

<b>MEETING:</b>	North Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 19 July 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

### Present

Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Crisp, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Platts and Tattersall

### 11 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

### 12 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 24th May 2021

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 13 Twiggs - Programme of Engagement (John and Wendy Twigg)

John and Wendy Twigg (Twiggs) were welcomed to the meeting to talk about their programme of engagement going forward. It was reported that there has been a positive transition into the new service and the delivery programme is flexible and adaptable. It is now possible, following relaxation of Covid requirements, to invite people to come along to planned sessions, although caution will be exercised. It is hoped that by September this may become easier. Tools have been loaned out to volunteers and it is hoped that new community groups will be formed which will become self-sustaining. The Keep Barnsley Tidy group was set up with help from Twiggs and is going from strength to strength, with an army of volunteers. At Edderthorpe Lane, 3 tons of litter were picked over just one weekend, which is an indication of what can be achieved. It is about strengthening relationships between volunteers, community and the Council.

Twiggs are also involved in an apprenticeship scheme, with apprentices on rotation to ensure they get a variety of experience. Members were very impressed by the hard work and enthusiasm demonstrated by the apprentices.

Work has also been done with other groups such as the Friends of Wilthorpe park. Half term education events involving local schools also took place and will be repeated. It has been necessary to control numbers because of the pandemic but it is hoped that going forward, numbers will not be so limited. Small independent shops have also helped by donating bottles of water etc., for volunteers. It is hoped that this type of support will increase in the future, but at the moment businesses are concentrating on business recovery.

There is an accredited Employment and Volunteer service in Darton Park, working with adults with learning disabilities. Twiggs is an accredited AQA body and certificates can be provided to individuals who can build up the number of units done into a qualification, which can help those seeking employment. The value of the accreditation for individuals cannot be underestimated.

The Great British Spring Clean was very successful, despite the restrictions, with many volunteers and children coming forward to help. There is now less litter on the streets and this type of activity frees up Twiggs' time so they are more able to deliver educational events.

A member raised concerns about the problem with litter apparently generated by students attending Barnsley College and McDonalds, particularly along Canal Street towards the Fleets. Reassurances were given that Twiggs are working with Barnsley College on a couple of projects including around the canal where the car park is.

The Social Media page is updated regularly, giving information about the work that is being done and improving visibility.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) John and Wendy be thanked for their attendance and contribution and for the valuable work they are doing with the community;
- (ii) Detailed plans to be circulated to Members;
- (iii) Members should contact John and Wendy when they become aware of areas in need of attention – email contact details will be provided.

#### **14 Public Health Covid-19 (North Area)**

Leyla was welcomed to the meeting and updated the North Area Council with regard to Covid-19. Detailed numerical information has been sent to Members via Communications and the website is regularly updated.

It was reported that there is a high level of 'antivax' activity, particularly in the Darton East ward, with over 100 posters and stickers removed from various items of street furniture and signage. Daily ward rounds are taking place to keep on top of it. Now the rules have been relaxed, it is likely that the antivax message may become more prominent, with victimisation of those who prefer to wear masks. At the moment it appears to be a 50/50 mix of wearing masks as it is down to personal choice.

Barnsley currently has the highest number of positive cases in the Yorkshire and Humber Region and is 10th nationally. It was highlighted that as businesses start to open up, there is an increased risk of other infections such as Legionnaires disease and Norovirus. Help is available for businesses and for individuals too. Work is being done to determine why people appear to be vaccine hesitant.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) Leyla be thanked for her attendance and contribution;

- (ii) Photographic evidence of the 'antivax' activity be sent on to Members for information;
- (iii) Members continue to follow the guidance and encourage others to do the same

## **15 Health and Wellbeing Workshop Outcomes**

The North Area Council Area Manager introduced this item, explaining that the Health and Wellbeing Priority Working Group had met with specialist officers on the 25th June to discuss this project. A detailed and comprehensive summary of key points was provided, which highlighted the key points raised and included the different cohorts considered. Following the workshop, the Area Manager produced a draft grant guidance document for the Area Council's consideration and comment. Members were reminded that this is a grant opportunity for 2 years focusing on three beneficiary groups: Men struggling with low mood (suicide prevention); Younger people who have been furloughed and older people who have been isolating.

### **RESOLVED that**

- (i) Members note the procurement progress to date;
- (ii) Members agree to take forward the proposed 'Connecting Communities Grant' to be advertised for an Autumn 2021 start;
- (iii) Members confirmed the cohort for funding;
- (iv) Members confirmed that they wish to increase the budget for this grant to £100,000 p.a. for two years, and
- (v) Members consider who the representative should be from each ward on the Grant Panel.

## **16 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance**

The Area Council Manager provided the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed. Projects highlighted included: The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project; the Clean and Green Service; Housing and Cohesion Officer (Private Sector Housing); Health and Wellbeing; Stronger Communities Grant and Covid-19 Recovery

### **RESOLVED that**

- (i) Councillors note the update regarding the Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project contract renewal and the Housing and Cohesion Officers contract;
- (ii) the Area Council Manager contact Berneslai Homes with a view to the Housing and Cohesion Officer doing joint estate 'walkabouts' with Berneslai Homes' Officers and local Members to the agreed schedule;
- (iii) Members agree to advertise the 'Connecting Communities' grant proposal and the commitment to two years funding, and
- (iv) the North Area Council note the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments.

## **17 Priority Working Groups**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting the purpose and function of the Priority Working Groups and the importance of ensuring that each ward is represented on each of the working groups. Volunteers are sought for the following priorities and projects:

- a) Opportunities for Young People
- b) Health and Wellbeing (including Connecting Communities)
- c) Environment
- d) Anti-Poverty
- e) Economic Regeneration
- f) Communications Editorial Group
- g) Stronger Communities Grants 2022/23

**RESOLVED** that North Area Council Members adopt at least one priority or project per member and in doing so the representative agree to participate in priority working groups to ensure that each ward is represented in planning, development and delivery of projects that benefit the North Area as a whole.

## **18 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund**

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period. It was explained that there may be some 'lag' in the funding due to the Covid regulations being eased and organisations starting to mobilise once more.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid-19 Recovery Plan document when developing projects during the remainder of 2021/22;
- (ii) Each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2021/22, in line with the guidance on spend

## **19 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances**

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

*Darton East* - The Ward Alliance has granted funding to the Butterflies Dementia Group; Summer Holidays activities are being planned and tools have been provided for volunteers to help with litter picking. The 'no cold calling' signs have been ordered and will be distributed shortly.

*Darton West* - The Ward Alliance continues to support projects involving Twiggs and young people, concentrating on environmental projects. A meeting has taken place with Darton Academy about developing a community allotment space. There has

been increased participation in litter picking, particularly in Darton Park. The pathways still need to be marked up for distance.

*Old Town* – Ward Alliance members have had difficulty doing ‘virtual’ meetings as some don’t have the necessary equipment. A number of projects are in the pipeline which need to be agreed when a meeting takes place. Installation of a sprinkler system for Old Town Bowling Club has been supported. A new defibrillator has been installed, which will be registered by Yorkshire Ambulance Service. The notice board for Smithies needs chasing up.

*St Helens* - Mosaics forming part of the Principal Towns project have been put on the Poundstretcher building and thanks to efforts from Cllr Leech permission has been granted for installation of the Yorkshire Regiment memorial bench. There will be a joint celebration when the bench is in place. A time capsule is to be buried in the Church. The seating at the Rec needs repainting. Tools have been provided for litter picking. A new notice board has been requested for Laithes Lane and the old notice board is to be reused on the church wall.

**RESOLVED** that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

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Chair