

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

19th February, 2015

34. **Present:** Councillors Barnard (Chair), Griffin, Hand-Davis, Rusby, Unsworth and Wilson.

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

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

36. **Minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 11th December, 2014.**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11th December, 2014.

Members discussed the provision of affordable housing within the borough and within the Penistone East and West Wards. It was noted that Members had yet to receive an example of a business case that highlighted the impact on the viability of a development due to affordable housing, and it was agreed that this would be followed up. Members were also concerned as to whether off site provision of affordable housing always materialised within agreed timescales. A suggestion was made to invite the Council's Affordable Housing Officer to a future meeting of the Area Council to discuss this issue in more detail.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting, held on the 11th December, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record;
- (ii) that a business case, showing the impact on the viability of a site for housing due to the provision of affordable housing, be circulated to Members;
- (iii) that the Affordable Housing Officer be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council.

37. **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 22nd January, 2015.**

The meeting received the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 22nd January, 2015.

Members discussed recent events at Cycle Penistone, and it was noted that the normal financial monitoring for the project had recently been requested. A suggestion was made that the Ward Alliance receives a report on the current situation of the project at its next meeting.

RESOLVED:- that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 22nd January, 2015 be received.

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

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who provided up to date figures detailing expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budget, Ward Alliance Fund and from funds allocated from Public Health.

It was noted that both the Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund were now fully allocated for 2014/15. Members were positive about the large number of projects funded and the impact they had made.

RESOLVED:- that the report detailing the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund be noted.

39. **Penistone Area Council update on performance, procurement and commissioning.**

The item was introduced by the Penistone Area Council Manager, who made Members aware of the recent quarterly monitoring meeting held with Growforest regarding the Countryside Skills commission. Members were made aware that the project had achieved a number of quantifiable outputs. These included 3 taster sessions having been held, and 5 core learners recruited, in addition to a number of additional individuals being interested in being part of the second cohort.

It was noted that the second quarterly monitoring meeting would take place on 16th April, 2015 and an open day for the project was planned for 4th April, 2015.

Members heard how Growforest had made links to a number of local projects just as Grow Penistone, and with the Youth Service working in the area. It was suggested that this could be extended to working with the Trans Pennine Trail volunteers to assist with forestry.

A number of ways in which the project could expand were discussed, and it was noted that this, pending positive evaluation, there may be an opportunity to further fund the project, potentially expanding the offer, in future years.

The Area Council Manager presented progress in developing a 'Clean and Tidy' Commission and it was noted that a workshop was being organised with the Parish Councils in the area to help shape the project.

Members noted the work being undertaken with local Area Youth Workers, Voluntary Action Barnsley, the Out of Hours Learning Service, and others to develop a project to offer work experience and volunteering opportunities for young people.

It was hoped that fully developed specifications would be presented to the Area Council meeting arranged for 16th April, 2015.

Members discussed other potential uses of Area Council finance, including a small grants regime, similar to that piloted by Central Area Council, and a 'Dragons' Den' type of arrangement to support youth enterprise.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the progress made in delivering the Countryside Skills commission be noted;

(ii) that the progress made in developing specifications of requirements for a 'Clean and Tidy' commission, and for a commission to develop a programme of work experience and volunteering for young people, be noted.

40. **Community Magazines**

The item was introduced by the Lead Locality Officer, who made Members aware of discussions between Area Chairs regarding the provision of a local Community Magazine. This followed the production of the well received Area Review document, which provided case studies and good news stories about the work being undertaken in the area.

A proposal had been developed by Corporate Communications, which was based around the provision of 12 pages of editorial with 12 pages of advertising being sold to local organisations and businesses. The document itself could be produced at nil cost to the Area Council, with finance only required if distribution to each household in the area was necessary. The recommended method for distribution covered approximately 98.4% of households at approximately £2,600 for two editions.

Members discussed the reliability of the proposed methods of distribution and whether residents would read printed media. It was noted that in addition to printed copies of the magazine, information relating to the area, and good news stories would also be available on the internet, including on social media.

The meeting discussed the process of writing 12 pages of editorial and the time this would take. It was suggested that this task could be shared between Ward Alliance members and volunteers involved in other community organisations within the area. It was noted that authors would need to be aware of time-lags between writing stories and the distribution of the magazine when penning articles.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the production of a Community Magazine for the Penistone Area be piloted for 2 issues;

(ii) that up to £2,600 be allocated to the distribution of 2 issues of a Community Magazine for the Penistone Area.

41. **Future Council/Barnsley's Community Offer**

The item was introduced by the Executive Director for Adults and Communities, who would shortly be the Executive Director for the Communities directorate. This revised role would include the customer service operation for the Council, and the Council website, whilst also including provider services such as telecare. In addition the Communities directorate would encompass 'Safer, Stronger and Healthier', which included Area Governance and Community Safety.

The meeting was reminded of the three core aspects of the Council, namely improving the economy; raising educational standards, and changing the relationship with the community.

The development of Barnsley's 'Community Offer' was aimed at reconsidering what is offered by the Council, what services are no longer required to be provided as communities can provide this themselves, and what steps the Council can take to reduce actions that may impede self reliance within the community.

As part of this a number of reviews were taking place which included the following:-

- A review of welfare advice within the council and within the 3rd sector
- A review of the Voluntary Community Sector and associated infrastructure
- A review of accommodation within the Council and partner organisations to make best use of existing estate

In addition Members heard about number of significant pieces of work ongoing, which included the development of family centres in the borough, and the Be-Well Barnsley programme.

Members noted resources had been made available to help local people tell their personal 'stories' and detailed what they had achieved. These videos would be made available online.

The meeting heard of an event 'Building Better Communities' taking place on the 23rd February, 2015, which aimed to bring together organisations and funders to consider how best to develop community capacity, and how best the Council's service offer could support this.

Members discussed the support given to expand the Community Shop from Goldthorpe into other areas, and the model of providing affordable food linked to wider support services.

RESOLVED:- that the report be noted.

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Chair