organisations coming out on top would be recommended for approval by the Area Committee at the December meeting.

Ms. Hopper referred Members to the approvals for Community Chest funding from June to September 2015 at paragraph 3 of the report.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- b) the recommendations for SIB funding as set out in paragraph 2.2 and Annex 1 of the report, be approved; and
- c) the 23 Community Chest approvals supported from the 2015/16 budget as set out in Annex 2 be noted.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st September to 22nd September 2015 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

9. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

The Chairman, having thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance, closed the meeting.

(Signed) A. LAWSON,

Chairman.