

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the TANSY CENTRE, SOUTH HYLTON, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Atkinson, Gallbraith, Gallagher, Gofton, Tye, Waller, S. Watson and A. Wilson.

Also Present:-

Bill Blackett	West Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Simone Common	West Locality Operations Manager	Sunderland City Council
Colin Curtis	Assistant Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Ash Hopper	Sergeant	Northumbria Police
Janet Johnson	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Laverick	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Bill Leach	Partnership Co-ordinator	Pennywell Com. Centre
Julie Lynn	Area Community Officer	Sunderland City Council
Chris Marshall	Head of Operations	Gentoo
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Parker Walton	Public Health Lead	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Edna Rochester	Treasurer	Tansy Centre
Jeff Wilkinson	Station Manager	T&W Fire and Rescue

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those attending their first meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee. The Chairman then invited those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, Porthouse, P. Smith, Turton, P. Watson and T. Wright.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 25th June, 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report.

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Tye, presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services, Housing Renewal, Shopping Centres and Environment and Street Scene Improvements as at 30th September, 2014.

There being no questions or comments on the report it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and be noted,
- ii) approval be given to the priority works for derelict land as detailed in annex 2 of the report and
- iii) approval be given to the proposals for maximising green space work as detailed annex 3 of the report.

People Board Progress Report.

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Prior to consideration of the item, Councillor Gibson advised Members that the recommendation in respect of 14-16 support was being withdrawn pending further consideration at the People Board.

Councillor Atkinson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving the key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to Youth Contracts, Welfare Reform, Job Prospects and Health and Well Being as at 30th September, 2014.

There being no question on the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted,
- ii) approval be given to recommendations on joint health actions for the West,
- iii) approval be given to the development of a citywide employment support provision based around the role of a Social Justice Co-ordinator,
- iv) approval be given to the recommendation to allocate further funding to support the progression from work experience to apprenticeships,
- v) the issue of 14 to 16 support be deferred pending further consideration at the People Board.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN)

The AVCS Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on issues pertinent to the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer presented the report highlighting the following feedback and input arising from the latest VCS meeting which centred on the issue of maximising green space:-

- Lack of cycle routes in and across the West area including Grindon, Thorney Close and Pennywell.
- Signs to destinations obstructed or not there at all, examples given included (Silksworth Sports Park and Lambton Street Youth Centre)
- Mini goalposts requested for land adjacent to Pennywell CA
- Mini goalposts or trim trail on land to rear of Tansy Centre.
- Development of natural habitats in Barnes extension.
- Promotion and development of Children's Forest at Pennywell, potential to include off road cycling and orienteering all of which is delivered out of area at the moment.
- Heritage walks – Walk Leaders
- Simple map of area and each ward showing what was available (matrix of facilities).
- Lighting of existing areas (MUGA's/Play areas)
- Develop dementia friendly gardens.
- LSYC has capacity to develop outdoor bowling green targeted at older or disabled persons
- Adequate litter bin coverage.
- Clean up industrial estates, Pennywell mentioned as key entrance to the city, detracts from area and Children's Forest.

Consideration having been to the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West

Inspector Lisa Laverick of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators showing actual crimes for the period 1st April, 2014 to 20th September, 2014 and the percentage increase / decrease against the same period last year.

Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary from dwelling, burglary other than dwelling, criminal damage, theft and handling, shoplifting, youth ASB and Non Youth ASB. In addition members were informed of the particular crime patterns in respect of the Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, Sandhill, Silksworth and St Chad's wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Gofton referred to the decrease in shoplifting in the Pallion ward and expressed her pleasure at the role played in this by the formation of the Pallion Traders Association.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Laverick and Sgt Hopper for their attendance it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) presented his report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st July to 24th September, 2014 with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from accidental / all dwelling fires (there were none),
- ii) the number of injuries from accidental / all dwelling fires (there was one),
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties (6),
- iv) deliberate property fires (2), and
- v) deliberate vehicle fires (10)

(For copy report – see original minutes)

With regard to the accidental fires in domestic properties, Mr Wilkinson reported that all six were kitchen fires. Mr Wilkinson referred to the potential industrial action to be taken by the Fire Service and Local Government Officers in October. He advised that the Fire Service were working jointly with the Council's Responsive Local Services and Gentoo on a door knocking campaign regarding the potential arson risk to wheelie bins left in the street. Residents were being warned that if the bins remained un-emptied because of the strike they should be brought back off the street because unlike a bank holiday they would not be emptied the next day and would be left until the next scheduled collection date. Councillor Gofton confirmed that the general issue of bins left in the street had been raised as a concern at the latest Barnes and Pallion residents meeting.

Mr Wilkinson, Mr Blackett and Inspector Laverick having briefed the Committee on their preparations for the run up to Bon Fire Night, the Chairman thanked Mr Wilkinson for his report and it was:-

6. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer, presented the report highlighting the financial statement, details of 33 projects approved for support from the 2014/15 Community Chest budget as outlined in Annex 3 of the report together with details of 4 further SIB funding requests.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1, and 3.1, of the report be received and noted, and
- (ii) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board to the allocation of £28,197 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget, towards the purchase of a Community vehicle for the Tansy Centre,
- (iii) approval be given to the recommendation of the Place Board to the allocation of £40,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget, to support improvements to derelict land and maximising green space,
- (iv) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board to the allocation of £20,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget, to support apprenticeships in the West Sunderland Area,
- (v) the allocation of £20,000 Health funding to support maximising green space to improve health be noted,

- (vi) consideration of the proposed allocation of £100,000 SIB towards a programme of support for 14 – 16 year old secondary school pupils be deferred pending further consideration at the People Board, and
- (vii) the approval of the 33 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 3 of the report be noted.

Current Planning Applications (West Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st August and 9th September, 2014 was submitted for members information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED the schedule be received and noted.

Julie Lynn – Area Community Officer

In drawing proceedings to a close, The Chairman informed everyone that this was to be Julie's last meeting as she would be leaving the Area Arrangements Team to take up a new position within the Council's People Directorate. The Chairman personally thanked Julie for all her hard work in the West Sunderland Area and as token of the Committee's appreciation, presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a small gift for all her endeavours undertaken on its behalf. Julie responded suitably.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and especially to all at the Tansy Centre for their kindness and assistance in hosting the meeting and the associated community event.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.