

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 8th NOVEMBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, Foster, G. Hall, Howe, MacKnight, Shattock, J. Walton, L. Walton and Wilson

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Alison Aisbett	- Advice Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Lynda Brown	- Head of Standards, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Amanda Cattle	- Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Les Clark	- Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Bill Forster	- Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services
Revd Tom Gibbons	- St. Peter's Church
Mr. Dan Hattle	- Principal Planner, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Dave Leonard	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Julie Lynn	- Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	- Area Community Coordinator East, Sunderland City Council
Insp. Lisa Musgrove	- Northumbria Police
Mr. Ron Odunaiya	- Executive Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council
Mr. Les Platt	- Senior Policy Officer (Diversity), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Dawn Rugman	- Policy Officer (Diversity), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Senior Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Ken Tears	- Strategic Development Director, SAFC Foundation
Mr. Ben Winter	- Senior Planner, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone, invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Stewart

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland North – Progress Review : vi. Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statements and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Councillor Charlton declared a personal interest in the SIP application towards lighting at the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Carpark at Redhouse Academy.

Item 4 – Influencing Practice, Policy, Strategy : i. Draft Community Assets Policy

Councillor G. Hall declared a personal interest in the item as he was involved with a number of organisations in the voluntary and community sector.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 13th September, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 13th September, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Sunderland North : Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the Creative Communities (Community Philosophy) project that has recently started in the Southwick Area and also provided an up to date version of the New Issues Log.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Les Platt, Senior Policy Officer (Diversity) presented the report advising that the aim of the Community Philosophy project was to promote conversation and develop positive relationships between different groups of people to get local people talking about the interests, issues and problems they see affecting their local area.

He took Members through a number of activities that had already taken place, including a ‘walkabout’ at Thompson’s Park, three ‘play ranger’ style activities in Marley Potts and a Lantern Parade project in conjunction with Southwick Community Primary School and advised that there were three main intended outcomes to the Community Philosophy projects; namely to:-

- empower young people and make them feel respected and that their views are being heard;
- ensure that intergenerational tensions are aired and understood and any possible ways of tackling them are explored; and
- leave something tangible behind to remind people of the process and what they achieved.

Councillor Shattock advised the Committee that the Lantern Parade had not been allowed to go ahead due to high winds on the day. It had been a well organised event and had involved families working together to make large lanterns that they would then have paraded around the streets. It had been unfortunate that it could not be carried out fully due to health and safety concerns.

Mr. Platt also informed the Committee that to aid with the project, training sessions for all of the partners involved had been arranged to enable the process and learning to be continued well after the formal project ended on 31 December, 2010. Members asked if they could be advised of the dates of training sessions planned for November and any future ones that were to be arranged. Mr. Platt explained that the training sessions were arranged for the 10th and 11th November so may be short notice for Members to attend but that he would get information from the sessions circulated and keep them advised of future dates.

In response to a question from Councillor Francis asking what projects had happened or were planned for the Fulwell Ward, Mr. Platt advised that the project was focussing on the more deprived areas of the city, although it was intended that lessons would be learned from projects that were undertaken and potentially these could then be rolled out to other areas of the city once the project had been completed.

2. RESOLVED that the report and New Issues Log be noted and proposals from the Community Philosophy project be received at future meetings of the Committee.

Community Action in Sunderland North – Progress Review

Work Plan 2010/2011 : Heritage Task and Finish Group

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised Members of the work of the Heritage Task and Finish Group to date, including the agreed terms of reference for the group.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

3. RESOLVED that the update from the Task and Finish Group be noted and further updates / proposals be submitted to future meetings of the Committee

Work Plan 2010/2011 : The Greening of the North Area

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/2010 work plan and show progress against agreed actions in the current work plan with regard to the Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

With regards to a question from Councillor Hall on land along the riverside area, Mr. Les Clark, Head of Streetscene advised that work was progressing for the transfer of the land adjacent to either side of the Glass Centre and they were trying to move this forward as quickly as possible. They were hopeful that the agreement was set in principle for the transfer to complete by the beginning of the next financial year and an amount had included in the sum being paid to maintain the area over the long term.

Councillor Francis asked for confirmation that the allotments land would remain and was informed that any changes to land used needed to be done legally so wherever there was an allotment site at present it would continue to be used for allotments.

Councillor Copeland referred to the River Rubbish Relay (previously Ramble) and advised that it was hoped to take place in December, 2010. Ms. Amanda Cattle, Community Coordinator for the North Area informed Members that there were three organisations from the Voluntary Community Sector as well as representatives from Children's Services involved in the organisation of the project and it was aimed at being quite a family affair.

Risk assessments had been carried out on the proposed route to ensure its safety and it would no longer be going off road, which is why the name of the project had been amended. The Relay would start at the Billy Hardy Sports Complex, Castletown and finish at the Glass Centre. They were hopeful the event would be a success and could continue to be undertaken on a regular basis in the future.

Councillor Howe referred to paragraph 2.5 of the report and the cleansing of land and asked if the Cutthroat Dene area could be considered as a proposal for future works and Mr. Clark agreed to take this back as a possibility, and it was :-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) the proposed sites on which Community Allotments could be developed of the Downhill Primary School site, 8 unlettable sites at Summerbell Allotments and 4 sites on Shields Road Allotments be agreed;

- (iii) SIB funding to support the development of Community Allotments pending the full application being submitted be agreed;
- (iv) the proposal to work with private landlords to achieve the cleansing of private land be agreed; and
- (v) the investigation into the feasibility of the River Rubbish Relay be agreed.

Responsive Local Services (RLS)

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of the current scope of Responsive Local Services covering service areas such as litter, graffiti, refuse, grass cutting and dog fouling. It also provided the opportunity for a wider range of issues to be considered within a context of local problem solving.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Clark advised the Committee that the Winter Maintenance Plan for 2010/2011 had been prepared and was now available on the Sunderland website which highlighted the gritting routes and locations of salt/grit bins.

Councillor Howe asked if there would be sufficient amounts of salt/grit for the winter period and Mr. Clark advised that they were fully stocked at the Trimdon Street and Houghton sites with over 14,000 tonnes of salt and 1,000 tonnes of grit which they were confident would be ample.

In response to a query from Councillor L. Walton with regard to the location of grit bins in her ward, Mr. Clark agreed to provide her with a list of the exact locations.

Councillor Shattock advised that she had been asked by the Wearmouth Cricket Club if they could purchase their own grit bin and Mr. Clark agreed to arrange for someone to contact them directly.

She also referred to the reporting of noise as an issue on page 20 of the report and asked for a breakdown of the type of complaints the service had been receiving. Mr. Clark advised that most complaints around noise were with regard to night time noise from both residential and business properties.

5. RESOLVED that the report be noted and further updates regarding any issues arising from the intelligence group be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Distribution of Food Parcels

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which had been prepared as a result of a matter arising at a previous Committee meeting where further information was requested on the distribution of food parcels in the North East.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Alison Aisbitt, Advice Manager presented the report advising Member that there did not appear to be a significant number of families from the North Sunderland area applying for emergency food parcels but that food parcels were becoming a more increasingly widespread issue as the country faces welfare and housing reform over the coming years and it was suggested that a dataset of information be established and monitored on a city wide basis.

Councillor Shattock welcomed the report and was in support of the number of food parcels being handed out being closely monitored so that any arising issues could be flagged up and addressed quickly. Councillor Copeland agreed and asked that the issue be given a high profile and information continue to be submitted to them.

In response to a question from Councillor MacKnight regarding the issuing of vouchers to Looked After Children and the families, Ms. Brown informed the Committee she would gather further information on where they could be spent and arrange for it to be forwarded to Members.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Community Action : Review Progress

Councillor MacKnight referred to the first action in the table and asked if the licenses premises being encouraged to sign up to 21+ scheme should be changed to the Challenge 25 scheme that was now in place.

Councillor Foster informed Members that where the action in relation to promoting heritage referred to the Castletown Cricket Club it should be amended to the Hylton Cricket Club who were based in Castletown.

7. RESOLVED that the table be received and noted and that the Area Officer make the above amendments as set out.

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 advised that the application for Community Chest funding of £1,600 from No Limits Theatre Group had been withdrawn so this left six applications for funding from the Community Chest totalling £3,265.

Councillor J. Walton referred to the application for SIB funding from St Peter's Church for £98,876.25 as a contribution towards a heating system and spoke in support of awarding the amount to them. He felt strongly that as the site was one of such important heritage to the city it was vital to go against the recommendation to reject the application to ensure in keeping the church in its entirety and stopping it from falling into any state of disrepair. He had experienced that during the winter months the church was bitterly cold and if heating was installed this could encourage visitors to the site all year round. He urged colleagues to go against the recommendation and approve the application.

A lengthy discussion ensued around the application and the importance of the site to the city and whether SIB funding should be awarded. SIB guidelines clearly state that funding is available for the use of local organisations to develop projects that meet the requirements of the Local Area Plan of the Area Committee and the church did not comply with this.

Reverend Tom Gibbons, St Peter's Church was invited to speak to the Committee regarding the application and advised that there were a number of works pending at the church at present which funding had been sought for. Unfortunately the funding that was available to the church was to aid in the conservation of the site and would not be applicable to cover the installation of the heating system.

Councillor Howe requested that the decision to grant the funding be put to the vote and the Chairman suggested that the application be deferred to allow more investigations be undertaken into finding other funding opportunities that may be accessible by the church. Councillor Howe disagreed with this proposal in its entirety and requested that the actual decision be put to the vote.

The Chairman having moved that the application be deferred it was put to the vote, and with eight Members having voted for and five Members having voted against, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the application for SIB funding of £98,876.25 as a contribution towards St. Peter's Heating and Lightning Conductor be deferred to seek further information;
- (ii) the financial statement as set out in section 2.1 of the report be noted;
- (iii) approval be given to the 6 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £3,265 from the 2010/2011 budget, as set out in annex 1b of the report;

- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards a footpath at Cockermouth Road and Washington Road of £4,260 from the Castle Ward;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards parking bays at Hylton Castle Road from the Castle Ward;
- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the gateway lights at Washington Road from the Castle Ward;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards reducing the speed limit at Newcastle Road of £7,000, £3,500 from both Fulwell and Southwick wards;
- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards lighting at the Multi Use Games Area and Car park at Redhouse Academy of £43,308 from the Redhill Ward;
- (ix) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the play area at Grosvenor Street of £15,000 from the Southwick Ward;
- (x) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Christmas Tree at Southwick of £6,542 from the Southwick Ward;
- (xi) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the SAFC Foundation Tackle It project of £14,000 ;
- (xii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards Sunderland University's Great North Big Band Festival of £5,000;
- (xiii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards Health Scented Holistic Approach to Physical and Emotional Wellbeing of £2,300;
- (xiv) approval be given to reject the application from Elite Fitness for SIB funding of £6,000 from the 2010/2011 budget; and
- (xv) approval be given to reject the application from Elite Family Specialists for SIB funding of £29,247 from the 2010/2011 budget.

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) Interim Report covering the period April to September 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide detail on how the Area Committee had allocated its resources to date (April 2010 - September 2010) and to enable consideration of how those initiatives were performing against agreed objectives.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

Draft Community Assets Policy

The City Services Directorate submitted a report (copy circulated) which offered Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the North Sunderland area. It also provided information and updates to encourage Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Co-ordinator (East), presented the report, advising Members of consultations with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) on the draft Community Assets Policy in order to receive their comments on a Council policy which would have a direct impact on them.

10. RESOLVED that Members considered the draft Community Assets Policy which was subject to consultation and would participate in the consultation process to ensure that the strategy would effectively address the requirements of the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North Sunderland area of the City.

Draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code

The Office of the Chief Executive Directorate submitted a report (copy circulated) which outlined for Members the purpose and approach of the draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and provided details of the associated statutory public consultation.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Dan Hattle, Principal Planner attended the meeting and provided Members with an aerial photograph of the area which gave indications of which sites could be considered for leisure, residential and retail developments.

Members having discussed the Masterplan, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that the draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code which is currently subject to consultation be received and noted.

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

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.