

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 5 December 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

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

22 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

23 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 3rd October, 2019 (Pac.05.12.2019/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd October, 2019.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware that the opening of the Trans-Pennine Trail installation had been delayed and clearance from Network Rail was still outstanding.

Members were made aware that the SOPPA Network 'Love Later Life' event was postponed and would take place in the spring.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 3rd October, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

24 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 14th November, 2019 (Pac.05.12.2019/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 14th November, 2019.

Members noted the significant amount of finance distributed and the range of projects supported by the Ward Alliance Fund.

Those present were provided an update on the application from Saunderson Gardens Resident Association, although this was refused it was noted that a significant number of trees had subsequently been provided by the Woodland Trust.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 14th November, 2019 be received.

25 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.05.12.2019/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, and referred Members to the outstanding finance within the Ward Alliance Fund. From a total balance of £56,015, just over £27,484 remained to allocate.

Members noted that a number of applications had been received for consideration and others were expected in due course.

The meeting discussed whether to make climate change a priority, and to invite applications to address this. Members noted the 'Penistone Against Plastic' group and whether these could be supported in future.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

26 Performance Report Q2 (Pac.05.12.2019/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who made Members aware that the report covered Quarter 2, July to September, 2019.

From the cumulative performance tables a number of areas were highlighted. This included the increases in clean and tidy activities undertaken by businesses and the numbers of young people making a positive contribution to the design and maintenance of their local environment.

Members noted the contribution of volunteers, with over £17,000 worth of volunteer time given, and over 96% of contracted finance was spent in the local area.

78 volunteer opportunities had been created and 4 individuals supported had gained a qualification in the quarter. In addition 40 community groups had been supported, 249 volunteers of which 50 were new, had been engaged. 93 residents had received advice and support.

Performance against the contract delivered by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance was positive, with the service now in its second year of operation, and an extension agreed to the end of the financial year. Members noted the work in the parishes and with businesses. Also noted was the variety of new groups supported. Members heard how all targets had been met, including those related to young people, despite it being the school summer holidays.

The team had worked with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, and Members noted the continued work with Team Green Moor towards their Britain in Bloom award. Also acknowledged was support given to Springvale Community Garden and work that had recently commenced in Stainborough and Hood Green.

Benches around the area had been restored, and 'Happy to Chat' plaques added to some, a practice which may be replicated elsewhere. Members noted that 7,000 bulbs had been procured for planting with volunteers around Bower Dell.

Volunteer involvement around Windermere Road edible beds had improved, as had engagement around Ingbirchworth, Gunthwaite, and Bromley Carr. Members noted the new approach to advertising to engage volunteers which was thought to be working well.

It was noted that the contract held by Age UK was in the 3rd quarter of its first year, but was being extended to run into a second year. High numbers of volunteers had been engaged with a successful recruitment drive held in September, and a number of positive features in the local press.

Befrienders had been active, supporting individuals and some small group activities such as group outings. It was noted that some of those seeking support had complex needs such as dementia, and therefore had been referred to more appropriate agencies for support.

The advice service had supported 25 users, with approximately £31,000 of benefit gained. Members noted the different demographic served when compared to similar advice services, and that home visits were available.

The volunteer car scheme had proved popular, but it was acknowledged that more drivers were required. Members suggested the size of the area covered could cause potential issues.

Age UK had worked to support community activities in Wortley, Tankersley, Cawthorne and Silkstone, and Men In Sheds being launched in Penistone In the New Year. In addition 11 active groups were supported through the U3A. Members heard of the Pen Pals project which matched school age children who wrote a letter to more elderly adults, who then replied. The project had received significant attention from elsewhere in the country and was looking to be expanded in additional schools.

Members noted the SOPPA network was going well, and the responses from the Age Friendly Penistone Consultation were being assessed. The subgroup supporting this would now be meeting in January, 2020.

The current contract with DIAL was nearing the end of its first year, but would be extended for a further 12 months. It was noted that there was a lull during the summer, but demand had increased since. Members noted the retirement of Gwen White, and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent from the Area Council commending the positive work she had undertaken.

To date the service had generated a benefit gain of £127,055 with around £27,000 within the quarter. Members noted that a report was being collated which would compare advice service provision and performance around the borough. However, 69% of those accessing the DIAL service reported an improvement in their health and wellbeing.

The report provided an assessment of the performance of final quarter of the service piloted by CAB. Though only available twice a month from 2-6pm on a Wednesday, the service had assisted clients to gain £31,952 of benefits and helped manage £29,154 of debt (£2,158 within the quarter). It was noted that 59 volunteer hours had been committed within the quarter, with the majority of these providing back-office support.

The number of passengers using South Pennine Community Transport was high, well in excess of targets and additional routes had been added at no extra cost to the Area Council. Members heard how they had partnered with the HCT group as part of their future journeys programme. They had also developed their own 5 year development plan. Members commented on the positive links being made as part of the Barnsley Bus Partnership.

Suggestions were made about the need to feed into both SCR and Barnsley Transport Strategies, and the place of community transport in rural areas was acknowledged.

RESOLVED :-

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That a letter be sent to Gwen White thanking her for all her hardwork in the delivery of the DIAL service, and wishing her a long and happy retirement.

27 Penistone FM - Young Voices (Pac.05.12.2019/6)

Steve Dobson from Penistone FM was welcomed to the meeting. Members were provided an overview of the project that had been funded through the Working Together Fund.

Young people were offered the opportunity to undergo training as a presenter or interviewer and were offered work experience, either at the station or elsewhere. 12 young people were engaged, which was above the original target. The difficulties in engaging students during the day were noted, with the majority of young people being engaged through the enrichment programme at Penistone Grammar School.

Members heard how a variety of training was offered, including in the studio. Students created drama, sound effects, did editing and added music. Those taking part had talks about careers in radio, from a representative at Radio Sheffield and many volunteered as presenters and interviewers at Penistone FM.

It was noted that 2 students passed their NCFE level 1 qualification, with 1 further ready for verification and 3 continuing to work towards this.

Work experience was offered within the station on such as outside broadcasts, but also to produce stories for the Look Local newspaper.

The impact on each of the young people taking part was acknowledged, these included improvements in confidence, and giving experiences outside the normal comfort zone. Also noted was the number of young people going on to jobs or higher education in journalism or in media.

Looking to the future Members heard of plans to develop a new approach to work with young people focussing on mental health, to highlight the difficulties they face, using podcasts to enable discussion about these.

Members praised the work of Penistone FM, including with Penistone Grammar School, and the unique opportunity the station offered within the area.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and the positive contribution all involved with Penistone FM provide.

28 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.05.12.2019/7)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item, referring to the services provided by Age UK to support vulnerable and isolated older people. It was noted that the relevant paperwork to extend provision for a further year had been completed.

Members noted that the finance remaining in the Working Together Fund, and that there was a single application pending which had been deferred for further information.

The relevant paperwork had been completed to waive contract standing orders to extend the Clean, Green and Tidy service until the end of March, 2020. A tender specification had been developed, which would be circulated to Members for comments before 11th December. The service would go out to tender on 16th December, 2019, with a view to the new contract starting 1st April, 2020. Volunteers to take part in the evaluation panel were sought, with one Member from each ward and a community representative from the Ward Alliance preferred.

Members noted the suggestion for the next feature in Penistone Living, to be included in the February edition, which would avoid the purdah period.

An overview of the financial situation was given, with £21,829 remaining for distribution in 2019/20.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the update on procurement activity be received;
- (ii) That the update on progress of contracts funded by the Support Isolated and Older People Grant Fund and the arrangements for their extension be noted;
- (iii) That the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be noted;
- (iv) That the update on the current Clean and Tidy Contract and the timescales for the agreed procurement of a future contract be noted;
- (v) That Members provide feedback on the tender documentation for the procurement of a Clean and Tidy Service;
- (vi) That Members interested in taking part in the evaluation panel for the procurement of a Clean and Tidy Service contact the Area Council Manager;
- (vii) That the Area Council updates be included in the February, 2020 edition of Penistone Living;
- (viii) That the current financial position be noted.

29 Feedback from the Youth Summit (Pac.05.12.2019/8)

Jolene Allen and Mark Glymond were welcomed to the meeting. The Area Council Manager reminded members that Supporting Young People was one of the priorities of the Area Council, though only 6% of all spend was directly aimed at this priority. Members had agreed to consider available evidence prior to any further investment.

Discussions had been held with the Targeted Youth Support Service Early Intervention and Prevention service which had led to the development of the Youth Summit. Here tasters were offered in engaging activities to encourage young people to attend, and in addition to information stalls, there was an opportunity for those attending to give their opinions.

Those attending were asked to contribute to a Youth Voice Tree, a Money Wall and the event evaluation. Many did take part in the engagement, and Members commented that young people were generally positive about the area, and it showed that many were aware of wider issues such as mental health and the environment. Feedback related to the event was positive and though many were resident in the area around the town centre, some did attend from surrounding villages.

Members were then made aware of the service provided through the Targeted Youth Support Service – Early Intervention and Prevention. This included universal group provision and outreach engagement; targeted group provision, and one to one targeted or specialist support.

Noted were the delivery settings, which included 2 nights a week at the IKIC centre, with young people able to self-refer. Also provided was a detached session 1 night per week; however it was noted that there was a vacancy in this area so detached provision was currently unavailable.

Members heard of work done in partnership with schools on transition, intergenerational work with Age UK, and assistance provided to young people to enable them to volunteer. Also noted was the piloted excel scheme, designed to support young people to remain in school.

Those present were made aware of the Make Your Mark campaign and the issues raised in Penistone Grammar School (fear of knife crime, equal pay, and mental health) and the 6th form (transport, period poverty and mental health).

Members were apprised of the plans of the service, which included continuing work at the IKIC centre, an Arts Project with Public Health, and a focus on Health and Wellbeing Month in February.

A discussion took place around whether the information presented had highlighted any areas requiring investment by the Area Council. It was suggested that further investigation be undertaken and a workshop be convened to discuss this and any implications.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the work undertaken to plan and hold the Youth Summit; and
- (ii) That a workshop be arranged with partners to consider information and intelligence related to young people in more detail, with any findings to be considered at a future meeting of the Area Council.

Chair