

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON TOWN CENTRE LIBRARY, WASHINGTON CENTRE on THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE, 2009 at 6.00 P.M.

Present:

Councillor Kelly in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Miller, I. Richardson, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, Stephenson, Trueman, Wake, Walker and Whalen

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chamberlin, A. Cuthbert, I. Cuthbert and Timmins.

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2009/10 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillor Walker declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Member of the F Pit Banner Club.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 1st April and the Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th April

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, provided an update on the changes to the Area Committee governance. The 80-20 split had been removed from the SIB /SIP budget for the Washington area; this would be reviewed to see which system worked better. There would be no closed meetings and it would be made easier for people to apply for funding. The open session would allow members of the public to submit questions to the committee. It was anticipated that there would be a 30 minute time limit however this would be at the discretion of the Chairman.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting and the extraordinary meeting be confirmed and signed as correct records.

Establishing a Washington Area Work Plan 2009-10

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider and agree the work programme for the year as well as decide which people and organisations should be invited to each meeting and to discuss and agree the proposed venues for the meetings.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report; she advised that the proposed work plan was the result of the consultation exercises which had taken place.

The Members welcomed the proposed work plan.

Councillor Wake asked for clarification on what the directory to be circulated actually was. Ms Trueman advised that it would be a document designed to provide residents with information regarding what was happening within the area as there were often events held by organisations which residents were not aware of.

The Chairman commented that the bad news was often published however the good news stories were often overlooked. He felt it was important to make people aware of the good things that were happening.

The Committee then went on to discuss who should be involved in each theme.

The Chairman suggested that the Members become involved in specific themes which they have an interest in or knowledge of.

The Members expressed interest as follows:-

Safe theme:

Councillors Scaplehorn, Snowdon and Wake

Learning theme:

Councillors I. Richardson and Snowdon

Healthy theme:

Councillors Fletcher and Walker

Attractive and Inclusive theme:

Councillor Trueman. The Chairman also suggested that Councillor Fletcher be involved in this theme due to her role as Chair of the Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub Committee.

Prosperous theme:

Councillor Miller

The Chairman requested that Ms Trueman allocate those Members who had not expressed an interest to the themes that were most relevant to the Member.

Ms Trueman then requested nominations from other organisations and people. It was suggested that the following people are invited for the themes.

Safe theme:

- Northumbria Police
- Environmental Services
- Trading Standards
- Wearside Women In Need
- Mick McCracken - Head of Safeguarding, Children's Services

Learning theme:

- Judith Hay - Head of PC&EWB, Children's Services
- Lynda Brown - Head of Standards, Children's Services

Healthy Theme:

- Adult Services
- Paul Gray
- Nonnie Crawford – Primary Care Trust
- Janette Sherratt - Head of Health Improvement, Children's Services
- Washington Mind
- Bill Craddock – representing Age Concern
- Gentoo
- Victoria French - Wellness Manager, Community and Cultural Services
- Bridge Project

Attractive and Inclusive theme:

- Alan Caddick - Head of Housing, Health, Housing and Adult Services
- Burney Johnson – Head of Transport and Engineering, Development and Regeneration
- Nexus
- Allan Calvert - Traffic Manager, Development and Regeneration
- Gentoo
- Ian Coburn - Parks Development Manager, Community and Cultural Services
- Sustrans
- Keith Lowes - Head of Planning and Environment, Development and Regeneration

Prosperous theme:

- Janet Snaith - Head of City Business and Investment Team, Office of the Chief Executive
- Joan Reed - Strategic Change Manager, Health, Housing and Adult Services
- Business Link

Ms Trueman advised the Committee that she would contact the people and organisations listed above to invite them to the relevant meetings. She then advised that the venues for the future meetings needed to be agreed.

The committee looked at each meeting in turn and discussed the possible venues for each meeting.

Safe Theme:

The committee were advised that the Gentoo office may not be large enough to hold the meeting.

The Chairman suggested that the Library could be used again.

Councillor Fletcher suggested the Fire Station at Glover Industrial Estate as a possible venue.

Councillor Trueman agreed that this could be a suitable venue as there was a theatre which could be used to hold the meeting.

The committee agreed to hold the meeting at the Fire Station.

Learning theme:

Councillor Miller recommended that Oxclose School be used as the venue for this meeting. The Members agreed with this recommendation.

Healthy theme:

Councillor Walker suggested the new Primary Care Trust could be used for the meeting.

Councillor I. Richardson suggested Barmston Primary School.

The Chairman commented that he thought the Primary Care Trust sounded like a good location. The Members agreed with this.

Attractive and Inclusive theme:

Councillor Miller suggested Barmston Primary School.

Councillor Trueman advised that some Community Associations had little or no parking available.

Councillor Snowdon suggested Washington Old Hall however Councillor Stephenson advised that there was poor access for people with disabilities.

Councillor Wake suggested Rickleton Cricket Club.

The Committee agreed to hold the meeting at Barmston Primary School.

Prosperous theme:

Councillor Stephenson suggested George Washington School. The Members agreed with this suggestion.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i). The work plan for the year be agreed.
- (ii). The Members become involved in the themes allocated to them.
- (iii). Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, to contact the partners and officers identified to invite them to the relevant meetings.
- (iv). The venues agreed by members be inspected to ensure their suitability for holding Meetings.
- (v). If suitable the venues identified be used to hold the Meetings.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2009/10 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider and approve the 13 proposals for Community Chest funding and to consider and approve the SIB Financial Statement.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report, she advised that there were 13 proposals for Community Chest funding totalling £3,020.

Annex 2, the financial statement, showed the Budget allocation for SIB funding, the budget allocation for SIP funding and the budget allocation for Community Chest Funding.

The SIB budget had not been confirmed and as such it would not be possible to approve the Year 2 funding for Washington Victim Support as the only funding available was the amount carried forward from 2008/09 and the returned funding from Washington Glebe Bowling and Community Hall Holy Trinity Church. This resulted in the current balance being £7,570.

The SIP funding was capital which was available to spend on projects related to the Local Area Plan. The Committee was free to spend the money however they saw fit and it was a one off amount.

There had been £10,000 allocated to each ward for Community Chest funding.

Councillor Snowdon asked for clarification of which Holy Trinity Church had returned funding. Councillor Trueman advised that it was the Holy Trinity Church in Usworth.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i). The 13 proposals for Community Chest funding be approved.
- (ii). Approval of the Year 2 funding for Washington Victim Support be deferred until the SIB budget for 2009/10 has been confirmed.
- (iii). The budget allocations for SIP and Community Chest be endorsed.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: Ward Based Community Chest – Return of Funding

The Chief Executive submitted a report (Copy circulated) which allowed Members to agree the return of funding for unclaimed Community Chest approvals from 2006/07 and the carry forward of unallocated Community Chest funding from 2008/09.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised that should the Committee agree the return of funding there would be £6,743 returned to the budget. Per ward this amounted to:-

- Washington Central: £220
- Washington East: £2,667
- Washington North: £878
- Washington South: £1,500
- Washington West: £1,478

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i). The unclaimed approvals from 2006/07 be returned to the budget for reallocation
- (ii). The unallocated budget from 2008/09 be carried forward to 2009/10 for allocation.

Washington Wheeled Sports Park Update

The Chairman advised that there would be a full report to the July Meeting and that this presentation was an update on progress which had been made since the last Meeting of the Committee.

Julie Russell, Sport and Leisure Partnership Manager, delivered the presentation.

Step 3 had seen six possible sites shortlisted. The project was now at Steps 4 and 5; the landscape architects had looked at the sites and produced designs showing how the park could look. The Young Peoples Steering Group had already looked at these designs.

There would be a session with Members and public consultation would also be starting. The local multi agency group and the Police would also be consulted.

The plans would be available for viewing on the internet and everyone would be able to vote on the sites either online or on paper. There would be a freepost address for the paper forms.

The consultation would run for two weeks ending on 22nd June, 2009 at 12 noon, the analysis of the results would be brought to the committee on 2nd July.

Once a location had been decided on there would be consultation with local residents to ensure that the designs were acceptable.

A member of the public stated that at the last meeting there had not been an analysis presented, he asked whether the information would be made public before the meeting.

Ms Russell responded stating that she was happy to share the information.

The Chairman advised that the information needed to be presented to the committee to allow Members to give feedback.

A member of the public then asked whether the analysis would be attached to the report as a background paper. It should be attached as it would be important.

Ms Russell stated that she would be happy to provide the reports. The Chairman added that the public would receive the same information as Members.

Councillor Miller stated that the work was being done for the public and as such there was a need for the process to be open and transparent. There should be a matrix produced showing the reasons why everything was chosen. He congratulated the officers on their work but raised concerns that there were three venues in the central ward and one in the north ward and it seemed like the other wards were being excluded.

Ms Russell advised that the Members had nominated the potential venues; more could be added if necessary however there would be large costs involved as new drawings would need to be produced.

The Chairman added that when the drawings were made available the Members would be contacted so that they could become involved. The Members who had been present had picked the designs from the nominations.

Ms Russell stated that a book containing the designs could be produced.

In response to a query from Councillor I. Richardson, Ms Russell advised that catchment areas had been used to provide background information but had not been used as a criteria for selecting sites. The sites had been ordered

using the number of young people within the area. The six designs were all technically suitable and consultation had not yet finished.

The Chairman advised that as the consultation had not finished there was no information on a preferred site. The information would be provided to the committee on 2nd July and questions would be answered then. Everyone had their own personal preferences but the consultation would ensure that the best location was chosen.

A member of the public asked what would be done to prevent multiple voting.

Ms Russell advised that there would be technical systems in place online to prevent multiple votes. The paper votes would require postcodes and the forms would need to be fully completed. The voting would only be open to Washington residents.

5. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted and a written report be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

(Signed) J. KELLY,
Chairman.