

**NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**38. Present:** Councillors Hayward (Chair), Ennis, S. Green, Higginbottom, Houghton, Makinson, North and C. Wraith MBE.

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

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

**40. Minutes from the North East Area Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council, held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**RESOLVED:** - that the minutes of North East Area Council, held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014, be approved as a true and correct record, subject to a minor amendment on minute no. 31 as follows - fly tipping on Sandybridge Lane remains a problem – not Sandbridge Lane as referred to in the minutes.

**41. Notes from the Ward Alliances**

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

*Cudworth* – The Academic Achievement Awards initiative with local Primary School children is planned to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> July, with final numbers to be determined. This initiative has been received positively by the three local Primary Schools. Planting and Volunteering Events have been taking place in Cudworth Park in preparation for Barnsley in Bloom. The Citizen Advice Bureau is now running Drop in Advice sessions in the Cudworth Centre of Excellence.

*Monk Bretton* – Physical Futures, a Social Enterprise for people with special needs in the Carlton area, has been supported with the cost of materials to decorate their Centre, and it is anticipated that a significant number of Volunteers will help out with the painting. Bedding plants have been ordered for the War Memorial area, and a lot of positive feedback has been received from local residents with regard to how nice the area now looks thanks to the Ward Alliance and community volunteers. The Ward Alliance is currently evaluating progress over the last 12 months, and forward planning for the next 12 months.

*North East* – Locations have been identified for community notice boards in all four Villages. The Friends of West Haigh Wood are seeking funding for a trench around the wood to help prevent off road bikes riding in the area and spoiling this Ancient

**NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Woodland. A suggestion was made that there may be funding available from the Green Heart Partnership to fund this type of project.

*Royston* – The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Green Heart Partnership have been very active in helping to clear Royston canal area with volunteers from the community. The area has one of the best populations of water voles in South Yorkshire. A significant area of the canal bank has been cleared and 12 fishing pegs and a disabled peg have been installed. The official opening of the Albert Shepherd VC Centre takes place on 6<sup>th</sup> March with attendance by his family, the British Legion, the Kings Royal Rifle Corps Association, local Schools, and Community Groups. There will be a soloist singing songs from this period, local community group stalls, refreshments and a history group display. Work is ongoing to get the allotments back into use and options for raised beds and the provision of smaller allotments are being explored.

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

**42. 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 committed £182,207 for 2014 - 2015, and £217,793 is to be rolled over to the next financial year as some of the commissioned projects are for periods of 18 months. Additionally, the Summer Holiday Internship commission is out to tender, 7 expressions of interest have been received, and 3 potential providers have been shortlisted, and will be interviewed shortly.

The devolved ward budget allocation is £115,032, which is made up of an allocation of £80,000 for 2014 - 2015 and an ear marked allocation of £35,032 from 2013 - 2014. To date 45 projects are due to be completed this financial year at an approximate spend of £72,348.

The North East Ward Alliance allocation is £78,632 made up of a £40,000 allocation for 2014 - 2015 and an earmarked allocation of £38,632 from the 2013 - 2014 financial year. Additionally there is a further £25,600 Public Health funding allocation. To date 67 projects are being considered to be completed this financial year at an approximate spend of £87,988.

A total of 3,331 volunteer hours have been declared on the committed projects to date which equates to a monetary value of £36,941.

A discussion took place regarding a workshop by Kudos around illicit smoking and tobacco. It was felt that a performance could be commissioned and delivered at Carlton Community College and Shafton ALC to help to discourage year 7 and 8 pupils from smoking. The cost of the production is thought to be in the region of £800 per performance. It was felt that this was something which all Area Councils should look at given the prevalence of young people smoking in Barnsley.

**NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**RESOLVED: -**

- (i) that the report on the use of Area Council budget, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

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

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and outlined the volume of litter collected, green waste removed, 'hot spots' identified and compliments received across all four wards since September 2014. Members felt that the identification of hot spot areas had been particularly effective and residents were very happy at the difference that had been made. Members were urged to report fly tipping to the Tasking Officer for the Safer Neighbourhood Team as soon as possible as this is a massive problem across the Borough.

With regard to Enforcement, it was noted that the tasking process was working very well with hot spot areas being reported to the Tasking Officer. Several fixed penalty notices for littering and dog fouling had been issued, and the Enforcement Officers were a visible deterrent on the streets. It was highlighted that parking enforcement is also working well in several areas across the Area Council and improvements had been noticed by residents.

With regard to the Youth Development fund seven projects for young people have been agreed to date, and a further six local organisations have either submitted application forms, or have expressed an interest in the fund. An added benefit of this initiative is that the organisations' policies for Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities are all reviewed, and updated as appropriate, before any funding is released.

The Luncheon Club has completed its second round and is proving to be well received in most areas. A total of 10 volunteers have been helping out at the sessions, and guest speakers have attended and highlighted information about some of the local services which are available. Positive feedback has been received from the residents, and one lady commented "I saw people that I haven't seen for ages, and it was lovely to meet up with old friends. I am really looking forward to the next one."

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the report on the delivery of commissioned projects be received and noted.

**44. Community Magazines**

The Lead Locality Officer introduced this item on behalf of Corporate Communications. The Area Council was asked to support and trial the introduction of a twice yearly Area Council community magazine following the cessation of Open Door magazine as part of the Council's budget proposals. The magazine would be produced at nil cost through selling advertising space, compiled by the Area Team, with distribution costs estimated at £3,000.

**NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Members felt that this would be an excellent way to promote and publicise the area whilst retaining editorial oversight.

**RESOLVED:** that Members agree the proposal in principle.

**45. North East Area Celebrating Volunteering Event**

The Area Council Manager presented this item. Members were asked to agree a proposal to host a North East Area Council Celebrating Volunteering Event in September 2015, at an indicative cost of £3,000. Members felt that it would be appropriate to celebrate the significant work of the Volunteers from across the North East Area Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the proposal to support a Celebrating Volunteering event should be taken forward at a maximum cost of £3,000.
- (ii) that a working party consisting of one Councillor per Ward should be established to ensure the event is properly planned and organised.

**46. Love Where You Live – Events feedback**

The Area Council Manager reported that since the last update 342.5 hours of Volunteering had taken place across the Area Council, representing £3,799 of social action. This figure does not include additional Volunteer work which has not been formally recorded, otherwise the figures would be much higher. It was recognised that the North East Area Council is doing very well in terms of Volunteering. The Councillors agreed that the significant amount of Volunteering in the area reinforces the need to hold a celebration event.

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Chair