

Public Document Pack



MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 10 December 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

AGENDA

- 1 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

Minutes

- 2 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 22nd October, 2015.
(PAC.10.12.2015/2) (*Pages 3 - 6*)

Ward Alliance

- 3 Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 29th October, 2015. (PAC.10.12.2015/3) (*Pages 7 - 8*)
- 4 Ward Alliance Membership and Attendance.

Performance

- 5 Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund.
(PAC.10.12.2015/5) (*Pages 9 - 12*)
- 6 Penistone Area Council commissioning, procurement and funding update.
(PAC.10.12.2015/6) (*Pages 13 - 18*)

Items for information

- 7 Community Magazine - final draft. (PAC.10.12.2015/7) (*Pages 19 - 30*)

To: Chair and Members of Penistone Area Council:-

Councillors Barnard (Chair), Griffin, Hand-Davis, Millner, Unsworth and Wilson

Area Council Support Officers:

Jeremy Sykes, Penistone Area Council Senior Management Link Officer
Elaine Slater, Dearne Area Council Manager
Joe Micheli, Lead Locality Officer
Peter Mirfin, Council Governance Officer

Please contact Peter Mirfin on 01226 773147 or email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Wednesday, 2 December 2015

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MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 22 October 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Griffin, Hand-Davis, Millner, Unsworth and Wilson

17 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

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

18 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 3rd September, 2015. (PAC.22.10.2015/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd September, 2015.

Feedback was given on the mapping exercise. It was noted that this had been completed, and had included all the Ward Alliance Fund finance and that allocated by the Area Council. This had been considered by the Ward Alliance and circulated to all Members.

Members noted that discussions had taken place with DIAL and an application for a pilot project had been developed to be funded from Devolved Ward Budget.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 3rd September, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

19 Minutes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 24th September, 2015. (PAC.22.10.2015/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 24th September, 2015.

An update was given regarding the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Penistone. It was noted that this would be for the area covered by Penistone Town Council, which included parts of both Penistone West and East Wards.

Members referred to the Community Led Plan for Penistone and the hope that this could be utilised in order to assist the timely development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The meeting discussed the presence of police in the Penistone area. It was noted that numbers of PCs had diminished and this had impact on the service being delivered in the area. Discussion suggested that a reduction in service and corresponding impact also applied to other emergency services. Members agreed to ensure the issue continued to be raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 24th September, 2015 be received.

20 Review of the Ward Alliance. (PAC.22.10.2015/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the recent review of the Ward Alliance. A number of self assessment questionnaires had been completed, the results of which were then considered by a workshop. The review had considered areas such as the current membership; attendance; what is working well; and what is working less well.

Members considered the recommendations put forward following the review. An in depth discussion took place around the need to receive more feedback from grant recipients. It was noted that this was echoed in a recent internal audit of Area Governance arrangements, which suggested that monitoring of grants should be pursued more actively.

Members suggested assigning a lead from the Ward Alliance membership to work with groups, visiting them and ensuring monitoring information was returned.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the report be noted;
- ii) that the recommendations of the review be supported and the suggestion of assigning lead members of the Ward Alliance to each grant application be put forward for discussion at the next Alliance meeting.

21 Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund. (PAC.22.10.2015/5)

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 a significant application was being developed to be submitted for approval utilising Ward Alliance Fund finance. If successful this would leave just over £28,000 of Ward Alliance Fund to allocation.

Similarly there were a number of applications seeking approval from Devolved Ward Budgets. If approved this would leave approximately £2,160 to allocation in Penistone East and £800 in Penistone West.

RESOLVED that the report detailing the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Fund be noted.

22 Penistone Area Council commissioning, procurement and funding update. (PAC.22.10.2015/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, referring to the report circulated.

It was noted that there had not been a contract monitoring meeting with Growforest since the previous meeting, but there was still some more informal feedback from the project.

The feedback continued to be positive, with Tom Handley attending the recent Ward Alliance meeting to provide an update on recent activity. It was noted that the current commission finished in at the end of March, 2016 but Growforest had been looking for continuation funding.

Members noted the recent work to repair prominent walls on public land in the Area and heard of the links made with the Integrated Youth Support Service and work on the Forest Schools programme locally.

The meeting discussed linkages with the Trans-Pennine Trail (TPT) and it was noted that the project did work with the TPT, as would the Clean and Tidy Commission.

Members noted the official start date of 1st November, 2015 for the 'Clean and Tidy' commission. The meeting heard how the contract would run for 18 months, but with appropriate break clauses. Requests from Parish Councils for the service had already been received and it was acknowledged that the service would be distributed equitably across the area. Members heard how a scheme to engage volunteers in keeping the area clean and tidy would be launched imminently.

With regards to the Working Together Fund, three expressions of interest had been received and were due to be considered by the panel imminently.

The meeting considered the current financial position for the Area Council, with £106,610 left unallocated for 2015/16 and £124,783 for 2016/17.

Members discussed the potential of funding a project or projects to assist older, isolated or vulnerable people. It was suggested that the Area Team provides support to further develop the projects suggested.

The meeting noted that the Area Manager was working with officers from Barnsley Business Innovation Centre (BBIC) in order to develop a proposal to address the economic priority.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the update on the work of the Countryside Skills Training Commission be received;
- ii) that the proposed start date of the Clean and Tidy Commission be noted;
- iii) that the current financial situation of the Area Council be noted.

23 Community magazine. (PAC.22.10.2015/7)

The item was introduced by the Area Manager who made the meeting aware of the progress being made to develop the Community Magazine. It was noted that the articles were all currently with Communications for editing, and a proposed layout had been circulated for comments. Councillors noted that the cost for distribution was slightly below that expected at £2,490.40.

Members noted that a draft of the magazine would be circulated for comment in addition to a list of potential advertisers, prior to publishing.

The meeting discussed the possibility of having some articles featured in the local press. Also mentioned was the production of another Area Review, which offered another opportunity to promote the positive work of the Area Council and Ward Alliance in more detail than in the magazine. It was suggested that an article on the use of Section 106 monies could be featured.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Chair

**NOTES OF PENISTONE EAST AND WEST WARD ALLIANCE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 29th October 2015 AT PENISTONE TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllrs R Barnard (Chair), Cllr J Unsworth, Cllr A Millner, Cllr P Hand-Davis, Cllr J Wilson, B Green, A James, J Cutts, J Keer and R Leech.

In Attendance: J Openshaw, Community Development Officer.

1. Apologies: Cllr D Griffin, P Reckless and K Coulton.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and None Pecuniary Interest

J Kerr declared a non-pecuniary interest in the funding application from Friends of Isle of Skye.

R Leech declared a non-pecuniary interest in the request from Silkstone Cricket Club.

3. Notes of the Meeting Held on 24th September 2015

The notes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

The Community Development Officer distributed a letter from the Penistone Skate Park Group thanking the Ward Alliance for its support.

Cllr P Hand-Davis reported on his visit to the Walls and Woods project which is supporting many young people towards, employment, qualifications and self-employment.

5. Ward Alliance review

The Community Development Officer distributed the Review of the Penistone East & West Ward Alliance presented to the Penistone Area Council on the 22nd October. Members agreed to its recommendations feeding back at the next meeting. It was agreed that current members who have not attended for some time be contacted with a request for the organisation they represent to propose a replacement.

6. Applications for Financial Assistance

The Community Development Officer gave an update of the funding available. The current budget for the Penistone East & West Ward Alliance stands at £38,699.76.

The following applications for financial assistance were considered:-

a. Sporting Penistone,

To repair the roof above the reception, office & conference room £4,625.72 plus VAT.

To repair wet rot ("Fungal Decay") the main machines and weights room, £3,770.00 plus VAT.

To paint various areas of the centre these included the main office with skate racks, reception and entrance to the building, large toilets / showers and other rooms as required' Paint and Materials £416.67 plus VAT.

Members recommended an allocation of £10,574.87

b. Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth

Proposals are to acquire 2 manual push salt spreaders for use in snow and ice conditions in Ingbirchworth. The Parish Council has an agreement with BMBC for the supply of two bulk loads of road salt each winter (in addition to normal salt bin provision). Currently salt is spread by volunteers using shovels.

Members recommended an allocation of £315.00

c. Friends of Isle of Skye

Isle of Skye Wagon way, Green Moor, To undertake a geophysical survey of the ancient wagon way setts which lead from Chapel Lane to the Isle of Skye former quarry site, now open access land owned by the parish. Following discussions members rejected the

application, questioning the total costs and the actual volunteer contribution to the project. Members suggested approaching universities to undertake the work and alternative companies for quotes.

d. The Silkstone Cricket Club

Earlier this year the Ward Alliance allocated £987.00 towards the cost of Roll on Mobile Cricket practice nets for junior teams.

The timing of the grant received after the start of the cricket season resulting in the club not spending the grant, they are seeking permission to reallocate the grant to the cost of some boundary netting around the perimeter of the outfield.

In discussing the request members asked that the club complete a new application detailing their request.

7. Clean and Tidy Service

The Community Development Officer gave an update on the project launch held earlier today which was attended by Local Councillors, representatives from Parish Councils and volunteers. Following the launch volunteers planted the winter bedding into the planters outside the town hall and around the war memorial.

The project will go live on the 1st November 2105 and the project already has a number of projects to undertake proposed by Parish Councils and Community groups.

8. Any Other Business

a. Community Magazine

The Community Development Officer gave an update on the community magazine which will be distributed to 10,575 homes across the Penistone East & West Wards. Information on the layout and advertisers was distributed.

b. National Grid/Fibre Broadband Service

Cllr Millner reported on the proposals by National Grid to remove the electricity pylons within the Peak District at Dunford Bridge and the possibility of fibre broadband installation. He encouraged members to look at areas to be included in the broadband rollout.

c. Huskar Rooms, Silkstone Community Centre

R Leech reported on the successful opening of the centre and the funds raised at the event which took place on Saturday the 10th October.

d. Millhouse Green

Bob Green extended an invitation to members to Christmas on the Green at Millhouse Green 4:30pm on the 6th December.

e. Penistone Town Centre Christmas Light Switch on

Taking place on the 5th December

f. Ingbirchworth War Memorial

A dedication service will take place at 11am on the 6th November at the site on Wellthorne Avenue, Ingbirchworth.

9. Date and time of next meeting –

17th December 2015 7pm Penistone Town Hall

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

Penistone Area Council (December 2015) Update**Devolved Ward Budget Overview**

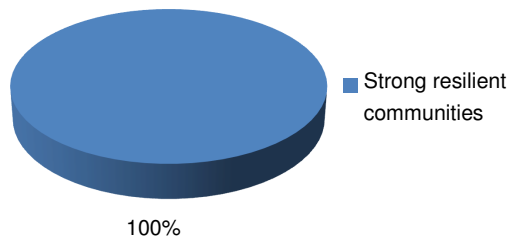
The Penistone Area Council has a Devolved Ward Budget grant allocation of £21,761.11 for the 2015-2016 financial year. This allocation, broken down by Ward below, is made up of a £20,000 allocation for 2015-2016, and a carry forward allocation of £1,761.11 from the 2014-2015 financial year.

2015/2016 DEVOLVED WB	Carry Forward 2014-15	2015-16 allocation	Full 2015-16 Allocation
PENISTONE	£1,761.11	£ 20,000.00	£21,761.11
Penistone East	£1,661.11	£ 10,000.00	£11,661.11
Penistone West	£100.00	£ 10,000.00	£10,100.00

To date, the Penistone Area Council has allocated £8,836 of its £21,761.11 Devolved Ward Budget allocation, with £3000 of this commitment being charged.

2015/2016 DEVOLVED WB	Allocation	Committed spend	Charged spend	Allocation remaining
PENISTONE	£21,761.11	£ 17,891.50	£ 9,292.76	£ 3,869.61
Penistone East	£11,661.11	£ 9,130.75	£ 4,746.38	£ 2,530.36
Penistone West	£10,100.00	£ 8,760.75	£ 4,546.38	£ 1,339.25

A breakdown of how these allocations for both the Penistone East and West wards support the Corporate plan priorities is below:



The Penistone East Ward has allocated £9,130.75 of its £11,661.11 Devolved Ward Budget allocation. To date £4,746.38 of this allocation has been charged to the Ward.

Devolved Ward Budget Project	Allocation	Charged spend	Allocation remaining
PE Summer Bedding plants (50:50 split with Penistone West)	£ 618.00		£ 11,043.11
Re-wire/new ceiling/roof insulation at Thurgoland Village Hall	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 8,043.11
Touch Down (50:50 split with Penistone West)	£ 150.00		£ 7,893.11
Community cohesion activity	£ 450.00	£ 450.00	£ 7,443.11
Thurgoland Parish Council – Village Clock	£ 600.00	£ 600.00	£ 6,843.11
Winter bedding plants	£ 370.00		£ 6,473.11
Penistone Advice Drop In	£ 2,785.50	£ 696.38	£ 3,687.61
Penistone Summer (2015) Hanging baskets	£ 1,157.25		£ 2,530.36

The Penistone West Ward has allocated £8,760.75 of its £10,100 Devolved Ward Budget allocation. To date, £4,546.38 of this has been charged to the Ward.

Devolved Ward Budget Project	Allocation	Charged spend	Allocation remaining
PE Summer Bedding plants (50:50 split with Penistone East)	£ 618.00		£ 9,482.00
Touch Down (50:50 split with Penistone East)	£ 150.00		£ 9,332.00
Ingbirchworth War Memorial	£ 3,850.00	£ 3850.00	£ 5,482.00
Doorstep security	£ 200.00		£ 5,282.00
Penistone Advice Drop In	£ 2,785.50	£ 696.38	£ 2,496.50
Penistone Summer (2015) Hanging baskets	£ 1,157.25		£ 1,339.25

Ward Alliance Fund Budget Overview (Includes Public Health Funds)

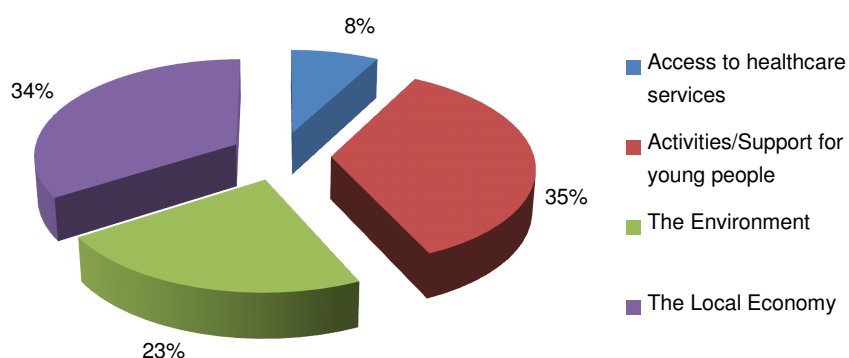
The Penistone Area Council's Ward Alliance has a Ward Alliance grant allocation of £63,139.14 for the 2015-2016 financial year.

This allocation, broken down by Ward below, is made up of a £20,000 allocation for 2015-2016, a carry forward allocation of £3,139.14 from the 2014-2015 financial year and a £40,000 Area Council contribution.

2015/2016 Ward Alliance	Carry Forward 2014-15	2015-16 allocation	Area Council allocation	Full 2015-16 Allocation
Penistone	£ 3,139.14	£ 20,000.00	£ 40,000.00	£ 63,139.14

The Penistone Ward has allocated £35,814.17 of its £63,139.14 Ward Alliance allocation. The Penistone Ward has £1,571.06 of Public Health Funds remaining which is included in the total allocation for 2015/16.

A breakdown of how these allocations are supporting the Ward priorities is below:



The Penistone Ward have a total of **£27,324.97** Ward Alliance Funding unallocated.

However, as the Penistone Ward Alliance Secretary has had a bursary of £500 to date, this leaves the actual allocation of Ward Alliance funding to allocate at **£26,824.97**

The projects declared a total number of 4864 volunteer hours, which equates to the equivalent monetary value of £53,941.76

Ward Alliance Fund Project	Allocation	Charged spend	Allocation remaining
Penistone Round Table – Sustainable Round Table	£ 2,600.00	£2,600.00	£60,539.14
Silkstone United Cricket Club – Mobile Cricket nets for juniors	£ 987.00	£987.00	£59,552.14
Green Moor Cricket Club – The Gazebo	£ 549.00	£ 549.00	£59,003.14
Hoylandswaine Arts Group – Bringing the community to the arts	£ 1,614.50	£1,164.50	£57,388.64
Green Moor Carol Singers – Green Moor Local Carol Book	£ 1,500.00	£1,500.00	£55,888.64
Hunshelf Parish Council – Parish & Community Book & Goods exchange	£ 1,070.15	£1,070.15	£54,818.49
Thurgoland Village Welfare Association – Redecorating/Refurb Village Hall	£ 1,900.00	£1,900.00	£52,918.49
SGRA – Link Path from Saunderson Gardens to TPT	£ 1,400.00	£1,400.00	£51,518.49
Tankersley Parish Council – Community Clear Up Day	£ 85.00	£85.00	£51,433.49
Penistone & District Allotments – Storage shed	£ 900.00		£50,533.49
Silkstone Community Centre	£ 5,374.65	£5,374.65	£45,158.84
Penistone Library – Messy Monkeys	£ 1,944.00		£43,214.84
Penistone Young People – Adopt a Bench pilot	£ 450.00		£42,764.84
Oxspring Parish Council – We're watching you campaign	£ 600.00	£600.00	£42,164.84
Thurgoland Bowling club – Mowing machine	£ 1,000.00	£1,000.00	£41,164.84
Penistone Young People – Young People's Forest school days	£ 700.00		£40,464.84
Penistone Young People – Smart Art	£ 300.00		£40,164.84
Penistone Young People – Young people's wildlife	£ 450.00		£39,714.84
Oxspring Friends Group – Indoor Bowling Club	£ 1,500.00		£38,214.84
Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth PC – Village salt spreader	£ 315.00	£315.00	£ 37,899.84
Sporting Penistone – Essential building repairs	£ 10,574.87	£10,574.87	£ 27,324.97

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**Penistone Area Council Meeting**

Report of the
Penistone Area Council Manager

Date 10 December 2015

Penistone Area Council Commissioning Procurement and Funding Update**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update members on the current commissioning and procurement position of the Penistone Area Council.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members receive the update on commissioned projects.
- 2.2 That members note the current financial position of the Area Council Commissioning Budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

3.0 Countryside Skills Training Commission

- 3.1 A scheduled monitoring meeting was held between the Area Manager and Tom Handley of Growforest on 22 October 2015. Tom reported the following information data on the progress of the project against projected milestones, targets and outputs.

Milestone/Target/Output	Target	Achieved	Comments
Learners Recruited	24	29	
Learners Achieving Stage One Qualification in Dry Stone Walling	24	16	There are a further 10 trainees identified to take the test on 12 December 2015.
No of learning Hours Delivered	630	605	
No of Learners Achieving 85% or higher attendance	24	19	
Linear Metres of Dry Stone Wall repaired (this period)	400	284	

Milestone/Target/Output	Target	Achieved	Comments
People feeling and thinking positively about the future	24	15	This may increase as current cohort has trainees undergoing rehabilitation from substance misuse.
People being happier and healthier by being connected to the natural environment	24	24	See Sample Case Studies
People perceiving traditional countryside skills as a viable enterprise.	24	3	Although trainees have talked about enterprise. Few out of the cohorts so far have shown significant interest in starting an enterprise.

3.2 Case Studies

Rob. Rob was in the army for a number of years. Following that he worked in a number of jobs, including warehouse operative, before suffering a nervous breakdown and becoming alcohol dependent. Rob is now at the end of his rehabilitation programme and is studying to become a keyworker to help other people with dependency. He finds working in the green environment a positive experience which has helped him on his journey back to good health. "Time here helps me think about all the other stuff going on in my life. It gives me a breather. I love it on the wall".

Ethan. Ethan is a bright young man currently working as a mechanical apprentice with Mercedes Trucks. Because of an offence he is also under the management of YOT (Youth Offending Team). They referred him in order to find meaningful activity which would meet his capabilities. Ethan has started to 'really fly' with his walling skills and Tom Handley has every confidence that he will pass the course and gain his qualification. He is now a bright and useful member of the team and states that he wants to use his skills to assist his father's home renovation projects.

Luke. Luke has been employed on a mixed farm as a labourer and has aspirations of becoming a self-employed agricultural contractor. He lives with his girlfriend's family and struggles with managing anger and addiction to cannabis. When he is walling, everyone but Luke can see he is a very able young man. Only Luke doesn't seem to think his work is every good enough. He struggles to concentrate for long periods, and struggles with self-motivation. It is hoped that a positive experience of the green environment and success in gaining the qualification will help him achieve his goals and become a more confident person.

- 3.3 As can be seen by the case studies in comparison to original projected outputs the project has drifted a little from the original hard outputs but continues to have a very positive social impact.
- 3.4 Discussions have also recently taken place between Growforest and staff at Penistone Young Peoples Centre about young people from the centre attending 'Forest School' days as part of their appreciation of their local environment (a Love Where You Live project) which includes wood carving, painting activity and bench making. The ward alliance has agreed to fund this activity which will start in the New Year.
- 3.5 Tom Handley also reported that he has had good response from Penistone Grammar School about a potential project working with young people at risk of becoming NEET and will be discussing it further with a view to possible delivery January – May 2016.
- 3.6 Growforest's delivery in the Penistone area over the last year has given them an insight of what could work in the area with regard to Countryside Skills and young people's appreciation of the local green environment. With that in mind, as well as delivering the current provision to 31 March 2016, they are developing a new project which could possibly be financed by other funders in the area i.e. East Peak Innovation Project.

4.0 Clean and Tidy Commission

- 4.1 The Service Level Agreement for this commission has now been signed by all parties and following discussions with HR, Finance and the Trade Unions the recruitment process has commenced.
- 4.2 A number of work requests from Parish Councils have been received by the Area Team who will collate the work and liaise directly with the Neighbourhood Pride Supervisor designated to be the day to day contact for operational work.
- 4.3 A successful launch event for the Volunteer Scheme was held on Thursday 29 October at Penistone Town Hall which was covered by the Penistone edition of the Barnsley Chronicle.
- 4.4 Fortnightly operational meetings between the Area Team and Neighbourhood Pride Supervisor have been diarized as have the quarterly project monitoring meetings.

5.0 Working Together Fund

- 5.1** Following receipt of 4 expressions of interest by the Area Team the grants panel met on 22 October. Following consideration of the proposed projects, one was invited to work up a full proposal and the other three were asked to provide more information. To date there has been no actual expenditure from this fund.

6.0 Current Funding Position

- 6.1** The up to date Commissioning Budget Financial Analysis 2014/15 to 2016/17 is given as Appendix 1 to this report.

Officer Contact
Elaine Slater

Tel. No 01226 775382
Date 1 December 2015

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Penistone Matters

Focussing on your local area



Hello and Welcome...

In Barnsley, we realise that simply doing things the way we have always done them will not help us to respond both to the significant challenges faced by local government and the expectations of residents. A new way of working is required.

The borough has been divided into six area councils with the two Wards of Penistone East and Penistone West forming one of them.

Each area has its own priorities which are set locally following consultation with local people and in our case with the thirteen parishes. The Penistone Area covers over half the borough but has only 12% of its population. Essentially rural in nature it has different needs from the rest of urban Barnsley but with over 150 active groups it has a long history of self-reliance.

The Area Council, made up of the six borough Councillors representing the Penistone Wards,

commissions services with a strong social value to address the strategic priorities of the area.

The Ward Alliance, which is made up of Councillors working alongside representatives of local organisations to encourage volunteering and increase the capacity of communities to help themselves. The Ward

Alliance disposes of a budget to assist groups enhance their activities in line with the area priorities provided those groups match the funding with volunteer time.

Progress has been encouraging and we believe the Penistone Area is well placed to adapt to the challenges which the future will bring.

Penistone's priorities are:

- The environment
- The local economy including tourism
 - Roads and road safety
 - Health and well-being
- Activities for young people



Robert Barnard

Councillor Robert Barnard
Chair of the Penistone Area Council



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Penistone Area Team



@PenistoneTeam

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The Work Of Penistone Ward Alliance

The work of Penistone Ward Alliance

Penistone Ward Alliance was established in 2013 and is a working partnership between members of the local community/community groups/parish councils, business and faith sectors and Penistone Area Council. Its members come from both Penistone East and Penistone West Wards. Presently Penistone Ward Alliance has 18 members.

The group meets every six weeks throughout the year at Penistone Town Hall to discuss ways of addressing local issues, undertake action planning and administer funding to community led groups and agencies who are trying to 'make a positive difference' to their area.

During the financial year 2014/15 the group allocated 99% of its available funds (£20,000) with 58% of the money going towards improving and/or maintaining the environment and a further 32% to positive activities for young people. The rest of the funding for last financial year went towards improving the

economy and the creation of the Penistone Neighbourhood Network - all of which are priorities of the Penistone Area Council.

Although the Ward Alliance has a much smaller budget than the Area Council it does have the opportunity to influence larger projects by discussing and elevating issues/ideas up to the Area Council. An example of this is the introduction of a 'Clean and Tidy Service' to the town, parishes, villages and hamlets which make up the wards of Penistone East and West. By the time you read this article the Clean and Tidy Team will be operating in your area working with community groups and organisations to tackle environment issues which are above and beyond the work of Barnsley's Neighbourhood Pride Team.

Applications forms for the Ward Alliance Fund can be obtained from John Openshaw by telephone 01226 773012 or emailing: johnopenshaw@barnsley.gov.uk

“ By the time you read this article the Clean and Tidy Team will be operating in your area working with community groups and organisations to tackle environment issues which are above and beyond the work of Barnsley's Neighbourhood Pride Team ”

Area Council Commissioned Work

Walls And Woods - Training In Countryside Skills

In recognition that not everyone wants to follow the academic route to employment, in September 2014 Penistone Area Council commissioned the proprietor Tom Handley from 'Growforest' to deliver training locally in countryside skills, hedge laying and dry stone walling.

Originally the scheme was aimed at 16 to 24 year olds living in the Penistone area but following an initial slow take up, and despite Growforest offering 'taster sessions' locally Penistone Area Council agreed to widen the offer to include a higher age range and more extensive geographical catchment area.

To date 24 trainees have attended the course with 16 of those gaining the Lantra Level 1 qualification in dry stone walling. In addition to basic countryside skills, including woodworking and basket weaving, the trainees are offered advice on enterprise and self-employment.

Two trainees also came 1st and 2nd in the Yorkshire Dry Stone Walling Guild Annual Competition held in July this year.

The course was due to end in September 2015 but has been extended to 31 March 2016 because of its success and popularity.

For anyone interested in the Walls and Woods project please contact Tom Handley on 07787 176 242.



Penistone Area Council Commissioned Work

Clean And Tidy Team

One of the main priorities for Penistone Area Council and the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, and highlighted by local people is the improvement and maintenance of our local environment. However in times of austerity and budget cuts and with Penistone's wide geographical spread it isn't always possible to keep our villages and parishes in the 'tip top' condition we would like to see them. So at its meeting held on 21 May 2015 Penistone Area Council identified £160,000 from its own commissioning budget be allocated to buying in some additional clean and tidy activity for the area. The service is designed to complement and build upon existing volunteering activity being delivered by parish councils and community groups and to encourage new activity.

In the spirit of working together, members of the local parish councils and ward alliance members met with the Penistone area team and local elected members to contribute to and help design the specification which went out to tender in early July 2015.

By the time you are reading this the new Clean and Tidy Team will be actively out and about working with members of the local community, parish councils, businesses and schools towards enhancing and improving our local environment.

Parish councils, schools, community groups and/or businesses in the Penistone area wishing to put forward ideas for 'clean and tidy activity' should contact John Openshaw in the first instance on 01226 773012 or email: johnopenshaw@barnsley.gov.uk or alternatively call in to the Penistone Area Team Office, Penistone Town Hall, Shrewsbury Road, S70 6DY to discuss your idea.

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Planting Penistone's Newest Community Orchard

By Dave Griffin and Andrew Elves

On 19th September 2015, Angela Smith MP officially opened the new community garden and footpath linking the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) to Heathercliff Way on the Saunderson Gardens estate in Penistone. This garden included a community orchard and herb garden, a bat, bee and bird friendly area, and a wild flower meadow.

But just one year earlier this area looked entirely different. It was an overgrown wasteland with a muddy track leading through it. The TPT boundary was marked by broken concrete posts from a long-gone fence.

Resident Andrew Elves was fed up with the state of this short cut to town. He spoke to Councillor Dave Griffin and they decided to see whether other residents would help to improve it.

At a well-attended public meeting in October 2014, Saunderson Gardens Residents' Association was formed. A plan for a new community garden was presented at the meeting by Barnsley Council's Rights of Way officer and the project was underway.

The group of volunteers from the estate met throughout the winter months to clear all the rubble, weeds and litter. They put in more than two hundred hours work on this. People who had just been passing acquaintances before the project started, became good friends as a result of the volunteering days. Guidance and advice came from a local horticulturist and the Rights of Way Team at the Council.

The Penistone West ward councillors were impressed by the efforts of the residents' association and recommended them for three grants as the project progressed. £10,000 came from Barnsley Council Section 106 fund and two smaller ones were given by Penistone Ward Alliance.

This project is a wonderful example of the community and Barnsley Council working together to improve where we live.





Penistone Young People's Centre Project - 'Adopt a Bench'

"Adopt a Bench " is a project which has engaged young people in contributing to their local community, by learning how to construct a hardwood bench from locally coppiced timber for young and old make use of within their local area.

With funding from Penistone Ward Alliance and volunteer time contribution from the young people the project worked with an experienced forest/crafts person to build benches which are to be sited throughout the Penistone area. Local groups will be able to put forward requests for benches to be installed at nominated locations. There have already been several requests following the 'Eagle' bench being sited outside the Young Peoples Centre in Penistone.

Through this project young people have been offered the chance to learn skills for life - which can be used on their journey into the adult world of work and training.

The benches will be constructed in the workshop at Penistone Young People Centre, and on completion they will be sited in their new locations by the young people's team and the leaders.

The benches will all have individual designs, which will have been agreed with each group.

The intergeneration work - will help foster positive relationships between all ages, and groups, adding further value to this "LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE" project.

Thurgoland

Thanks to a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Awards4All scheme and other fundraising in the village, Thurgoland's Youth Centre, home to TOOSC (Thurgoland Out Of School Club) had a complete makeover in the summer holidays. The old ceiling was replaced; all asbestos removed and new energy efficient lighting was installed as part of a complete rewire.

The Village Hall and Youth Centre has also had super-fast broadband installed! Following the work volunteers helped redecorate the centre, building new shelving, putting up bright wall transfers and a new carpet, financed through a £1,900 grant from the Ward Alliance Fund.

To celebrate the completion of the work the Village Welfare Committee, staff from TOOSC, parents and children attended a special opening night when Councillor John Wilson (back centre), who was instrumental in helping the Welfare Committee acquire the centre for the children of the village.

BELOW: Thanks to Lia and the ladies from TOOSC who baked special celebration buns and laid on a delicious buffet. Thanks also to John Roebuck, (back left) whose firm completed the work on time, on budget and to a very high standard. Pat Finn (back right - Chair of the Welfare Committee) was there to plan the next stage of the work - in the Village Hall! It was also nice to see so many of the children who use TOOSC daily - they're thrilled with their new centre!



Celebrating Our Local Environment - A Flouch Walk

Allen Pestell, Chair, Dunford Parish Council

We start at the Flouch where there is parking as well as a bus service from Barnsley, Penistone and Stocksbridge.

The Old Flouch cottage was the inn built by George Howard; he had what was described as a 'slouch lip' from which the name 'Flouch' is derived. The old road in the direction of Manchester leads to a bridleway between farm houses and was once used by Charlotte Bronte when visiting the Eyre family whose name she borrowed for her novel Jane Eyre.

Continuing along the edge of the moor to the Trans-Pennine Trail, we cross the bridge and follow the Trail in the direction of Penistone. The Ward Alliance has funded several projects in the area such as information boards highlighting the wild flower areas here and along the trail developed over the last year.

If we go over the foot bridge at Bullhouse we can walk to the next bridge which crosses over the trail. Following the path downhill to the foot bridge over the Don we can then go uphill to view Hazlehead Hall which had been the home of Adam Eyre; this is fronted by a stone ha-ha, a wall which cannot be seen from the Hall.

A ha-ha is a recessed landscape design element that creates a vertical barrier whilst preserving an

uninterrupted view of the landscape beyond. The design includes a turfed incline which slopes downward to a sharply vertical face, typically a masonry retaining wall. We can now retrace our steps and cross the Trail by the bridge towards a gate on the left and then walk parallel to the Trail and alongside the Don which at this point near its source has the cleanest water in South Yorkshire.

The paved way rises towards Bullhouse Hall, the ancestral home of the Rich family. Capt. Wm. Rich and Capt. Adam Eyre were invited to London to view the execution of King Charles I. This appears to be the only recompense they received for their service in Cromwell's army as neither were ever paid! There is also Bullhouse Chapel; built by the Rich family which includes the curious feature of double seated earth closets, male and female back to back.

Leaving Bullhouse behind us we follow the Trail towards Penistone and cross the road to the Bullhouse picnic area. Here we can study the information boards which describe the rail disaster in 1884 which was caused by carriages becoming uncoupled from the train.

From this point we can re-trace our steps back towards Dunford and then to our starting point at the Flouch.

“ I went by footpaths and by stile
Beyond where bustle ends
Strayed here a mile and there a mile
and called upon some friends

Thomas Hardy ”

Huskar Community Rooms

Silkstone Parish Council is pleased to announce the completion of the new Huskar Community Rooms (named after the Huskar Pit) located at the back of the Silkstone petrol station.

The old concrete and asbestos Scout Hut needed to be replaced as it was no longer fit for purpose. Fundraising started and was quite successful, but couldn't keep up with the rising cost of building materials. Silkstone Parish Council got involved securing a public works loan allowing the project to get underway. After a number of setbacks, Nicholson Roberts of Penistone came to the rescue and were appointed as contractor. The quality of the finished building is testament to the professional running of the project between the Parish Council's appointed project manager at Spring & Co and the management at Nicholson Roberts as well as the skills of their labour force.

The management committee is grateful to the numerous groups and individuals who donated their money, goods and time that have enabled the rooms to open. A big thank you to you all!

The children from the Cubs, Scouts, explorer scouts, Brownies, Guides and the Maria Penrose School of dance are all excited to be in a new modern facility. New user groups include kickboxing and craft classes. The facilities are suitable for meetings, exercise classes and children's parties. If you or your group is interested in making a booking please contact the bookings manager paul.denton16@btinternet.com



Springvale Community Garden

sustainable food growing community



A Hidden Gem In The Heart Of Springvale

Springvale Community Garden is a vibrant community asset which is becoming increasingly well known for the opportunities for volunteering as well as excellent seasonal vegetables, fruit and plants. It is a 4 acre site on 2 sides of the River Don in Springvale, Penistone.

People who haven't visited for a while will be amazed at the progress on the site. Until the mid-1970's the site was the sewage works for Penistone. After that it became a training area for long-term unemployed people, then a commercial nursery. When it closed at the end of 2006 the site fell into dereliction. It was then handed in trust to Penistone and District Community Partnership who decided to continue the gardening tradition at the site and to develop it as a community garden. Now Springvale Community Garden is a charity in its own right with the aim of providing:

- Education about growing and healthy eating.
- Conservation of the diverse habitat on the site.
- Purposeful Recreation. Opportunities to get actively involved in a worthwhile and enjoyable project

The area on the South side of the River Don is now a nature haven. Volunteers have worked hard to improve access and to create a picnic area.



Restoration work began on the Garden in the summer of 2008. Gradually volunteers have cleared the site and created...

- a unique Physic Garden - a demonstration garden of medicinal, culinary and other useful plants.
- raised beds, greenhouse and poly-tunnels for vegetable growing
- an orchard
- a gorgeous flower border
 - a pond, bug hotels and other wildlife habitats.
 - a nature haven and picnic area on the South side of the River Don.

Now it is growing into a place where the whole community can find something that gives them a better quality of life. The garden has been supported by Penistone Ward Alliance funding which has helped with materials for renovations and equipment. Local businesses have helped too. The garden is run entirely by volunteers who look after the site and raise the plants and vegetables.

They are always open to new volunteer, school groups, corporate volunteers. If you would like to visit call on Wednesday or Saturday between 10am and 2pm and you'll find a warm welcome.

See what they are up to on Facebook
www.facebook.com/springvalecommunitygarden
 or contact 01226 765892

Hoylandswaine

June and July were certainly the months for galas, festivals, open days - whatever the name the sentiment is the same, people outdoors enjoying long light evenings and the chance to have a drink, some entertainment and a good old natter. (notice I make no mention of sunshine and showers this year!).

Festivals give a good opportunity for individuals and organisations to show what they do and even recruit new members. One of the good things about festivals is that you can try out new activities without a long term commitment. If you like it you can continue but, hey! no pressure.

This is just what is happening in Hoylandswaine. Last year the village launched its first festival in celebration of the restoration of the mural in the parish church, painted by John Roddam Spencer Stanhope when the church was built in 1869 - with funds from his family at Cannon Hall. The mural had been lost to sight since the early '60s but thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, and a great deal of support from the local community and Area Council - Ward Alliance it is now restored in its full glory, and was seen to best advantage when the international chamber group, Ensemble 360 gave their first ever concert in Hoylandswaine to a full church.

This was the stimulus for the creation of a community banner, community mural, well dressing and art exhibition.

Has Hoylandswaine Got Talent!!! In bucket loads! Nowhere more evident than in the Scarecrow Trail. Wonderland itself was never so full of Alices. In fact, Alice on her bike was a most effective traffic calmer, on the straight bit of Haigh Lane where feet tend to be a bit heavy on the accelerator.

Hoylandswaine is also well regarded on the cricket scene and, blest with very fine weather the teams carried the day on both weekends of the festival. Hoylandswaine Hill Runners are a great inspiration to the youngsters who literally rose to the challenge of the hills. The following year, 2015, we added clog dancing, ukulele band and village choir to the menu - ukulele playing and singing will definitely be continuing. In all 12 or 13 distinctive groups within the village are working together and plans for next year are already well under way. So, 'keep the date'. We have ordered summer for next year and it should stretch from mid-June to July.

See you then.

Elizabeth Charlesworth



Hunshelf Parish Council -

A Library with a difference!

Disused telephone box transformed into village asset...

A group of local residents have joined forces to turn an obsolete telephone box in the heart of Green Moor into a local paper and book exchange.

With funding from the Penistone East & West Ward Alliance the book exchange was restored to its former glory with authentic materials.

Volunteers spent many hours replacing broken glass panes, corroded frames and repainting in post office red. The post box which sits next to the old telephone box has also received a coat of fresh post office red!

The book exchange and the post box now sit majestically at the centre of the village a tribute to the Parish Council and the Village Volunteers.



A New Grant Scheme for the Penistone Area

Working Together Fund

Penistone Area Council is keen to work with Parish Councils and Community Groups and Organisations to assist them to undertake slightly projects than the Ward Alliance Fund but which clearly address the priorities of the Area Council whilst furthering its aim to work with people who want to do things which benefit and enhance the area for themselves and others - Social Action.

The grants offered are between £5,000 and £20,000 and although it does not have to be matched it must clearly show volunteer involvement and a willingness to be creative in the way issues are addressed in the area. It could be an environmental improvement project, something which has positive outcomes for young and/or older people or providing a service to the community.

A two stage application process. Expressions of interest are considered by a grants panel which consists of an elected member from Penistone East and West Wards, a member of

the Penistone Area Team and BMBC Stronger Communities Volunteer and Engagement Officer. If the grants panel think the project meets the criteria of the working together fund a full application will be invited and help offered to develop the project from the Penistone Area Team. Once awarded the group/organisation will be expected to deliver a number of outcomes/outputs which will be monitored by the Area Council Manager and reported in due course to Penistone Area Council as are the larger commissions awarded by them and targeted at larger, more complicated issues.

Information for applicants can be obtained from the Penistone Area Team, at Penistone Town Hall, Shrewsbury Road, Penistone S36 3DY
Tel: 01226 773012 or 01226 775382
email: johnopenshaw@barnsley.gov.uk