

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 3 August 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

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

9 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

10 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 15th June, 2017 (PAC.03.08.2017/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th June 2017.

A discussion took place regarding affordable housing provision in the area (Minute No 4). It was acknowledged that traditionally Penistone has not done well in terms of provision of affordable housing. Members felt that there is a need to understand why developers are not willing to develop affordable housing schemes in the area, as this is an issue which concerns local residents. The lack of council land and the limited affordable sites on which to develop housing association/social housing schemes may well be a factor. Sarah Cartwright (Group Leader, Housing Growth) has been invited to attend the October meeting to update Members in this respect.

It was reported that the DIAL project (Minute No 6) has been extremely successful, with people often queuing outside the door and individual appointments lasting in excess of 30 minutes. The project will need to be carefully monitored to ensure the service is not overstretched as it relies heavily on volunteers.

Both the Tour de Yorkshire and the Armed Forces Day had been very successful and well received by the community. Ambitious plans are in hand in respect of the latter for future years.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 15th June 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

11 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (PAC.03.08.2017/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting that £15,597.01 is still to be allocated, although there are some projects in the pipeline which will reduce this figure further. It was pointed out that the applications which are currently being submitted are of a very high quality. A discussion took place regarding the problems caused by pigeons. It seems that measures taken recently have only been partially effective and a long term solution needs to be found.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Area Council Manager be tasked with exploring options regarding the pigeon pest control problem.

12 Performance Report (PAC.03.08.2017/4)

The Area Council Manager updated Members with respect to the performance of services commissioned to deliver the outcomes and social value objectives of Penistone Area Council for the period April to June 2017. Attention was drawn to the achievements and outcomes of each service/project, including Countryside Skills and Training, the Clean and Tidy Team, Penistone Advice Drop IN, Penistone FM, Penistone Scout Activity Centre development, Isolated and Vulnerable Older People Service, Penistone Youth Project, Bumping Spaces and Sporting Penistone.

Members noted that Public Health outcomes are now included for each project where appropriate and a number of positive developments were highlighted such as the fact that 8 full time jobs have been created and recruited to, 310 adult volunteers have been engaged (67 more than previously) and that 100 community groups are supported, 9 of which are newly created.

RESOLVED that Members note the update report.

13 Isolated and Vulnerable Older People Service - Age UK (PAC.03.08.2017/5)

Jane Holliday, Karen Dennis and Ellen Hall from Age UK were welcomed to the meeting to deliver a presentation in respect of the Penistone Social Inclusion Service. A brief history of the commissioned service was given and included how the service was promoted, partnership, the Good Neighbours scheme, the 'Eyes on the Ground' initiative, the Community Car Scheme and the individual service. A number of individual and group case studies was provided, showing the positive impact that has been achieved in the community. It was noted that services are provided in Penistone, Millhouses and Thurlstone but that there is a need to develop it in the more isolated rural communities of the Penistone Ward.

It was highlighted that there is a huge variety of groups in Penistone and new groups are being developed all the time. One Councillor was aware of a 'Men in Sheds' project running in the Scissett/Denby Dale area and felt that this, or something similar, could be replicated in Penistone. It was also reported that 30 people have volunteered for the service in the first 6 months, 22 of whom were not previously involved with Age UK. Volunteers are mostly older people and have provided over 120 hours of time in building relationships, identifying support needs and developing skills and awareness around older people's issues.

A discussion took place around the need for a community repair service. This falls under Age UK's 'Good Neighbours' scheme and also Yorkshire Housing's 'Stay Put' service provides similar support. It was highlighted that financial advice is also provided by Age UK for those aged 50+, claiming more than £1 million for those aged 65+ across Barnsley.

It was felt that the Community Car scheme could be developed further and that this needs to be promoted widely, with an accompanying need for more volunteer drivers. Members also discussed the merits of raising the awareness of dementia, highlighting that although there are a number of services available such as memory services, day centres and carer support, they are not all in one place which makes it difficult for service users and their carers to navigate without support.

RESOLVED that attendees be thanked for their attendance and contribution and for the positive impact which the service is making in the community.

14 Procurement and financial update (PAC.03.08.2017/6)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and provided members with an update on the commissioning and procurement activity around the Isolated and Vulnerable Older People Service, the Working Together Fund, the Clean and Tidy Service and the New Clean and Tidy for 2017/18, highlighting that the Penistone Area Council has allocated £171,633.50 of its total budget of £200,000 for the 2017/18 financial year.

RESOLVED that Members

- (i) Receive the update on the Isolated and Vulnerable Older People Service and extend the contract from 1st January 2018 for a period of 12 months at a cost of £70,000;
- (ii) Note the update of the Penistone Working Together Fund
- (iii) Note the update on the current clean and tidy commission and the update of the newly appointed service provider, and
- (iv) Note the finance update and put on hold any further discussions regarding enforcement services for Penistone.

15 Principal Towns Programme (PAC.03.08.2017/7)

Fiona O'Brien, Principal Towns Officer, was welcomed to the meeting and delivered a presentation outlining various elements of the Principal Towns Project, including Commissioning Board feedback, Penistone Registration of Interest and the next steps in the programme, to include the Business Plan, Working Group, Procurement Plan and match funding together with business and community consultation. Most of the projects have been approved by the Board and will now move on to the next phase. The business plan should be submitted to the Commissioning Board on 28th September but a request to change this date to November will be made, as more research is needed.

A discussion took place regarding road safety in Penistone and Members felt that this should be a consideration within the project as pedestrians in the town centre are faced with numerous challenges.

RESOLVED that Fiona O'Brien be thanked for her attendance and contribution and that Gary McNaught (Highways) be invited to attend a meeting in the second or third week in September to discuss options regarding road safety.

Chair