

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at HOUGHTON HOUSING OFFICE, THE SKYLINE CENTRE, 88 NEWBOTTLE STREET, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, DH4 4AJ, on WEDNESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scott in the Chair

Councillors Allen, Anderson, Blackburn, Ellis, Lawson, D. Smith, Speding, Taylor, W. Turton and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
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.
Debbie Hall	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Musgrove	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

The Chairman highlighted that Mr. Ron Barrass had recently been awarded the Echo Newspaper award for Volunteering in the Community and that the Friends of Rectory Park had received the 'It's your Neighbourhood Award'. On behalf of the Committee the Chairman congratulated Mr. Barrass and Councillor Ellis as Chair of the Group.

Mr. Barrass thanked the Committee as did Councillor Ellis and advised that she would pass on the Committee's congratulations to the Group.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Kath Bailey (Locum Consultant in Public Health), Susan Brown (Area VCS Representative), Les Clark (Head of Street Scene), Wendy Cook (Youth and Community Co-Ordinator, Sunderland North Community Business Centre) and Councillor Julianna Heron (Hetton Town Council).

Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th October, 2014 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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 (2014/15) Place Board Work Plan and on performance.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Anderson thanked the Members of the Place Board for their commitment and the Officers for their support. She proceeded to brief the Committee on the key areas of influence/achievements of the Place Board to date and highlighted that the 'rock cams' were now ready to be used. Councillor Anderson invited Members to forward any locations where boulders would help to deter parking on the grass verges to Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield and/or Ms. Debbie Hall, Area Response Manager. She highlighted the 'Did You Know' fact sheet pointing out the consequences of fly tipping and dog fouling as well as the proposal to circulate a notice to be displayed in local off

licences advising of the fines that can be given out to persons purchasing alcohol for anyone under the age of 18.

Councillor Anderson drew attention to the Highways Capital Maintenance Programme and the invitation for Members to forward the details of any roads and footways for inclusion in the Programme for 2015/16.

With regards to the Local Shopping Centres project, Councillor Anderson stated that the Place Board was pleased to support the initiatives to make the shopping centres in the Coalfield more attractive and encourage people to 'Shop Local' and commented that she would like to see a Traders Association like the one at Houghton in place in all the Coalfield shopping areas. Councillor Anderson referred to the proposal for a bus stop to be located at the top end of Newbottle Street, outside the Library suggesting this might be something the Area Committee would like to support.

Moving on to the 'Love Where You Live and Community Involvement' campaign, Councillor Anderson pointed out the success of Easington Lane School in being awarded 'Best School Project' at the recent Sunderland in Bloom awards.

Councillor Anderson referred the Committee to the Greenspaces Project and invited Members to put forward any suggestions as to where a further set of goalposts which had become available could be located.

With regards to the additional football pitch at Success playing fields, Councillor Lawson enquired what measures were to be taken to reduce issues or nuisance to local residents.

Councillor Anderson advised that the Place Board had highlighted previous parking issues at the site and had agreed that a third pitch could be marked out if parking was marshalled and monitored in order to reduce the impact on local residents.

Ms. Debbie Hall, Area Response Manager referred to the section of the report on 'Deployment of Responsive Local Services' and advised that with regards to winter duties, three old vehicles had been replaced by three new ones and not a fleet of new vehicles as stated in the report.

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

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - (i) the progress and performance update with regards to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including recommendations for future delivery be approved and adopted;
 - (ii) Members of the Area Committee give consideration to suggestions for suitable locations for goalposts; and
 - (iii) Members of the Area Committee give consideration to suggestions for content for an environmental 'fact sheet'.

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 (2014/15) People Board Work Plan and on performance.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Lawson referred the Committee to paragraph 4.1 detailing the key areas of influence/achievements of the People Board to date. She highlighted the presentation given on LMAPS and that ways to improve communication with Elected Members and the referral of issues was discussed. She advised that the results from the consultation would be brought back to the Board.

With regards to the Health and Greenspaces Project, Councillor Lawson referred the Committee to the 15 actions which had been identified by the Working Group to develop initiatives to engage local people in using outdoor space to improve their health.

Councillor Lawson drew attention to the point raised in the report that Hetton ward showed the greatest number NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people in the Coalfield area and that it was third highest in the City. She advised that the February Board meeting would be looking at this issue and what was being done to discourage young people from becoming NEET, in particular in families where there were second and third generations who had not been employed.

Councillor Lawson highlighted the grants awarded to four groups of young people from the CAN DO fund as part of the Healthy Life Choices area priority. She thanked the Community Groups and Officers who support groups to develop and deliver the projects as she commented, that it would not happen without them.

In relation to the above, Councillor Blackburn offered praise to the young people who had come along and presented their applications. He advised that Springboard were not operating in Hetton now, however discussions were taking place looking into whether a training base could be set up in the Hetton area once again.

Ms. Melanie Caldwell, Head of Operations Houghton/Hetton, Gentoo Ltd. informed the Committee of the 'Work and Learn' agenda Gentoo had for Gentoo Tenants, which she explained was a whole family approach and as such included NEETS. She advised that she would provide information on the help and support Gentoo offers to support people for Member's information.

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

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including proposals for future delivery be approved and adopted.

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

Ms. Susan Brown, Ms. Sam Gallilee and Ms. Ann Owen, 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. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield briefed the Committee on the report highlighting the 'Big Local' Programme.

Ms. Melanie Caldwell, Head of Operations Houghton/Hetton, Gentoo Ltd. provided a further update on the progress of the 'Big Local' Programme. She highlighted that Gentoo had come forward to become the trusted organisation for the Programme advising that discussions were underway to reconvene the decision making panel so that work could be progressed with the delivery plan and get residents back on board and money into the Easington Lane and Moorsley communities as the Programme had intended. Ms Caldwell advised that she would keep Members briefed on progress.

Members welcomed the update and prospect of progress with the Programme as outlined above and commented that they looked forward to receiving further updates in due course.

In respect of the changes to Gentoo Housing and Neighbourhood Management, Ms. Caldwell advised that recruitment was underway; the intention being to appoint an 'Art of Living Co-Ordinator' for each locality. There would therefore result in a total of 15 Art of Living Co-Ordinators who would be responsible on average for 350 properties each acting as a single point of contact for all issues for Gentoo tenants within a particular neighbourhood. They would speak with all tenants on their patch and work through a survey to identify what support they might require.

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

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

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 was 9% lower compared to the same period the previous year. There had been 132 fewer crimes. Youth antisocial behaviour incidents was down by 9%; there having been 57 fewer reports. There were however priority areas such as Market Street, Hetton where there were regular reports of youth antisocial behaviour which had been discussed at the LMAPS meetings and where the new Police dispersal powers, which came into force in October, had been used. Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove added that consideration had been given to putting the 3G

cameras in the area but as there were no lampposts which were of sufficient height to prevent the cameras being reached, thought was being given to installing a new pole at a cost of £2,000.

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield added in respect of the above that it was hoped that funding could be secured from the Community Safety Fund.

Ms. Musgrove stated that there had been incidents of general disorder at the Brickgarth and Elemore Lane and incidents involving motorcycles and quad bikes churning up grassed areas. This had been discussed at the LMAPS meeting and it had been proposed to put fences up between the houses in order to block off the access and thereby reduce the problems being caused in the area.

Ms. Musgrove advised that there had also been incidents of disorder involving young people and motorcycles at the Broadway and Rectory Park areas. She informed that patrols focussing on vulnerable premises in shop areas including Off Licences, Betting Shops and pubs, which might be carrying more cash in the run up to Christmas, were being stepped up and the 3G cameras were being moved to those locations to assist with this.

In response to Councillor Lawson who asked about Community Impact Assessments, Ms. Musgrove advised that these were not done anymore and had been replaced by Community Tension Reports. She assured Councillor Lawson that Councillors would be contacted if it was felt there was information they needed to know about in their ward and added that she was happy for Councillors to email her direct if there was any information they needed or questions they wanted to ask.

In response to Councillor Blackburn, Ms. Musgrove advised that it was an offence to park on the footpaths but it was difficult to enforce and officers would deal with it when they could. If it was possible to get a mobility scooter or buggy through the space that was left, then the vehicle was not considered to be causing an obstruction. However, if a parked vehicle was causing a restriction or posing a danger then it would be dealt with.

Councillor Blackburn commented that local councillors were contacted numerous times regarding parking matters.

Councillor Wakefield added that indiscriminate parking was a major problem in Newbottle. He found the 101 Service very irritating as by the time it was reported and action was going to be taken, the problem had gone.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing commentary on incidents in the Coalfield Area from 1st September to 19th November, 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman advised that Mr. Jeff Wilkinson, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service had now retired and asked that any questions on the report be forwarded to Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield for onward submission to the Fire and Rescue Service.

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove updated the Committee regarding the recent incidents of stone throwing at the fire fighters and fire appliances at Easington Lane, advising that this had occurred in the two days leading up to Bonfire Night, however there had been no further incidents.

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted and any queries on the information submitted be forwarded as detailed above.

Area Budgets Report

The Chief Executive 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 to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(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 of the report advising that a balance of £65,565 remained.

Ms. Hopper highlighted the application for SIB funding, which was a recommendation from the Area Place Board, detailed at paragraph 2.2, for the provision of a Bus Shelter at Blind Lane costing £5,500 and pointed out that should the proposal be approved the balance of SIB funding remaining would be £60,065.

Ms. Hopper briefed the Committee on the application advising that it was being recommended subject to completion of resident consultation in the locality and confirmation from Nexus that there would be no future maintenance or financial liability to the City Council.

Ms. Hopper highlighted the allocation of £20,000 from the Green Spaces Funding advising that regular feedback would be given on how and where the money was being spent.

Ms. Hopper referred the Committee to the Community Chest approvals and current balances as at November 2014 detailed at paragraph 4 and as set out at Annex 2 of the report.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the report be noted;
- b) the request for SIB funding of £5,500 as set out in paragraph 2.2 and Annex 1 of the report for the provision of a bus shelter at Blind Lane subject to the conditions detailed above and in the report, be approved; and
- c) the 9 Community Chest approvals supported from the 2014/15 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 September to October 2014 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

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

(Signed) J. SCOTT,
Chairman.