

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held in WASHINGTON MILLENIUM CENTRE, on THURSDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2019 at 6.00p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Lauchlan in the Chair

Councillors Armstrong, Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, F. Miller, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Williams.

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Louise Butler	-	Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Mrs. Karon Purvis	-	Area Officer – Sunderland City Council
Mr. Jon Ritchie	-	Executive Director of Corporate Services, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Paul Wood	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Inspector Nick Gjorven	-	Northumbria Police
Mr. Phil Sowerby	-	Station Manager - TWFR
Mr. Kevin Burns	-	Station Manager - TWFR
Ms. Shirley Gillum	-	VCS Representative
Members of the Public	-	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance and advising of the right to record proceedings.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors D. Snowdon and D.E. Snowdon and on behalf of Ms Sylvia Copley.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

Minutes of the last meeting held on 26th September 2019

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 26th September, 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Resident Engagement and Neighbourhood Investment Plans

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update to Elected Members on Resident Engagement 'Let's Talk Sunderland' and how the engagement was informing the development of the emerging Neighbourhood Investment Plans. The report also explained how the priorities within the Neighbourhood Investment Plans would be presented for approval by the Area Committee in March 2020.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Karon Purvis, Area Officer, took the Committee through the report and requested Members to encourage residents to partake in the engagement and to provide responses. Mrs Purvis also advised of the proposal for an extraordinary Joint Washington Area People and Place Board to be scheduled in February 2020.

In response to Councillor Farthing's enquiry over the event to be held on 16th January, Mrs Purvis advised that there would be part of the event that was for Stakeholder invite only and the other part would be looking at the crowdfund element so they would be inviting those that would want to take part. Whilst it was not a public event there would be a wide range of interested parties involved.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Partner Agency Reports

a) Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Purvis took the Committee through the report informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

The Chairman wished to take the opportunity to thank the VCS Sector on behalf of the Area Committee for the vital work that they carried out.

Members having fully considered the report, it was: -

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

b) Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

The Tyne and Wear Fire Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided performance-monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee (Washington) from 1st September 2019 to 30th November 2019, compared with the same period in 2018.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Phil Sowerby, Station Manager provided the report and commented that the figures included were very good and in general there had been a good decrease in incidents.

Councillor Farthing informed of an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents within the Washington South Ward due to trolleys being set alight in subways and commented that Trolleywise were not being as responsive as they previously used to be in collecting reported abandoned trolleys and that this might be something the Fire Authority may wish to speak to the organisation about.

Councillor Williams referred to a similar problem within Bede Crescent and whilst this was a Trolleywise problem it could become an issue for the Fire Authority once the trolleys were set alight and commented on the need to look at the clearing of the full area when the trolleys were removed.

Councillor Scaplehorn advised that there have been numerous meetings over the issue of trolleys and the last meeting was arranged with Sharon Hodgson MP and suggested she be invited along with the Fire Authority to future meetings.

Mrs Purvis advised of the Task and Finish Group 'Together Clean and Green' which included Gentoo and the Place Services Team to look at a joint initiative to tackle fly tipping and abandoned trolleys was an action point for them. Details of the Task and Finish Group were included further in the agenda under Item 5 – Place Board Progress Report.

With regards to the issue of Trolleys, the Fire Authority advised that at the end of their report, they had included a fire stopper number which Members and Residents could report to, and requested that Members pass this onto residents and they would also take back the issue as an action point and speak with Trolleywise.

Mrs Purvis advised that the fire stoppers number could be advertised on the community pages also.

In response to Councillor Taylor's query over Gladstone Terrace figures, Mr Sowerby advised that he would look at the detail of these and supply further information directly to Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Taylor informed the Committee of the staff at the Fire Station coming out on ward walks with Members and wished to thank those Officers for doing this and recommended Members take up the opportunity to meet and work with the service.

The Chairman commented that the Area Committee appreciated all the work that the Officers carried out in this regard.

Councillor Kelly wished to comment on the excellent work done through November and particularly Bonfire night by Council staff, Fire Authority, Gentoo and the Police as it had been the least disruptive year to date and all involved deserved huge congratulations.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor H. Trueman, the Fire Authority advised that the Princes Trust presentations were only carried out in certain Hubs and unfortunately none of these were in Washington.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

c) Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police submitted a verbal report which provided an update on crime and disorder in the Washington area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Gjorven informed the Committee of two new sergeants and officers on the team who had been asked to introduce themselves whilst out and about. There was now a 24/7 response and a larger investigation unit.

In relation to Crime, Car Crime was the main issue in Washington with 29 incidents this year rising from 18 incidents the previous year. Officers were doing door to door visits and social media campaigns to advise people to ensure they lock their car doors.

Burglaries were down from 96 to 90 despite there being a spate of incidents in the Harraton area (5 in 8 or 9 days). A CCTV camera was being moved into the area as a deterrent.

Reports of Youth Anti-Social Behaviour were down from 335 to 312 and the Galleries Shopping Centre situation was getting better due to work carried out with the Schools although some had been displaced to subways so CCTV had been placed on those to try and control the issue.

Councillor Farthing thanked the Inspector for the rapid response in relation to the burglaries in Rickleton, which had gone a long way to reassure the residents of that area.

Councillor Scaplehorn referred to the staff changes and commented that they had lost one of the best Officers and on behalf of the Washington West Ward, that thanks be formally sent to Sue for the work that she had done in the Ward. Inspector Gjorven advised that he would pass this on.

In relation to Councillor Scaplehorn's enquiry over the spray paint paid for by Washington North and West Ward to catch the perpetrators using off-road motorbikes antisocially, Inspector Gjorven advised that the paint had not been used as yet but they had seized a number of bikes in the Albany area.

Councillor Williams enquired over the PACT meetings and discussions over potentially holding a Town wide meeting and also queried if there had been a conclusion in relation to a number of dogs found to be poisoned in Princess Anne Park.

Inspector Gjorven advised that they were happy to hold the PACT meetings wherever there was a need for them and Houghton was still generally well attended. Centrally they could hold a meeting but the issue would be how this was controlled with which issues/area to focus on. With regards to the incidents of dogs being poisoned, officers did visit the park but this led to nothing.

In response to Councillor Williams request for advice over parking/speeding problems particularly around the Sky Lounge establishment, Inspector Gjorven informed the Committee that the Police prioritise based on vulnerability and whilst parking was lower on the list, if Officers were available they could issue sanctions and can work with the Local Authority if there was a long standing issue to look for a long term solution.

Referring back to the PACT meetings Councillor Taylor advised that the Barmston meeting was attended by a PCSO, which all Members were welcome to attend and also queried how the safety camera van locations in Washington were determined. Inspector Gjorven advised that locations were determined by traffic surveys and Members could rest assured that when they proposed locations, these were investigated.

Councillor Kelly referred to the 20 mph speed zones in Concord and commented that once these were in, he hoped we could come up with new ideas and work together on a real opportunity to reduce the volume of traffic as we were starting to develop good partnerships.

Councillor Fletcher suggested that the figures for vehicle burglaries could be higher in scale as she knew of an incident where a vehicle had been ransacked. Inspector Gjørven agreed that the figure may be higher due to victims not reporting the incident due to embarrassment.

Councillor Taylor referred to the Community Speedwatch which had been discussed at previous Area Committees and suggested that the Fire Service may wish to get volunteers involved. Mr Burns of the Fire Authority advised that this was something he could take back for consideration.

Members thanked Inspector Gjørven for his attendance, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Washington Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee of the progress of the Washington Area People Board against the current year's (2019/20) Work Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor D. Trueman presented the report and highlighted the positive progress and outcomes made to date.

Mrs Purvis advised of discussions in relation to the Can Do Project and the suggestion to implement specific themes, such as tackling mental health for example, to try and impose a level of control over what was proposed and which groups could apply for the funds.

Councillor Kelly commented that this was a difficult issue as they wanted young people to engage and suggested that it may be a limit be set at 2 applications before someone else has the opportunity to apply. Councillor Kelly suggested that this be discussed when setting priorities going forward.

Councillor G. Miller commented that we had struggled to get funding into the communities therefore he felt if we got to the point where we had more applications than money to allocate, then we could look at imposing conditions as to number of times groups could apply, but until that problem arose he felt it best to continue with the current process.

In response to Councillor Taylors enquiry over St Robert's School engaging with the youth provider, Mrs Purvis advised that there had not been an update to give as yet and this was due to be brought to the next Board meeting.

Councillor Kelly referred to the finances around the Youth provision and that all Area Committees had paid substantial funding into this as a priority and hopefully developments taken place would give us a better outcome and we needed to ensure we got the maximum outcome for our money and to strengthen our provision.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the Committee considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington People Board Work Plan for 2019/2020 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report, and note the items referred to in Item 6 of the agenda for consideration.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Washington Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee of the progress of the Washington Area People Board against the current year's (2019/20) Work Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor F. Miller presented the report and highlighted the positive progress and outcomes made to date.

In relation to the Tree Management Strategy, Councillor Armstrong advised that he taken a meeting with an arborist for a critical evaluation of the proposed strategy and wished to raise some queries. Mrs Purvis advised that the proposal Councillor Armstrong was referring to was not being progressed in the same way anymore due to the costly nature involved. Instead a pilot had been proposed and was detailed on page 36 of the agenda.

Councillor Farthing commented that she welcomed the start of this pilot as lots of work was needed due to the plantations not being managed but whilst the pilot was welcomed she still did not think it would deliver the outcome residents wanted, which was the removal of dead trees in certain locations for example.

Councillor Farthing also commented on the need to replace trees that were removed and a tree management strategy/policy was most needed.

Councillor H. Trueman wished to comment on the amazing work involved in these reports and stated that the Officers responsible deserved a great deal of credit.

Members having fully considered the report, it was: -

7. RESOLVED that the Committee considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington Place Board Work Plan for 2019/2020 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report, and the recommendations referred to in Item 6 of the agenda

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of the Neighbourhood Fund and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Purvis presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

With regards to the priority of Heritage and Culture – Events 2020 Programme, Councillor Williams suggested that the Area Committee should agree how much it was going to fund the events for, and any additional money required be raised by the groups involved and also that consideration needed to be given as to who leads on these as soon as possible.

Councillor Kelly commented on the need to get the Banner Groups to work together and suggested that the agreement of the level of Community Chest to be used be discussed at the Joint meeting of the Washington Area People and Place Board to be scheduled for February.

In relation to paragraph 5.1.3 of the report, Councillor Taylor wished to advise that there were in fact two remembrance parades in Washington to consider.

Having fully discussed the applications and Members having had any questions answered, it was: -

8. RESOLVED that the Committee: -

- (i) Received and noted the financial statements as set out in the report under Paragraph 2;
- (ii) Considered and approved the award of £10,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund 2019/20 for Area Committee Communications as detailed in Paragraph 2.1 (amended);
- (iii) Considered and approved the award of £50,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund (2019/20) to develop a programme of youth provision across Washington and approved the Project Brief as presented in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iv) Approved the return of £7,500 from the Washington Safe Partnership Project as detailed in Paragraph 4.3 of the report;

- (v) Noted the Washington Ward Improvement balances as detailed in Paragraph 6 of the report; and
- (vi) Noted the Community Chest balances as detailed in Paragraph 7 and Annex 2 of the report,

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st November, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) L. LAUCLAN,
Chairman.