

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**CENTRAL AREA COUNCIL****8th July, 2013**

9. **Present:** Councillors D. Green (Chair), M. Dyson, P. Birkinshaw, G. Carr, J. Carr, Clarke, Johnson, Mathers, Mitchell, Perrin and T. Sheard.

10. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.**

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

11. **Minutes of the previous meeting of Central Area Council, held 20th May, 2013.**

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

12. **Notes of the Ward Alliances.**

The Central Area Council manager introduced the item. Members were reminded that the notes from each Ward Alliance were brought in for information and to allow Members to highlight issues to the Area Council.

Central – 31st May, 2013 - no member wished to raise any points on the notes.

Kingstone – 3rd June, 2013 – Kingstone Ward Alliance was commended by the Area Council on their efforts to recruit community representatives, which would be considered later on the agenda.

Worsbrough – 6th June, 2013 – A question was raised regarding the process for discussing the Devolved Ward Budget and whether this should be done at the Ward Alliance. It was noted that this allocation was for Elected Members in the ward to discuss. It was suggested that this may be done in a closed session prior to the wider Ward Alliance, as all Councillors were likely to be in attendance. However the discussion could take place via other means if more appropriate such as to avoid delays.

It was noted that future meetings of the Central Area Council would consider progress in allocating the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Budgets.

Dodworth – 18th June, 2013 – Feedback was given about the community gala, which had been very successful with an estimated 8 – 10,000 people in attendance. Members asked whether there was any further information about any of the flooding issues raised, a reply was received that feedback was expected imminently.

Stairfoot – 20th June, 2013 – Members noted the emerging ward priority of the condition of roads and footways. The meeting heard that the Stairfoot Ward Alliance had agreed to meet more frequently in the early stages of establishment to accelerate progress.

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RESOLVED:- that the notes of the Central, Kingstone, Worsbrough, Dodworth and Stairfoot Ward Alliances be noted.

13. **Appointment of Ward Alliance Members to Kingston Ward Alliance.**

The Central Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the report previously circulated. In line with agreed protocols, the report sought approval for eight people to act as community representatives on the Kingstone Ward Alliance. Members commented on the range of different backgrounds and variety of skills of the applicants.

RESOLVED:- that the individuals proposed be approved as community representatives on the Kingstone Ward alliance for a 12 month period.

14. **Feedback from previous discussions – emerging draft priorities for Central Area Council.**

The Central Area Council Manager introduced the item. Discussions had previously taken place around the two specific themes of Older People, and Clean and Green. The following feedback was received:-

Older People

- More information is required on the geographic concentrations of older people.
- What is the impact of welfare reforms on the incomes of older people?
- What is the core service offer from the Council and partners to this theme group, such as the Warden Service – both now and in the future?
- Isolation appears to be an issue, but what are the root causes?
- There are opportunities for volunteering in this thematic area.
- The vulnerable groups in this theme group need to be identified.

Clean and Green

- Issues around dog fouling, litter and fly tipping were still prevalent.
- There is the potential to reduce grass cutting by creating more wild flower meadows.
- Comments were received about the difficulty for volunteers to engage in this thematic area.
- There are numerous overgrown public spaces in the Central Council Area.
- Parking issues are prevalent.
- Flooding remains an issue in certain areas.
- Street cleanliness is an issue.

With regards to enforcement, the meeting discussed arrangements in some depth, including enforcement linked to building, litter, parking, and dog fouling. Members noted that the Central Council Area was served by more than one Tasking Officer and therefore service across the area potentially lacked continuity. It was suggested that enforcement may be an issue for scrutiny at a future meeting of the Area Council.

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For all areas, Members were keen to know what current service provision exists and what would be the expected impact of any reductions in finance.

When discussing any further themes, it was agreed to provide high quality information to Elected Members as far in advance as possible.

15. **Future agenda items including planning and format for the next meeting of Central Area Council.**

The meeting discussed the schedule for Area Council meetings, noting that the next meeting in the cycle was due to approve the draft Area Plan. Some discussion took place about whether the timescales were feasible.

Consensus was that to arrive at a draft list of priorities for the Area Council, Members needed to have the following information:- current levels of service in the area; the impact on services of any planned reductions in finance; and the priorities arising from Ward Alliances.

It was noted that although the Area Council does need appropriate time and information to arrive at a list of draft priorities, there is a need to be action focused and move towards delivery.

RESOLVED:- that the Chair and Area Council Manager consider the availability of relevant information and engage Councillors in discussion about priorities appropriately.

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Chair