

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HALL, NEWBOTTLE on WEDNESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Lawson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Heron, Johnston, N. MacKnight, Rowntree, Speding, Thornton, Turner and G. Walker

Also in Attendance:-

Chris Binding	Local Democracy Reporter	
Kevin Burns	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire Service
Louise Butler	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Wendy Cook	Area Network Representative	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Louise Garbutt		Member of the Public
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Sam Humble	Head of Operations	Gentoo Group
Imogen Peck		Member of the Public
K. Rowham	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Craig Sherriff	Sergeant	Northumbria Police
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She enquired if anyone intended to record the proceedings. No one indicated that they were intending to do so. Introductions were then made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Cunningham, Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive of Together for Children and Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council, together with Ms Debbie Hall, Environmental Services Manager, Sunderland City Council and Mr Paul Finch, Ms Ellen Bewick and Ms Christine Willis, Area Network Representatives.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Blackburn made an open declaration as a member of the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in respect of the application made from the organisation for funding from the Joint Health Funding. He left the meeting prior to any discussion on the project and took no part in any decision on funding.

Councillor Johnston made an open declaration as an employee at Houghton Sports Centre in respect of the Neighbourhood Fund applications for the Walking Football and Indoor Bowls projects detailed in Item 6. He left the meeting prior to any discussion on the projects and took no part in any decisions on funding.

Councillor Rowntree made an open declaration in relation to ELCAP Community Transport in respect of the Neighbourhood Fund application for Total Transport. Councillor Rowntree also made an open declaration in relation the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in respect of the application for Joint Health Funding submitted by the organisation. She left the meeting prior to any discussion on the projects by these organisations and took no part in any decision on funding for the projects.

Councillor Speding made an open declaration as Chair of Durham County Football Association Ltd as a Partner organisation involved in the Walking Football Project. He left the meeting prior to any discussion on the project and took no part in any decision on funding for the project.

Councillor Thornton made an open declaration in relation to the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in respect of the application for Joint Health Funding submitted by the organisation. She left the meeting prior to any discussion on the project by the organisation and took no part in any decision on funding for the project.

Councillor Turner made an open declaration in relation to Hetton New Dawn and as a member of the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in respect of the applications for Joint Health Funding submitted by the organisations. She left the meeting prior to any discussion on the projects by these organisations and took no part in any decision on funding for the projects.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 25th September, 2019 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct record.

Variation of Agenda

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the agenda be varied to allow the Gentoo Update to be provided to the Committee following the item on Resident Engagement and Neighbourhood Investment Plans as the Officer had another engagement and needed to leave the meeting.

Resident Engagement and Neighbourhood Investment Plans

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) to present to Elected Members an update 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).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report which informed of the activity to date in engaging residents under the 'Let's Talk Sunderland' campaign, the progress to date relating to the Neighbourhood Investment Plans and regarding development of the Area Committee priorities for 2020 and onwards.

Ms Hopper circulated an update detailing resident engagement and neighbourhood investment plan activities. She advised that the next step would be to discuss the Area Committee priorities, which would need to fit in with the City Plan priorities, at a joint meeting of the Coalfield Area People and Place Boards.

Ms Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council confirmed that the Area Committee priorities would need to be approved by Cabinet.

The Chairman thanked Ms Hopper and Ms Butler for all the work done on the Resident Engagement and commented that the Let's Talk event at the Bethany church had been very good. The Chairman also thanked Ms Cook for facilitating the event.

In response to Councillor Blackburn, Ms Hopper confirmed that there were 3 prizes of £50 available for participants in Let's Talk who were willing to provide their details and wanting to enter into the draw.

The Chairman having commented that it would be a good idea to have a joint meeting of the Coalfield Area People and Place Boards and full discussion having taken place on the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted; and
- ii) that the matter be referred to the Coalfield Area Place and People Boards for further discussions on how members would wish to support and monitor delivery of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan and arrangements be made for a joint meeting to take place in February 2020.

Partner Agency Reports – Gentoo Update

Ms Samantha Humble, Head of Operations, Gentoo provided an update for the Coalfield Area Committee from June 2019 to December 2019.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Humble highlighted the change in opening hours of Gentoo local offices, the number of customers in receipt of Universal Credit and the impact of this on rent arrears and the anti-social behaviour taking place predominantly in the Hetton Road Estate and Penshaw areas.

Ms Humble also drew Members attention to the growing problem of fly tipping in the area.

In response to Councillors Speding and N. MacKnight, Ms Humble advised that Gentoo was linked in with the Council in terms of Equality procedures and that all of the characteristics were protected. Any tenants caught being racially abusive could end up being sanctioned or losing their tenancy.

In response to the Chairman, Ms Humble advised that tenants were informed when they were getting their windows replaced. They could also ring up Gentoo to check as there was a five year plan and staff would be able to advise when works were scheduled.

Ms Humble added that all boilers had been replaced and the next issue was replacement windows which were prioritised based on the survey and which would be undertaken over the next five years. Tenants were advised by letter of impending works and there was a Tenant Liaison Officer assigned to them.

The Chairman having thanked Ms Humble for her report it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress and performance against the current year's, 2019/20 Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor Heron briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the work being carried out in relation to play areas and additional equipment or works such as inclusive equipment on some sites.

Councillor Heron drew attention to the next phase of My Space, Your Space underway with 15 primary schools across the Coalfield.

Councillor Heron also highlighted the project to improve road safety by the deployment of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). She advised that the signs would be located for three months at a time before being moved to another location.

Councillor Speding expressed concern that Councillors had suggested locations for the VAS based on local knowledge and yet if they did not meet the traffic survey criteria that they would not be located in these places, even though it was the Coalfield Area Committee which was paying for them from its budget. He commented that this would then have been a waste of his time in communicating and engaging with residents on the matter.

The Chairman, Councillor Lawson advised that she had made strong representations at a meeting of the Chairs of Areas Committees and of Place Boards to the effect that if Area Committees were providing the funding that Councillors needed to influence where the VAS were going.

Councillor Johnston commented that he was delighted to see that the improvements to play parks were going ahead and congratulated the Place Board.

Members of the Committee having considered the report; it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2019/20 be received and noted and that the proposals for future delivery be approved.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress and performance against the current year's, 2019/20 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor N. MacKnight briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the applications for CANDO funding which had been approved for pupils at Kepier school and girls from Eppleton Cricket Club.

The Chairman commented that there had been a lot of interest on the Coalfield Facebook page about women's cricket as a result of the article on the girls from Eppleton Cricket Club.

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

5. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2019/20 be received and noted and that the proposals for future delivery be approved.

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

Ms Wendy Cook, Mr Paul Finch, Ms Eileen Bewick and Ms Christine Willis, Area Network Representatives submitted a joint 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 Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative briefed the Committee on the report highlighting the Carers Centre project, the appointment of two new VCS representatives in Eileen and Christine and the briefing provided on the Neighbourhood Plans and Let's Talk Sunderland.

Ms Cook also drew Members' attention to the Food Bank Christmas Collection.

The Chairman asked that the thanks of the Area Committee be passed on to all Groups for their work in the Coalfield Area.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police Update

Sergeant Craig Sherriff, Northumbria Police reported that since 1st October there had been 59 reported burglaries in the Coalfield Area whereas in the previous year there had been 71 which was a decrease of 17%. There were no specific areas being targeted and there was now a dedicated burglary team. There had been prolific burglars charged and arrested hence the decrease in incidents.

There had been 258 incidents of Antisocial behaviour as opposed to 185 the previous year, Houghton Feast and Bonfire Night being specific events when these had occurred.

There had been pop up PACT meetings to address the incidents occurring in Hetton the last few months.

Sergeant Sherriff briefed the Committee on an operation where a special motorcycle theft task force had arrested 5 people and advised that people could call in incidents to the Neighbourhood Teams or use the dedicated email address.

Sergeant Sherriff advised that with regards to the Force Operating model, resourcing had been an issue for the last couple of years as there had been 1 team. However, since 4 November there were 2 strands and a second Neighbourhood Team had been set up and there was now 1 sergeant, 4 PCs and 3 CSOs. As a result, there had been a significant increase in Officers in the Houghton area using Houghton Police station as a base and they were starting to see positive results in the area. Response times in the area had also improved.

In response to Councillor MacKnight, Sergeant Sherriff confirmed that the Neighbourhood Teams operated from Houghton Police Station and that they had laptops and phones in the vehicles and that this was allowing more Officers to be on the street where they were needed. Sergeant Sherriff added that the Dog Patrol and Road Safety Team also operated out of Houghton Police Station.

In response to Councillor Rowham, Sergeant Sherriff advised that there were provisions around face covering in relation to riots. There was also provision to put in place a dispersal order if there was specific antisocial behaviour taking place to allow the Police to get in and ask people to leave an area. The minimum level of cover was 4 plus 3 in a team. At key times leave was stopped.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Sherriff for his report and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

Station Manager Kevin Burns, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1st September, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 compared with the same period in 2018.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Burns presented the report and highlighted that there had been no deaths recorded during the reporting period. He drew Members attention to the figures set out relating to deliberate primary road vehicle fires which had increased from 9 to 24 and where Copt Hill and Hetton wards were the highest. Mr Burns also highlighted the number of deliberate fires incorporating secondary fires which had increased by 68% in the area.

Councillor Rowntree commented on the importance of keeping Councillors informed of the issues so as they were able to communicate with residents.

Mr Burns advised that he would pick this up with the Coalfield Area Committee Area Officers.

Councillor Speding referred to the complaints he had received regarding the sporadic letting-off of fireworks, particularly from older people who were more concerned and enquired whether there was anything that could be done about this with the Christmas and New Year celebrations coming.

Sergeant Craig Sherriff, Northumbria Police advised that there were laws against setting fireworks off near roads and the times at night they could be set off. There were also offences in relation to throwing fireworks and the Police were available to speak to people about this and could be called if anyone was committing an offence.

Mr Burns added that retailers needed to be licensed to sell fireworks. If there was an issue as to where people had bought the fireworks from this could be followed up.

In response to the Chairman, Mr Burns confirmed that the Fire Service still carried out home safety inspections and targeted specific areas where there had been incidents. He confirmed that residents were able to give them a call and they would come out to anyone in the community but particularly those who were vulnerable and predominantly the elderly living on their own.

Councillor Thornton referred to wheelie bin fires and to the fact that residents had to pay to replace them and whether there was anything available which they could use to secure the wheelie bin.

Mr Burns reported that if residents secured the bin to their property it might cause problems as if it was set alight it would damage the property also. He therefore advised against this. Residents needed to keep the bin safe and secure and report any incidents.

The Chairman thanked Mr Burns for his report and it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Area Budgets Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience, Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated), providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Neighbourhood Fund and Community Chest and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the financial position as set out in paragraph 2.1, which showed a Neighbourhood Fund balance of £154,832 for 2019/2020.

Ms Hopper referred to paragraph 2.2 which reported that there were 6 projects recommended for approval from the Neighbourhood Fund and that should all applications be approved the remaining balance of Neighbourhood Fund would be £108,231.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to paragraph 2.3 of the report which advised that following allocation of Neighbourhood Fund budget at the September Area Committee meeting, the application for the Coalfield Youth Project had been reviewed by the People Board and recommended for approval.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to the Joint Health Funding, set out in the table at paragraph 3, of £90,000 and to the 10 projects recommended for approval from this budget set out at paragraph 3.2. She advised that should all applications be approved the remaining balance of the Joint Health Budget would be £11,162.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to the Community Chest Ward information set out in the table at paragraph 4.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the report be noted;
- b) the 6 projects recommended for approval from the Neighbourhood Fund as set out below and detailed in Annex 1 be approved:-

Total Transport	ELCAP Community Transport	£12,376
Walking Football	Houghton Sports and Wellness	£4,998
Indoor Bowls	Houghton Sports and Wellness	£4,998
Grass Cutter	Eppleton Cricket Club	£14,280
Flowers in Homes Ph2	MBC Wellbeing CIC	£4,950
Great Gatherings	ShARP	£4,999

- c) the Coalfield Youth Project recommended for approval from previously allocated Neighbourhood Fund budget as detailed in Annex 2; be approved;
- d) the 10 projects recommended for approval from the Joint Health Funding budget, as set out below and detailed in Annex 3 be approved:-

Coalfield Community Wellbeing	MBC Wellbeing	£19,250
Social Activity Navigator	B Active N B Fit	£20,000
Fit and Active Lyons	Friends of Hetton Lyons CP	£7,348
All Weather Workout	Easington Lane Primary School	£4,900
Targets and Stands	Houghton Archers	£4,999
I Believe in Me	Positive Living Company	£4,999
Feel Good Friday Wellbeing	St Aidan's Community Group	£4,940
Our Park is Your Park	Groundwork North East	£3,555
Craftastic	Hetton New Dawn	£4,280
Down at the Pit	Springboard	£4,567

and

- e) the 11 Community Chest approvals supported from 2019/2020 Community Chest as set out in Annex 4, be approved.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st and 30th November, 2019 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, wished them the compliments of the season and closed the meeting.

(Signed) A. LAWSON,

Chairman.