

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL

2nd October 2014

18. **Present:** Councillors Hayward (Chair), Tim Cheetham, Tracey Cheetham, S. Green, Higginbottom, Makinson, North, Richardson and C. Wraith.

19. **Declarations of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

20. **Minutes from the North East Area Council meeting held on 31st July 2014**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of North East Area Council, held on 31st July 2014.

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of North East Area Council, held on 31st July 2014, be approved as a true and correct record.

21. **Strategic Housing - update and future direction**

Sarah Cartwright, Housing Growth Development Manager, Development Environment and Culture and Ian Prescott, Housing Growth Development Consultant, were welcomed to the meeting. A presentation was given which outlined the key objectives within the Housing Strategy 2014-33 and the Affordable Homes Programme 2015/18, with specific information for the North East Council Area.

Priory Close Lundwood has been awarded a LABC award for 'Best Affordable Housing Scheme' 2014; 23 new homes are planned for The Close, Lundwood; potentially 28 new homes at Monk Bretton; 9 new homes on Cliff Lane, Brierley; 6 shared ownership homes on Rushton Drive/Shepherd's Way at Royston. Berneslai Homes has invested £43m on Decent Homes to date (4,137 homes) with 461 to go in 2014/15. There were 28 'Right to Buys' in the North East Area in 2013/14.

The former Priory School, Lundwood is under contract to Harron Homes with an application submitted for circa 200 homes. The former Willowgarth School, Grimethorpe is under contract to Saul Construction, with planning permission for 102 units. 143 units are planned for the site of the former Royston High School, including 21 affordable homes and 7 Shared Ownership. 200 units (30 Section 106) are planned for Lee Lane, Royston and 10 units are planned for the redevelopment of Dard's Public House, Cudworth.

It was highlighted that more applications for 'Right to Buy' are expected as the discount available has increased from 60% to 76%, with plans to reduce the tenancy requirement from 5 to 3 years. There were 28 Right to Buy applications in the North East Council area in 2013/14. In terms of affordable housing, strategic housing is consulted and the housing needs of the borough considered when an application is received from a developer. This is what happened when a developer in Pilley developed affordable housing in Birdwell as this was an area of greater need.

Members raised concerns about the pressure of new housing developments on transport infrastructure, employment, schools, GP provision etc., and were reassured

that the housing strategy is linked to the transport, business and education business plans, which all form the corporate plan. It was reported that 500 bungalows for older and vulnerable people are in the housing strategy, some of which will be affordable housing and some shared ownership. Sarah and Ian were thanked for their attendance and contribution.

22. **Notes from the Ward Alliances**

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances, held throughout July, August and September 2014. The following were noted:

Cudworth – the ‘Fit Reds’ project started on 1st October at the Dorothy Hyman Stadium. Over 1000 residents attended, and enjoyed the Tea in the Park Gala in July. Thanks were expressed to David Gill and the North East Area Council team for their hard work putting Cudworth forward for ‘Yorkshire in Bloom’, and three awards were won by the local Community.

Monk Bretton – the Gala was attended by around 650 people, thanks were expressed to the Area Team for their help and support. An environmental community group is being set up which will initially focus on improvements to the War Memorial in the village.

North East – the Grimethorpe Warden scheme has been agreed. A Christmas tree is to be installed at St Paul’s Church, Brierley, and a Christmas Community Event will be held.

Royston – the ‘Proms’ have been very well attended over the summer, as was the Health Fair and summer holiday activities. The ‘Fit Reds’ project has now been completed. Work is on-going in bringing the allotments back into use. Concerns were expressed that flower beds at the gateway to the village have not been planted and this gives a poor impression to visitors. Members felt that economies of scale could be achieved if the wards were to join together to purchase plants and consideration could also be given to developing a joint watering and maintenance programme, possibly delivered by volunteers.

RESOLVED: that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

23. **Changes to Community Representation on the Cudworth and Monk Bretton Ward Alliances**

Members considered proposed changes to the Community Representatives on the Cudworth and Monk Bretton Ward Alliances, who are Kevin Riggett from Barnsley Premier Leisure to sit on the Cudworth Ward Alliance and Charlie Gouldin, from Carlton Park Gardening Club to sit on the Monk Bretton Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED: that the individuals proposed be approved as community representatives on the respective Ward Alliances for the remainder of the municipal year.

24. Report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

The Area Council Manager introduced this item. The North East Area Council has a full grant allocation of £219,264 for 2014-15 and a devolved ward budget allocation of £115,032 which is made up of an allocation of £80,000 for 2014-15 and an ear marked allocation of £35,032 from 2013-14. To date 43 projects are due to be completed this financial year at an approximate spend of £67,248. The North East Ward Alliance allocation is £78,632 together with an additional £25,600 from Public Health. 47 projects, costing approximately £68,865 are due to be completed this year. Briefings for each ward will be provided in the near future showing remaining funds available. The Chair urged Members to ensure that the Area Team is made aware of any upcoming projects, as the funding allocation needs to be committed this financial year. A total of 1450 volunteer hours have been declared on the committed projects to date, which equates to a monetary value of £16,080.50.

RESOLVED: - that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

25. North East Area Council – update on the delivery of commissioned projects

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and gave updates around enforcement activity and environmental projects in the North East Council area. 52 fixed penalty notices were issued between 12th August and 30th September, 9 of which were for dog fouling and 43 for littering offences. A discussion took place around rewarding responsible dog owners and provision of printed 'dog bags'.

It was highlighted that in September in Cudworth and North East 226 black bags of litter were collected together with 535 bags from Royston and Monk Bretton. The Youth Development Fund have met and recommended additional youth provision projects as follows: Victoria Creates (Cudworth Ward) £3040; Grimethorpe Activity Zone £5130; Great Houghton Youth Club £8476.

An update on illegal parking was provided. Teams are in place and specialist training will commence on 1st November with a view to work starting during the second week in November.

It was reported that flytipping is a growing problem across the Borough and operations are being reorganised to combat this. A recent flytipping prosecution (for 67 bags of rubbish) had seen the perpetrator sentenced to 200 hours of community service. Members were advised to preserve evidence of flytipping in situ, taking photographs where possible.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the feedback from the enforcement and environment initiatives be noted;
- (ii) that the Youth Development initiatives be approved, subject to the approval of relevant policies by the Youth Development Fund;
- (iii) that an update on illegal parking will be provided at the next meeting;
- (iv) that the Area Council Manager will develop proposals for rewarding responsible dog ownership, including costings for provision of 'dog bags'.

26. The North East Retirement and Health and Wellbeing project

The Area Council Manager provided an update on the proposal for a nine month pilot project to address the Health and Wellbeing priority for the North East Area Council at a cost of £20,000. It is anticipated that the project will help the North East Area Council's ambition towards becoming a 'dementia friendly' area.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the North East Area Council approve the North East Retirement and Health and Wellbeing project at a cost of £20,000 and
- (ii) that the North East Area Council Health and Wellbeing Steering Group monitors and evaluates the project six months from the date of commencement of the contract and updates the North East Area Council.

27. Love Where You Live – events feedback

Members received an update from the Area Team on activities held during the launch week of 'Love Where You Live'. 107 activities had taken place, with 4100 hours of volunteering in total, equating to £45,152 in monetary value. The Area Team were thanked for their help and support. A further update will be provided at the December meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the feedback from the 'Love Where You Live' initiative be noted, with a further update to be provided at the December meeting.

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Chair