

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

5th September, 2013

11. **Present:** Councillors Barnard (Chair), Rusby and Starling.

12. **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.**

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

13. **Minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 27th June, 2013.**

The minutes were received by the meeting. It was noted that contact had been made with the Youth Service and that they would give a presentation at a future meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 27th June, 2013 be approved as a true and correct record.

14. **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 11th July, 2013.**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on the 11th July 2013. Rather than go into detail on some of the content, it was agreed that these be best left for discussion at the Ward Alliance, which was meeting week commencing 9th September.

RESOLVED:- that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance on 11th July, 2013 be received.

15. **Community representatives on the Ward Alliance.**

Members noted the paper which provided details on the person proposed to become a community representative on the combined Penistone East and West Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED:- that the individual proposed be approved as a community representative on the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year.

16. **Nomination of representative to the Local Plans Working Group.**

The Chair referred to a request which had been circulated for a member of each Area Council to take part in the Local Plans Working Group. The group would consider plans for the borough, previously known as the Local Development Framework.

Members noted that in addition to a representative from each Area Council, each opposition party also was asked to put forward a representative and that Cllr Wilson would be attending on behalf of the Conservative Party.

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RESOLVED:- that Cllr Starling act as representative of the Penistone Area Council on the Local Plans Working Group.

17. **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund.**

The report, previously circulated, was introduced by the Penistone Area Council Manager.

It was noted that £5,847.80 of the total Devolved Ward Budget of £40,000 had been allocated to 5 projects. £2,270.85 had also been committed from the £20,000 Ward Alliance Fund.

Members questioned whether allocations could be carried forward into future financial years. It was agreed that confirmation would be sought, but to progress schemes where possible to ensure the allocation was spent before the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund be noted;
- (ii) that confirmation be sought as to whether finance can be carried forward to future years.

18. **Emerging Priorities for Penistone Area Council - report of the Penistone Area Council Manager.**

A report was presented by the Penistone Area Council Manager. This highlighted the wealth of information in existence, primarily as a result of the development of the Penistone Town Council Community Led Plan. It was noted that this did not cover the whole of the Penistone East and West Wards, but did include Penistone Town, Springvale, Cubley, Hoylandswaine, Thurlstone, and Millhouse Green.

Contact had been made with a number of other Parish Councils within the area and they were being asked to forward their plans or discuss what the priorities were within their parish.

It was noted that priorities should be framed within the context of the Council's borough-wide corporate priorities:- Growing the economy; Changing the relationship between the Council and the community; and Improving people's potential and achievement.

The meeting then received a presentation from the Council's Research and Intelligence Officer. This was largely based on Census data, but also used other sources and gave a comparative picture of the situation within the Penistone Area when compared to national and borough averages.

The meeting heard how the population of the Penistone area was nearly 23,000 and just less than 10% of the borough. This was a 10% increase on 2001 figures.

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With regards to child poverty, it was noted that figures for the area were lower than the national average and also lower than the average for the borough. It was noted that child poverty figures related to the median income levels, however it was questioned whether this was the median figure for the borough or nationally. It was agreed to seek clarity on this issue.

With regards to attainment, it was noted that percentages for indicators at both Key Stage 2 and 4 were above borough and national averages. The meeting heard how unverified GCSE results from Penistone Grammar School for 2013 also showed significant improvement. Where possible, members requested information about numbers of pupils from the area attending schools which were outside the area.

Information on households was considered and it was noted that the percentage of lone parents within the area was lower than borough and national averages, as was the number of households with no adult in employment.

With regards to transport, the proportion of households without access to a van was less than half of the borough average. It was acknowledged that this may be due to the rural nature of the area. However, it was suggested that linking this statistic to age would be useful to highlight whether the lack of access is linked to a certain age group.

Economic activity was considered and it was noted that unemployment, long term unemployment and economic inactivity levels were all lower than the borough and national averages.

Proportions of those with a degree level qualification were higher than national and borough averages, whilst young people classed as 'NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and the amount of people without qualifications were both lower than borough and national averages.

The meeting noted that during 2012/13 there were 130 new house build completions, 17.9% of the total in the borough and 160 new builds had commenced. 160 new businesses had also been started across the area.

Crime was discussed and though rates were low, (4.7% of total crime in the borough), it was noted that vehicle crime seemed to be the most significant area for concern for Penistone East and West.

The meeting discussed the wealth of information and it was suggested that although the Penistone Area performed better than the national average in many respects there were still a number of prevalent issues. Members agreed that the depth of local knowledge would prove extremely valuable in identifying these.

Issues identified included those within the Town Council Community Led Plan, but members also mentioned issues such as access to services, fast broadband connections, transport and isolation.

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- (i) That further detail about child poverty data, numbers of children attending schools outside the borough, and an age breakdown for access to a car or van is provided to Members;
- (ii) That colour version of slides and associated maps be circulated to Members;
- (iii) That the emerging priorities from the Penistone Community Led Plan, other parish plans and the issues highlighted above be used as emerging draft priorities to inform the drafting of Penistone Area Council Plan.

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Chair