

**At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the Civic Centre on
WEDNESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Dodds, Heron (Vice Chair), N. MacKnight, Price, D. Snowdon and Speding

Also Present:-

Chris Binding	Local Democracy Reporter	
Jill Colbert	Chief Executive of Together for Children and Director of Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Wendy Cook	Area Network Representative	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Bob Heron	Member of the Public	
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Andrew Newton	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire Service
Sandra Stephenson	VCS Community Support Officer	
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Coalfield Area Committee meeting and in particular Station Manager Newton who was attending his first meeting of the Committee representing the Fire Service following the retirement of Kevin Burns, Station Manager.

The Chairman reported that the Sunderland Shining Star Awards were set up by Sunderland City Council that year to celebrate and congratulate the numerous individuals and groups who had supported local residents during some difficult times over the last 18 months and had gone the extra mile during the pandemic.

The Chairman stated that they had been amazed at the nominations received from across the Coalfield area, giving the local judging panel a very difficult task of selecting Winners and Highly Commended to go forward to the City final at the Stadium of Light the next month.

The Chairman stated that he would like to congratulate each and every one of the local residents and groups who had supported their community and especially those who would be representing the Coalfield area in the City finals on 6th October.

The Chairman informed the Committee of the following awards:-

Award		Coalfields
Organisation of the Year	Winner	ELCAP
	Highly Commended	Nightingale Hospital Vaccination Centre - Volunteers
	Highly Commended	Kepier
Outstanding contribution to the community (over 18)	Winner	Dave Ellison
	Highly Commended	Samantha Bell
	Highly Commended	Liz Lawrence
Best Use of Digital Technology for Communication	Winner	Gillas Lane Primary School
	Highly Commended	Cheryl Galloway
	Highly Commended	Dubmire Primary School
Community group that has supported residents' Mental health and wellbeing	Winner	ELCAP
	Highly Commended	Lesley Dixon - MBC Arts Wellbeing

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K. Johnston, Mason-Gage, Rowntree and Thornton, Steve Passey, Acting Inspector Neighbourhood Policing Southern, Northumbria Police, Ellen Bewick Area Network Representative and Kay Rowham, Councillor, Hetton Town Council.

Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were received:-

Item 4 – Area Budgets Report -Application No.4 - Bicentennial Locomotive Artwork

Councillor Blackburn made an open declaration as a Member of the Friends of Hetton Country Park in the above application and he left the meeting prior to any discussion on the application and took no part in any decisions on funding which might affect the organisation. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Heron took the Chair for the item relating to Hetton Country Park.

Councillor Dodds made an open declaration as a Member and Treasurer of the Friends of Hetton Country Park in the above application and she left the meeting prior to any discussion on the application and took no part in any decisions on funding which might affect the organisation.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 30th June, 2021 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Neighbourhood and Community Board Report

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated), which provided an annual update of the Coalfield Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board, Councillor Heron highlighted a number of projects including opportunities for the Elemore Golf Club site, the installation of the Vehicle Activated Signs and the activity sessions during the school holidays.

The Committee viewed a short video setting out the achievements of the projects and the sessions delivered by way of showing progress against the Area Priorities.

Councillor Heron advised that she was pleased to say that Houghton Feast would be going ahead as planned that year and she proceeded to read out a thank you from Councillor K. Johnston, who was unable to attend the meeting that evening, to everyone on the Houghton Feast Committee for their support towards that year's Houghton Feast and a return of the town's much loved traditional programme of events.

Councillor Johnston thanked Councillors Heron, Mason-Gage and Price who had helped bring ideas forward and pull all the events together including the organisation of the carnival parade. He also specifically thanked Ms Michelle Whittle for the work she had done to support the Feast.

Councillor Johnston stated that it was important to acknowledge how much the City Council and the Coalfield Area Committee contributed to funding Houghton Feast and supported groups within the community, including schools, advising that the ox roasting was also supported from Community Chest Funds from the 4 Coalfield wards.

Councillor Johnston paid special mention to Mr Paul Lanagan from Houghton Heritage Society who had committed an extraordinary amount of time and effort to the event including the organisation of the ox roasting and being editor of the Houghton Feast brochure/programme of events.

Councillor Johnston commended the community spirit shown by everyone including Ms Ann Thompson and everyone at Zazz and local businesses who had contributed to the brochure and advertised the Feast on their premises.

Finally, Councillor Johnston thanked Mr Lee Harnett at Print2gogofor supplying additional Houghton Feast banners and all the volunteers and staff who would be working over all the events.

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

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress and performance update regarding the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted and the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1, be approved; and
- ii) the Area Committee video update be noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

Station Manager Andrew Newton, 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 April 2021 to 30th June 2021 compared with the same period in 2020.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Station Manager Newton highlighted that there had been no deaths recorded during the reporting period. There were 4 deliberate property fires a decrease of 6 from the previous year.

Station Manager Newton referred to the FireStoppers reporting details included in the report and advised that they were going to be publicised and that it would be promoted that it was a 100% anonymous contact number that could be used in an effort to stop antisocial behaviour fires.

Councillor Speding enquired whether the Fire Service would consider undertaking visits to primary schools to get the message across to schoolchildren at an early age.

Station Manager Newton confirmed that this was one of the links he would like to re-establish and to identify specific schools which might benefit, depending on the COVID restrictions in place and added that this could also assist with reducing the number of attacks on fire fighters.

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

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Acting Inspector Steve Passey, Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated), providing data in respect of Crime and Disorder for the Coalfield area in comparison with the previous year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman asked Members to forward any questions on the report to Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead who would forward them to Acting Inspector Passey for a response.

Members having considered the report it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network Update

Ms Wendy Cook, Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative provided the Committee with a verbal update on the work of the Coalfield VCS Network, advising that the Network had met in June since the last Coalfield Area Committee meeting and that the July meeting had been cancelled out of respect for former Councillor Doris Turner who had passed earlier in July.

Ms Cook highlighted that the VCS had received advice on energy saving measures, switching advice, advice on damp and mould and energy awareness advice.

Ms Cook advised that she had represented the VCS at the Sunderland Alliance meetings. Ms Tracy Hassan had started on 1st September and was driving the group forward and explained that it stood independent from the Council with non-council email addresses and independent branding.

Ms Cook advised that Ms Sandra Stephenson, the recently appointed VCS Community Support Officer had engaged with approximately 20 groups providing a wide range of support, consultation, governance and building capacity.

Ms Cook advised that the next VCS Alliance meeting was being held on 7th October when the Chief Executive of the Council and a representative of Gentoo would be attending to provide support.

Councillor Speding welcomed the VCS Alliance and the prospect of the organisation re-engaging with community associations in the Shiney Row ward which he represented

and where a gap in youth provision had been identified; he hoped St Aidan's would be used.

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

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

Coalfield Area Budget 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 Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 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 current financial position of the Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund 2021/2022 as set out in paragraph 2.1. She advised that there were four funding proposals for consideration set out in paragraph 2.3 with further detail at Annex 1. Paragraph 2.4 set out the funding which had been previously aligned to the Stephenson Trail project and was now being recommended for delivery of the project with the detail being agreed by the Stephenson Trail Task and Finish Group. The total Neighbourhood Fund budget requested for approval was £250,030 and if approved, the remaining balance would be £195,802.

Ms Hopper advised that £500,000 had been allocated for capital investments which complemented the Coalfield Area Investment Delivery Plan. The table at 3.1 detailed the projects already funded and she pointed out that there was a remaining balance of £243,039. There were no funding proposals presented to Area Committee for consideration that evening from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme.

Ms Hopper referred Members to paragraph 4 of the report detailing the Community Chest budget approvals and balance remaining.

Councillor D. Snowdon highlighted that the headings in the table needed to be changed to 2021/2022.

Councillor Speding requested more detail regarding application three which was in respect of Durham Wildlife Trust who was working in partnership with the Council, as to where the activity would be and how communities would benefit.

Ms Hopper advised that the full application was not ready yet but she would send the full detail when it was available to go to the Heritage Lottery Fund at the end of October as the project could not be submitted until it had secured match funding from the Area Committee. The Project Officer would attend the Neighbourhood Board meeting and the Board would steer the focus of the project should the application be approved at the Area Committee meeting that evening.

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

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, be noted;
- b) the four Neighbourhood Fund applications set out in section 2.3 and Annex 1, be approved;
- c) the £50,000 (previously aligned funding) for the Stephenson Trail project set out in section 2.4 and Annex 1, be approved; and
- d) the Community Chest approvals supported from 2021/2022, as detailed in Annex 2, be noted.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st August and 1st September, 2021 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Doris Turner who had passed away in July whilst serving as a Member of both the City Council and Hetton Town Council for a number of years and being a regular attender of the Coalfield Area Committee.

The Chairman commented that Councillor Turner would be greatly missed and invited all those in attendance to stand for a moment in silence as a mark of respect.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and participation at the meeting.

(Signed) J. BLACKBURN,
Chairman.