

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 2 September 2016
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, The Hoyland Centre

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews BEM, Coates, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Saunders, Shepherd and R. Wraith.

10 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No Member wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda.

11 Cohesion and integration

The Chair read out a statement which noted the recent rise in xenophobia, racism and hate crime, which had been seen since the recent referendum on Britain leaving the European Union. The Chair emphasised the Council's commitment to equality and diversity, and sought the support of Members to condemn the recent attacks, and reaffirm the stance of the Council of being proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society.

RESOLVED that the policy of the Council be supported by Members, and their commitment to this reaffirmed.

12 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 17th June, 2016 (Sac.02.09.2016/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 17th June, 2016.

With regards to difficulties in engaging with Kirk Balk Academy, it was noted that the Chair had sent a letter highlighting these concerns; however no reply had been received. Members heard how the issue had also been raised with the Head Teacher through the Barnsley Schools Alliance. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile to raise the concerns with the Academy Trust sponsor, requesting a meeting to discuss the problems.

The Area Council Manager confirmed that a letter of thanks had been sent to Netherwood Academy, in particular giving praise to Gary Smith.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 17th June, 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

13 Wombwell Ward Alliance presentation (Sac.02.09.2016/3)

Alan Taylor from Wombwell Ward Alliance was welcomed to the meeting to give a presentation entitled 'Growing a Garden, Growing a Community'.

The project had developed from Alliance and Berneslai Homes plans to, amongst other things, develop landlocked areas, promote healthy living, reduce grass cutting and increase engagement.

The meeting heard how the feasibility of the project had been explored with partners and consultation undertaken with the public. Members noted that the project was not merely to create a garden, but was also to act as a meeting point, help people learn new skills, and to improve health.

Members heard how the site was chosen for a number of reasons including having appropriate access, the ability to make the site secure, and being able to install a water supply.

Further consultation was undertaken through questionnaires, and holding an event on site. It was noted that the weather had hampered some of this, however this was bolstered by further door to door engagement and a number of interested residents signed up.

In early 2016 an estimate of £15,350 was arrived at for the site with Berneslai Homes providing £8,000 of the costs and the Ward Alliance providing the remainder.

A further event was held on site at Easter, with over a 100 people in attendance, and since this date the site has gone from strength to strength. Not only had the site developed, but the community had come together, with residents talking and interacting with each other. A further bed has been installed in Wombwell Cemetery to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

Alan made the meeting aware of plans in the autumn, and plans to restart afresh in the Spring, with gardeners becoming part of the management of the site.

Lessons learned as part of the project were discussed, which included establishing appropriate governance structures, and ensuring there was appropriate planning.

Alan gave thanks to a number of individuals for their support, including Amanda Bradshaw and the Area Team; Yola Walker and Berneslai Homes; the Tidy Team; Brian Whitaker; and the Ward Alliance.

Praise was given to the project and the impact seen in the area. Questions were asked relating to the insurance of the site and the use of produce.

Insuring the site had not been an issue, and in addition to public liability it had also been insured in order to hold events.

With regards to the use of produce, and it was noted that residents kept their own produce, but there was one communal bed on site. It was noted that in the future this could be used for healthy eating/cook and eat sessions.

RESOLVED that thanks be given to Alan for the presentation and the project be praised.

14 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.02.09.2016/4)

The meeting received the notes from the following:- Darfield Ward Alliance held on 14th July, 2016; and Wombwell Ward Alliance held on 10th May and 5th July, 2016.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

15 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.02.09.2016/5)

Members received the report which provided details of the latest expenditure from the Ward Alliance Funds.

RESOLVED that the report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds be received.

16 Performance Report (Sac.02.09.2016/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager.

In considering the outcomes for South Area Council commissions overall, Members noted that 1860 litter picks had been completed; over 800 environmental projects completed; over 1500 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering; and over 100 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for dog fouling. It was acknowledged that the numbers of people issued with notices for dog fouling had increased due to an increase in intelligence supplied by the public.

It was noted that 200 adults had volunteered in activity associated with the commissions, mostly with the Tidy Team, and to date there had been over £74,000 of income due to enforcement activity. Members also noted that 90% of the Area Council finance had been spent locally.

Members were reminded that the Tidy Team had been re-contracted, and this would run from 1st August, 2016 to 31st March, 2017. It was noted that this could be extended if finance was available and the need remained.

With regards to the work of the Tidy Team, the meeting discussed issues associated with the Burton Building. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail, including the most appropriate response to the issue, outside the meeting.

The Tidy Team had attended and supported many of the galas held in the area over the summer, as well as supporting work at Martha's Yard and Loxley Gardens. Members noted the positive work also being undertaken to improve Rockingham Court, which was being led by a resident volunteer. Members also heard about the work the Team was involved in with local schools.

Members noted that signs were now in place to highlight where green areas were maintained by volunteers. It was agreed that Members would forward any feedback as to whether this acted as a deterrent to littering.

Members discussed the contract with Kingdom Security and it was noted that new members of staff would be trained in October in order to administer Parking Charge Notices. It was noted a new supervisor had started for the area, and would be taking part in the Tidy Team steering group.

With regards to the work of the One Stop Shop, feedback remained positive. It was noted that the contract expired on 31st March, 2017. If members wish to provide this service after this date it was noted that this would need to be retendered in the autumn. The sessions held in the early evening continued to be in high demand, and Members heard that those using the service often were accruing larger amounts of debt in shorter amounts of time.

The meeting received feedback on the Summer Internship. Despite the hard work and dedication of C+K Careers, only approximately 50% of places had been filled. Disappointingly it was felt that many children did not want to forgo 2 weeks of their summer holidays, however the feedback from those who chose to engage was extremely positive. It was agreed that careful consideration ought to be given before agreeing to commission anything similar in the future.

RESOLVED that the report be received and the progress of all commissions be noted.

17 Update on new commissions (Sac.02.09.2016/7)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, which provided an update on a number of Area Council funded projects and initiatives.

Members noted that 45 signs highlighting that 'This area is maintained by volunteers' had been erected at agreed hotspots, the impact of which would be monitored.

The meeting heard how two projects, 'Pop Up Parks' and 'Young People Friendly Facebook' were now being taken forward as a result of the Youth Mapping Exercise, and three quotes were being requested for each.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware that three working groups had been established to progress ideas generated by the Health Asset Mapping Conference. It was noted that the work being undertaken by the CCG with regards to social prescribing would link well with the ideas being generated.

Members were reminded of the training on Social Return On Investment organised with Rocket Science, and the analyses to be undertaken on South Area Council commissions.

Members heard how the officer to work with landlords and tenants in the private sector had been recruited and their start date would be confirmed shortly. The workshop to discuss areas where problems were particularly prevalent was noted. Members discussed the need to link with the local tasking officer and Berneslai Homes officers, and were assured this would take place as part of the induction.

The 'Urban Survival' course had now been held, however only 12 young people had taken part in the sessions. Those attending had reported a very positive experience.

The Achieving Respect and Confidence (ARC) course had been completed by 14 young people. A second course had been arranged to take place in early October, 2016. It was agreed to circulate the details of the passing out parade in order for Members to attend.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the progress made in implementing the project contained within acknowledged.

18 Community Magazine (Sac.02.09.2016/8)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who reminded the meeting of the original approval to pilot the Community Magazine for two issues. The cost associated with the magazine were solely relating to its distribution to every household in the South Area.

Members noted that the magazine would continue to be free to produce, due to the costs associated being funded through selling advertising space in the magazine. However, distribution costs remained and indications were that these were likely to be in the region of £6,178.30 for 2 issues to be distributed by Royal Mail. The Area Council Manager suggested that other suppliers ought to be considered if possible.

The meeting discussed the merits of producing the magazine, and the consensus was to produce two further editions. However, it was suggested that following the next two issues an evaluation ought to be undertaken to assess its effectiveness.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that two further editions of the Community Magazine be produced;
- (ii) that authority be given to the Interim Executive Director to procure distribution of 2 issues of the Community Magazine to each household in the South Area, at a cost of up to £6,178.30;
- (iii) that, following the production and distribution of the magazine, an exercise be undertaken to evaluate its effectiveness.

19 Highways schemes using income from Environmental Enforcement contract (Sac.02.09.2016/9)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to a recent workshop where Members had discussed the use of income from the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices and Parking Charge Notices.

A number of schemes had been discussed, and two were put forward within the Rockingham Ward, with a further scheme in Wombwell.

The schemes within the Rockingham Ward involved the installation of bollards, one at Longsfield Crescent in Hoyland and the other on Parkside Road, in order to prevent cycle and motorcycle access. The cost of both schemes was expected to be £3,535.65.

The scheme in Wombwell involved implementing a Traffic Regulation Order, and installing relevant lining and signage outside Wombwell Cricket Club. It was thought that this would help to stop inconsiderate parking. The cost of this was likely to be in the region of £4,000.

RESOLVED: - that £3,535.65 and £4,000 be allocated to the schemes detailed in the report submitted within the Rockingham and Wombwell Wards respectively; and that authority be given to the Interim Executive Director, Communities to initiate the necessary action to implement the schemes.

Chair