

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 10 July 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

- 1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Minutes

- 2 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 22 May 2023
(Nac.10.07.2023/2) (*Pages 3 - 8*)

Items for Information

- 3 Connecting Communities Grant Delivery Update - Reds in the Community
(Sean Margison and Vikki Prendergast) (Nac.10.07.2023/3) (*Verbal Report*)
- 4 Neighbourhood Warden and Community Safety Update
(Cath Fairweather - Community Safety Coordinator) (Nac.10.07.2023/4)
(*Verbal Report*)

Items for Discussion

- 5 10 Year Celebration - Area Governance Model (Nac.10.07.2023/5)
(*Verbal Report*)

Items for Decision

- 6 Priorities, Commissioning, Project Development and Finance - Workshop
Outcomes (Nac.10.07.2023/6) (*Pages 9 - 16*)
- 7 Priority Working Group - Member Representation (Nac.10.07.2023/7)
(*Pages 17 - 20*)
- 8 North Area Cost of Living - Connectivity Support (Nac.10.07.2023/8)
(*Pages 21 - 34*)

Ward Alliances

- 9 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac.10.07.2023/9) (*Pages 35 - 42*)
- 10 Notes from Ward Alliances (Nac.10.07.2023/10) (*Pages 43 - 60*)
Darton East – held on 9 May 2023
Darton West – held on 24 May 2023 and 21 June 2023
Old Town – held on 13 April 2023 and 11 May 2023
St Helen's – held on 20 April 2023 and 1 June 2023

To: Chair and Members of North Area Council:-

Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Crisp, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Pickering, Tattersall and N. Wright

Area Council Support Officers:

Tom Smith, North Area Council Senior Management Link Officer
Rosie Adams, North Area Council Manager
Rachel Payling, Head of Service, Stronger Communities
Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal - Communities

Please contact Mel Bray on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Friday 30 June 2023

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 22 May 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 14, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), T. Cave, Crisp, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Newing and Tattersall

50 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

51 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 13 March 2023 (Nac. 22.05.2023/2)

The North Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 March 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 13 March 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

52 Housing and Cohesion Officer Introduction - Mark Griffiths and Neighbourhood Warden Update - Community Safety Coordinator (Nac. 22.05.2023/3)

Councillor Leech welcomed Mark Griffiths, the new Housing and Cohesion Officer to the meeting, and introductions were made.

Members noted that the Neighbourhood Warden Update from the Community Safety Coordinator would be deferred to the next North Area Council meeting.

53 10 Year Celebration - Area Governance Model (Nac. 22.05.2023/4)

The North Area Manager presented a report to ensure that Members were aware of the intention to hold a North Area 10 Year Celebration event and the opportunity to participate in the planning. The objectives of the event were to inform residents of the unique structure of the Area Councils and Ward Alliances by showcasing and celebrating the work that had taken place over the last 10 years. The event would also raise awareness of the positive work undertaken by the Area Councils and Ward Alliances during this time which contributed to the Barnsley 2030 priorities, whilst promoting and encouraging people to become involved in their local community.

It was noted that the confirmed date for the Mayor's Ball was 15 September 2023. The North Area Manager would canvass Members with a view to holding the North Area 10 Year Celebration event on either 8 or 22 September 2023 commencing at 7.00pm. It had been determined that Staincross WMC would be the best venue to hold the event in terms of best value for money.

Councillor Howard expressed concern at the bus services between Darton and Mapplewell, and also those from the Old Town to Mapplewell. It is hoped that guests will support those in need of assistance with transport.

Members noted that once a final date had been fixed together with the entertainment and catering arrangements, the invitations would be sent out which would deal with transportation and accessibility to the venue. The matter would be discussed further at the next North Area Council meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that Members noted the report;
- (ii) that Members were requested to identify Ward Alliance funded projects to showcase and confirm this at the July 2023 Area Council meeting.

54 Performance Report - 2022/23 Q4 (Nac. 22.05.2023/5)

A report was presented which provided an aggregate picture of how all the North Council contracted services contributed to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives, which reflected upon the information gathered from each contract for the period January – March 2023. The report provided a summary of the performance management report for each of the contracted services for 2022/23 Quarter 4 (January – March 2023). The report provided a link between the commissioned services and the Public Health Outcomes and a summary of performance information from the 12-month grants – Stronger Communities Grants Projects.

Members were referred to the case studies for each contracted service. A report from M Griffiths, the new Housing and Cohesion Officer would be fed into the next Performance Report regarding the targets and KPIs set and to inform of his time spent within the community to benefit both occupiers and members of the community.

Councillor Cave highlighted that the reference within the Performance Report to an educational bulb-planting session with the Darton Astraea Academy Gardening Club was actually the Delta Academy. The relationship had been built due to the work of the Ward Alliance, its members and the representation from the school.

RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the Performance Management Report.

55 Outcomes from the Cost of Living Workshop (Nac. 22.05.2023/6)

A report was presented to appraise Members of the discussions that had taken place at a workshop held in May 2023. It was considered that the information may be used to help develop a time limited opportunity funded by the North Area Council.

Members noted a summary of information from the workshops that had been held during 2022 and in May 2023 to look at the cost of living and how the North Area Council could respond together with the profiling for the North Area funds. At the

workshop held on 10 May 2023 Members had been informed of the Household Support Grant to support residents, of which a total of £4.7m had been allocated to BMBC for the period April 2023 – March 2024, with a total of £800,000 to be used to fund community-based services that can support individuals through the continued cost of living crisis. The aim of which was to provide support for food, energy and water costs, and wider essentials. In relation to sports and recreation, an update had been provided on the What's Your Move programme to include Ramp Up (bike confidence, skills and maintenance), the Walking Festival (May 2023), Move More Month (June 2023) and the Summer Cycling and Sports Van Opportunity (July 2023).

The Area Council has identified £10,000 saving from other commissions that has been earmarked for a cost of living project focussed around food access.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members noted the summary information for workshops held during 2022;
- (ii) Members noted the more recent update from the workshop held in May 2023;
- (iii) Members agreed that the Priority Working Group would develop the North Area project outline to support the cost of living crisis, enabling the Area Manager to make progress.

56 Sports Van - Summer 2023 (Nac. 22.05.2023/7)

A report was presented to make Members aware that there was an opportunity to fund a sports van in the North Area over the summer 2023.

The Sport and Active Recreation Team had commissioned a sports van which had been delivered by Reds in the Community to provide activities for young people in summer 2021. Following the success of the programme, the sports van had been funded again by the Area Council in 2022.

Members were informed that should the Area Council wish to fund the sports van for summer 2023 that a programme of pop-up provisions would be co-ordinated.

The North Area Manager suggested that the sessions be held over a 2 – 3 hour period with a fortnightly provision in the individual wards.

In response to a request made by Councillor Tattersall for the information to be made available online as early as possible, the North Area Manager commented that leaflets would be taken into schools and provided to those families that find the summer holidays to be financially challenging.

The North Area Manager would provide Members with the programme for the events and the leaflet to be produced by Stuart Rogers.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Members considered the opportunity to fund a sports van in the North Area over the summer 2023;

- (ii) that Members discussed the risks associated with funding short term provision;
- (iii) that Members confirmed the decision to fund the sports van, at a cost of £2,100;
- (iv) that Members confirmed a capped budget for refreshments, cost £600.

57 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance (Nac. 22.05.2023/8)

The item was introduced by the North Area Council Manager, which provided the financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that had been proposed.

At the North Area Council meeting held on 13 March 2023, further funding had been agreed for the Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project for two years July 2023 – June 2025. A waiver had been submitted with the option to extend for a further 12 months to June 2026.

In relation to the Clean and Green Service, Twiggs Ground Maintenance Ltd had provided an environmental education contract in the North Area from 2017 to March 2023. The North Area Council had entered an SLA with BMBC Neighbourhood Services from April 2023 to introduce an Environmental Community Caretaker Model.

Savings from the Housing and Cohesion post being vacant for a period of time, were identified to support a cost of living project. A sum of £10,000 was earmarked. Members agreed that the Area Manager consult the Connecting Communities Grant providers regarding utilising the funding to provide communal eating opportunities for socially isolated residents.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the North Area Council should note the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments;
- (ii) that Members noted the update on the Anti-Poverty Outreach Provision Service;
- (iii) that Members noted the progress on the Environmental Community Caretaker Model;
- (iv) in response to the cost of living crisis the priority working group will work with the Area Manager to identify effective use of the current underspend;
- (v) hold a North Area further priority, budget and commissioning workshop;
- (vi) Councillors noted the updated project spend at Appendix 1 to the report.

58 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac. 22.05.2023/9)

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2023/24 period.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2023/24, in line with the guidance on spend.

59 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances (Nac. 22.05.2023/10)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 14 February 2023 and 14 March 2023; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 6 February 2023, 6 March 2023 and 17 April 2023; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 13 April 2023 and 12 March 2023; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 23 March 2023 and 20 April 2023.

Councillor Denton referred to the work undertaken by the Darton East Ward which included an action plan in a similar format to last year. In March 2023 the Ward had awarded a grant to the Barnsley Youth Theatre which was now positioned in Mapplewell. Work continued in the village hall following the National Lottery funding which was due to be completed mid to late summer 2023.

Councillor Howard referred to the work undertaken by the Darton West Ward. There had been a successful Stars Awards 2023 event held in the Town Hall in March 2023, which had included a performance from the Darton Community Choir. Work had been undertaken with the neighbourhood wardens regarding the dog fouling problem on the green land across from Vets4Pets, which had now been resolved.

Councillor Lofts referred to the work undertaken by the Old Town Ward. The Ward Plan outlined the visions and goals of the Barnsley 2030 plan for health, learning, growth and sustainable, which would be developed further once there were more Ward Alliance members. A possible event had been discussed at Honeywell Community Centre with the Mental Health Hub. Additional membership to the Ward Alliance was sought, with a requirement for six members with at least three members attending the meetings.

Councillor Tattersall referred to the work undertaken by the St Helen's Ward. Councillor Leech had hosted the memorial bench unveiling which had been attended by Dan Jarvis MP and various military guests. The bid for the Roundhouse Library health and wellbeing garden had been agreed by members for a community project to create a garden to grow plants/vegetables, and the relaunch celebration had been held on 4 April 2023. A celebratory event had been held for former Councillor Platts to thank her for her commitment and support to the Ward Alliance.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Hunt for guidance on recruitment for new Ward Alliance Members, the North Area Manager commented that every opportunity should be taken to promote the work undertaken by the ward alliances including the 10 year celebration event, displaying information on the community noticeboards and speaking with the families at engagement events. The Darton East Ward Alliance is currently well represented by private businesses. It was hoped to broaden and

diversify the representation on all the ward alliances in the coming months because few new members had joined in the last couple of years.

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

Chair

Item 6

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
10th July 2023

Agenda Item: 6

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Commissioning, Project Development and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.
- 1.2 It highlights the need to agree a clear plan for commissioning against the priorities.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Members note the progress on the Environmental Community Caretaker Service recruitment.**
- 2.2. **The North Area Council should note the existing budget position the existing the funding commitments. Section 4 of this report.**
- 2.3. **Members note section 5 of this report following the Priorities, Budget and Commissioning workshop held on the 23rd June 2023.**
- 2.4. **That the Connecting Communities Grant Panel meet to review the outcomes of the grant delivery projects and consider the continuation of the funding from January/April 2024.**
- 2.5. **That the priority working group for Young People meet with the Area Manager and Senior Link Officer to review the Youth Resilience Grant.**

3. Background highlighting all significant financial commitment

3.0 The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project

Contract 1 commenced on the 14th September 2015. This is a one-year (plus one year) contract valued at £149,000 in total. The initial contract has now concluded.

Contract 2 commenced on the 14th September 2017 for a two-year term at a contract value of approximately £95,000 per annum. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the 13th September 2020.

The Area Council agreed to continue to fund this project during the Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequently during the Cost of Living Crisis.

CURRENT POSITION: At the Area Council meeting on the 13th March further funding was agreed for two years July 2023 – June 2025. A waiver has been submitted with the option to extend for a further 12 months to June 2026. A maximum budget of £107,500 has been agreed for the initial two years, totalling £215,000.

3.1 The Clean and Green Service

Contract one was delivered by Forge Community Partnership commenced on the 14th September 2015. Prior to the end of the contract the tender opportunity was advertised.

The second environmental contract commenced on the 2nd October 2017 at a value of £85,000 per annum. The provider, Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd, commenced service delivery on the 2nd October 2017. Twiggs continued to provide an environmental education contract in the North Area from 2019 to March 2023.

From April 2023 the North Area Council entered into an SLA with BMBC Neighbourhood Services, introducing a Environmental Community Caretaker Model.

Neighbourhood services proposal costings = £120,963 to include:

- Team Leader (G6)
- Development and Demand Team (G4)
- Apprentice
- Vehicle, training, fuel, waste license, tools and contingency budget.

The contingency budget is £20,160 (20% of the resource requirement £100,803.00).

The service will be 80% scheduled maintenance, with priorities identified by the Ward Alliances. 20% will provide volunteering and community engagements support. Volunteering activities will be identified by the Ward Alliances and programmed into the Caretaker Team's schedule.

Update:

The Environmental Caretaker Team Leader G6 has been recruited and is due to commence in post from 3rd July 2023. An apprentice has also committed to the opportunity.

At the time of writing the driver post G4 has been readvertised, closing date 30th June 2023.

- 3.2 Housing and Cohesion Officer (Private Sector Housing) – At the November meeting 2017 it was agreed that the North Area would fund a private sector housing officer post at Grade 6 for 12 months fixed term. The successful candidate started on the 22nd January 2018 and proved to be a great asset to the

area. The officer left the North Area council at the end of June 2019 for a promotion within BMBC.

The current Housing and Cohesion Officer started in post on Monday 19th October 2020. The officer now has a permanent contract and the role forms part of the Safer Communities structure.

In addition to the salary fees the Area Council agreed to fund uniform, PPE including IT, phone and bodycam, plus a £5k annual working budget.

The current post holder commenced their duties in the North Area on the 15th May 2023.

N.B.: Contractually the position is covered by a permanent contract to ensure employment rights for individuals. If the Area Council agreed to cease funding the position a 6-month notice period will be required.

3.3 Health and Wellbeing – Connecting Communities Grant

At a series of workshops in 2021 the Area Council discussed the loneliness and isolation and the impact of Covid-19. In July 2021 it was agreed to fund a grant program for two years with a budget of £100,000 per annum.

The grant opportunity was advertised at the end of September 2021 and the final date for submission was the 22nd October 2021. A total of 9 applications were received before the deadline totalling £615,710.39.

Stage one moderation took place on the 1st November and 4 organisations were invited back to present their projects on the 8th November. 3 applications were recommended for funding. The total allocated amount for these 3 projects was £186,766.44. ***£13,233.56 remained unallocated and has been recirculated into the main Area Council budget for forthcoming delivery allocation.***

Successful Projects:

- Age UK Barnsley – North Area Social Inclusion Service - £79,600.20
- DIAL Barnsley – Connection Hubs - £66,450.00
- Reds in the Community – Reds Connect - £40,716.24

N.B. If the grant is be re-advertised for 2024/25 the opportunity will need to be agreed in September 2023 for advertising autumn 2023.

3.4 Devolved Funding to Ward Alliances

The Area Council has profiled £20,000 to be devolved to Ward Alliances during 2022. This means a £5,000 allocation per ward where the end of year balance is less than £10,000.

N.B. The decision was taken in 2020/21 that the funding devolved to Ward Alliances by the North Area Council would cease from 2022/23.

3.5 Health and Wellbeing – focus on Young People

In November 2019 the North Area Council agreed to fund a project for up to three years. The project entitled 'An Empowerment Programme Enabling Resilient Transitions for Children and Young People Aged 8-14 Years' was advertised as a competitive grant in early 2020. The process was unsuccessful. It was agreed in on the 16th March that the opportunity should be chunked down to allow the VCS to respond.

N.B. This opportunity has been tailored to help address the fall out of COVID-19 lockdown and aid in the delivery of the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy. The grants went live on the 1st November 2020, delivered by YMCA and Ad Astra.

The Area Council has committed to fund this work for up to three years. Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions caused delays and for a time schools would not permit external partners into schools. The providers are now working within 5 schools.

The grant funding originally ran from November 2020 to October 2022.

Current Position: At the March 2022 meeting the Area Council agree to fund the project for a further 2 years, until October 2024, at £90,000p.a. Providers received a 3% financial uplift which was feasible within the current financial envelope. This security will enabling the existing providers to support students adversely affected by Covid-19 and support them in their educational transitions, primarily the move to senior school.

N.B. It will be necessary to confirm if this funding stream will continue beyond October 2024 at the January 2024 Area Council meeting.

3.6 Cost of Living Crisis – North Area Support

Due to the unspent Housing and Cohesion allocation whilst the post has been vacant it is possible to reallocate this funding. £10,000 was earmarked for a Cost of Living based project. As a result, a workshop was held on 10th May to explore opportunities. At the area Council meeting in May 2023 it was agreed that the funding would be used to enable the Connecting Communities Grant providers to provided communal eating opportunities during autumn/winter 2023/24. Please refer to Item 8 for further information.

3.7 Sports Van 2023

The North Area has benefitted from the Sports Van for the past two summers. At the May 2023 meeting the Area Council agreed funding of £2,700 for fund the sports van and purchase refreshments for summer activities.

4. Financial Position

- 4.1. **The forecast for 2022/23 showed that the underspend (including underspend from previous years) was profiled to reduce to £76,259.** This is because the in-year balance is projected to exceed the annual budget by approximately £27,653.

However, this was not the case, the amount profiled for the Housing and Cohesion post was £35,000 however the internal recharge was £27,695 due to the post being vacant for several months.

4.2. Outlined annual commitments for 2023/24:

Contract	Proposed Spend 2022/23
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach	£104,720
Environmental Community Caretaker Contingency	£100,803 £21,160
Housing Cohesion Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	£40,000
Children and Youth People Resilience Grant	£90,000
Connecting Communities Grant 2021-2024 £100,000 per annum for 2 years	£82,500
Summer Sports Van	£2,700
Cost of Living – Communal Eating	£10,000
TOTAL	£451,883

- 4.3. Provided that the Area Council continues to commit funding as outlined in Appendix 1, the total spend profiled for 2023/24 is predicted to be £451,883. However this includes and the contingency budget for Neighbourhood Services.
- 4.4. The underspend at the end of 2023/24 is projected to be £25,451. However this includes the annual charge for both Environmental Caretaker Team and Housing and Cohesion which will not have been filled for the whole financial year. This may result in savings of approximately £23,100.

5. Commissioning Programme from April 2024 – Workshop Outcomes

- 5.1. A workshop was held on Friday the 23rd June. Attended by Cllr Leech, Cllr T Cave, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Denton, Cllr Tattersall and Cllr Wright.
- 5.2. Attendees were briefed on the current priorities & link with Barnsley 2030, timeline for existing commissioning and the current financial position.
- 5.3. A discussion took place regarding the future commissioning, assessment of need and measuring impact of early intervention and prevention models.
- 5.4. The Area Manager explained that the current level of investment into services is not sustainable. It may be possible to maintain current provision during

2024/25 due to the points identified in 4.4 of this report. However, the commissioning commitments would need to be reduced in line with budget constraints for 2025/26.

5.5. The group also considered the two grant funding streams:

5.6. Youth Resilience Grant

Members questioned whether the Area Council should be funding provision in schools. The Area Council Manager advised this funding stream had been developed in order to help reduce anti-social behaviour and risk-taking behaviour in the community. Workshop participants advised working with young people between the ages of 8 and 13, with attention to the transition to senior schools. The providers have been working with young people on: emotional intelligence and improving children's ability to communicate effectively, building confidence and self-esteem, advising them on where to go should they need help, relationships and choosing healthy friendships, discussing the importance of consequences and the impact of sound decision making. The providers use buddy training and/or peer support models to build resilient networks and improve outcomes.

The Area Council Manager also stressed that it has taken the providers considerable time to build positive working relationships with schools, particularly during the pandemic and subsequent recovery period.

This grant commitment will be reviewed with the help of scrutiny from Education, Early Start and Prevention colleagues.

NOTE: A decision on if this grant funding stream continues will be required in January 2024.

5.7. Connecting Communities Grant

This grant was devised to help support the communities of the North Area to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic by reducing isolation and encouraging social interaction. Designed to facilitate the building of strong, resilient, and cohesive communities so that the health impacts associated with being lonely and less mobile during the pandemic can be addressed through positive engagement at in neighbourhood settings.

This funding provision is delivered by three providers currently. It delivers some very valuable soft outcomes for local residents. Often supporting people who do not meet the threshold for statutory support but are still in need of social connection and enriching activities; whilst managing a on a tight budget.

This grant programme comes to an end at the end of March 2024. Age UK's provision will come to an end at the end of December 2023.

NOTE: It is recommended that the Connecting Communities Grant Panel meet to discuss the options. A decision on the continuation of this funding stream is required at the September 2023 meeting.

5.8. The Area Manager urged the workshop participants to refer back to a couple of earlier performance reports which will provide greater insight regarding project delivery for both grant funding streams

North Area Council 2022/23 Q1 Performance Report:

<https://barnsley.mbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s99738/Item%207b%20-%20Performance%20Report%202022%20-%202023%20Q1.pdf>

North Area Council 2022/23 Q4 Performance Report:

<https://barnsley.mbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s106702/20230522%20Q4%20-%20NAT%20Performance%20Report%202022%20-%202023.pdf>

6. Risks

- 6.1. The proposed budget would take the Area Council approximately £51,883 over budget per annum for 2023/24. However taking into account the current under spend, the investment profiled in Appendix 1 has been feasible.

7. Next Steps

- 7.1. Ensure that the Area Manager is alerted to any proposed commissioning profile variations so that feasibility considerations can be made at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.2. It is recommended that the Connecting Communities Grant Panel meet to review the outcomes of the grant delivery projects and consider the continuation of the funding from January/April 2024.
- 7.3. It is recommended that the priority working group for Young People meet with the Area Manager and Senior Link Officer to review the Youth Resilience Grant.

Officer Contact:

RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:

27th June 2023

Appendix 1: North Area Council - Proposed expenditure April 2022-March 2025

Project / Service	2023/24	2024/25
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach <i>Retender Anti- Poverty - Waiver in place Sept 2021 - June 2023 (9 Months)</i>	104,720.00	106,750.00
Environmental Contract	100,803.00	105,850.00
Envrionmental Contingency	21,160.00	21,170.00
Housing and Cohesion Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	40,000.00	42,500.00
Stronger Communities Grant Reduced to £20,000 in 2022/23	-	-
outh Resilience Fund (November 2022 - October 2024 - YMCA & Ad Astra)	90,000.00	45,000.00
Connecting Communities Social Isolation Grant (£100,000 pa for 2 years)	82,500.00	100,000.00
Sports Van 2023	2,700.00	
Cost of Living - Communal Eating	10,000.00	
Devolved funding to Ward Alliances (<i>where March 2019 balance is less than £10,000</i>)		-
TOTAL	451,883.00	421,270.00

Item 7

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council:
10th July 2023

Agenda Item: 7

Report of the
North Area Council Manager

NAC Priority Working Groups

1.0 Purpose of Report

To ensure highlight the purpose and function of the *Priority Working Groups* and ensure that each ward is represented on each of the working groups.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the North Area Council Members adopt at least one priority or project per member.**
- 2.2 **In doing so the representative agrees 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.**

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The working groups have proved invaluable to ensure that each ward is represented in the planning, development and delivery of Area Council services and projects designed to benefit the North Area as a whole.
- 3.2 The priority working groups allow responsibility for Area Council work to be shared across all the Members of the North Area Council, increasing understanding and ownership.
- 3.3 It also means that Area Council members can act as project sponsors and/or advocates to enable learning to be shared with their Area Council colleagues.
- 3.4 As a result, local members possess knowledge and understanding of how the Area Council is contributing to BMBC's Corporate Priorities.
- 3.5 The Priority Working Groups defined in Appendix 1 provides the updated list of responsibilities.

4.0 Working Groups

Volunteers are sought for the following priorities and projects:

- a) Opportunities for Young People
- b) Health and Wellbeing
- c) Environment
- d) Anti-Poverty
- e) Economic Regeneration
- f) Connecting Communities 2022/23-2023/24

5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 Area Council Members are requested to confirm with the Area Manager their preferred Priority Working Group representations. The allocated responsibilities are intended to be strengths based and inclusive.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
20th June 2023

Appendix 1.

NORTH AREA COUNCIL COMMISSIONING

PRIORITY WORKING GROUPS

Each working group will include a Member representative from each Ward within the North Area. The representatives will be instrumental in the development and monitoring of projects that will address North Area Priorities. (Agreement sought at the July 2023 Area Council Meeting.)

Young People

DE Cllr Crisp
DW Cllr T Cave
OT Cllr Newing
StH Cllr Tattersall

Economic Regeneration

DE Cllr Denton
DW Cllr T Cave
OT Cllr Lofts
StH Cllr Leech

Health and Well-being

DE Cllr Denton
DW Cllr A Cave
OT Cllr Newing
StH Cllr Wright

Environment

DE Cllr Crisp
DW Cllr Howard
OT Cllr Pickering
StH Cllr Leech

Anti -Poverty

DE Cllr Hunt
DW Cllr T Cave
OT Cllr Lofts
StH Cllr Leech

Connecting Communities 2021-2024

Chair Cllr Leech (not scoring)
DE Cllr Hunt
DW Cllr T Cave
OT Cllr Pickering
StH Cllr Wright

*Supported by Procurement Team and
North Area Team*

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 8

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
10th July 2023

Agenda Item: 8

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Cost of Living Workshops Developing a North Area Response

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Following the May Area Council meeting Members requested that the Area Manager work with the existing Connecting Communities Grant providers to enhance food access provision. This report is intended to apprise Members of the proposed response that will be available to provide cost of living support for residents during winter 2023.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Confirm that they wish to commit £10,000 to provide communal eating opportunities for residents experiencing social isolation and financial hardship during the winter months 2023/24.**
- 2.2. **Members refer to the proposals submitted by the Connecting Communities providers Appendix 1. and agreed to commit the funding to realise the proposals.**

3. Background

- 3.1. At the Area Council Meeting on the 10th March Area Council representative received a presentation from Business Intelligence's Jill Bills regarding demography, deprivation, life expectancy and excess winter deaths.
- 3.2. In addition, Members voiced the challenges that they are experiencing in local communities and identified the following:
- Support for fuel, food and the cost-of-living crisis
 - Anti-Social behaviour and the increase in nuisance caused
 - Parking enforcement
 - Careers advice / raising aspirations of 14- and 16-year-olds including information on a variety of jobs and opportunities that would not come out of regular careers advice in school
- 3.3. At the Area Council Meeting on the 14th March it was agreed that any further development work regarding the current priorities and remaining commissioning

budget would be delayed until the outcome of the Welfare Review was available.

- 3.4. At the Area Council meeting on the 16th May 2022 it was agreed that a further workshop would be held to discuss priorities for the North Area. The Area Council Manager was requested to focus the workshop on the Cost of Living.

4. Workshop – 6th July 2022

- 4.1. On the 6th July 2022, a workshop took place led by Emma Robinson from Business Intelligence. Supported Leyla Nayeri, Senior Health Improvement Officer and the Area Manager.

- 4.2. The workshop was attended by anti-poverty working group members: Cllr Leech, Cllr T Cave, Cllr Hunt and additionally by Cllr Platts.

- 4.3. The information session included three main sections:

- Labour Market Profile
- Cost of Living – The ‘squeezed middle’ and poverty
- Impacts on wider determinants of health
- Existing Support

4.4. Labour Market Profile

4,111 people of working age in the North Area are claiming Universal Credit. 14.9% of working age population. (Not all of which will be unemployed)
The North Area overall is under the Barnsley average of 17.7%. However, St Helen's is 24%.

26.8% of Barnsley's working age people are economically inactive. The numbers have increased since the outset of the pandemic. However, the vast majority have expressed a desire to work.

The most prevalent reason for people who are economically inactive is poor mental health, followed by musculoskeletal complaints.

During the pandemic many people have re-evaluated their household budgets and some people have chosen to step back from work before retirement age, many in their 50s.

31.1% of working age adults have a Level 4 qualification or better. (Barnsley)
18.9% of people are earning below the Living Wage. (Barnsley)

4.5. Cost of Living – The ‘squeezed middle’ and poverty

Low Income

Children in low-income families in Barnsley is 24.5%.
However, in St Helen's Ward this is currently 32%.

Fuel Poverty

Low Income and Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) defines a household as fuel poor if:

"The household has a residual income below the poverty line (after accounting for required fuel cost)". AND

"Lives in a home that has an efficiency rating below BAND C".
Barnsley is higher than the national average at 19.2%.
24% of St Helen's Ward households are considered to be fuel poor.

End Fuel Poverty Coalition - April 2022 figures projected that number of Barnsley households in fuel poverty could increase to 37.1%. Equating to 41,000 of households in Barnsley, 7,650 of which would be in the North Area
For single adult households on low incomes - percentage is even higher at 54%

The 'squeezed middle'

Families with a middle-income standard of living are also struggling to manage the surging cost of living. These are typically households with high cost associated with mortgages, childcare and energy and are being forced to make large spending adjustments to cope.

YouGov Poll (2,001 people) of which 55% participants said that their health had worsened owing to issues such as higher heating and food costs.

It is predicted that over-indebtedness will rise during 2022.

The proportion of people experiencing their debt as a heavy burden has increased by almost 5% for those receiving Universal Credit and Tax Credits compared to 3% for those who are not.

There is a two-way relationship between debt and health. Indebtedness can have a significant impact on mental wellbeing.

4.6. Impacts on wider determinants of health

Life expectancy at birth in Barnsley:

81.8 for women and 77.9 for men.

However, **healthy life expectancy** is much less.

60.1 years for women and 55.9 years for men. For men, this is 6.9 years lower than national average and the lowest in Yorkshire and Humber.

St Helen's Ward has the lowest life expectancy at birth within the North Area. 79.8 years for women and 75.6 years for men.

Debt

It is predicted that over-indebtedness will rise during 2022.

The proportion of people experiencing their own debt as a heavy burden has increased by almost 5% for those receiving Universal Credit and Tax Credits compared to 3% for those who are not.

There is a **two-way relationship between debt and health**. Indebtedness can have a significant impact on mental wellbeing.

Excess Winter Deaths

Further work is underway with public health colleagues to understand why the rates of excess winter deaths for Darton East ward are so high. The Senior

Health Improvement Officer advised that work is underway with Healthwatch. A link with industry-related disease is being explored and data has been requested from Integrated Care partners

- 4.7. The working group had an opportunity to discuss the information that they had received.

5. What were the main priorities identified?

- 5.1. High numbers of low-income families in St Helen's.
- 5.2. St Helen's Ward has the lowest life expectancy at birth within the North Area. 79.8 years for women and 75.6 years for men.
- 5.3. 24% of St Helen's Ward households are considered to be fuel poor.
- 5.4. Concern that if predictions are correct by the end of 2022, 7,650 household in the North Area could be experiencing fuel poverty. (For single adult households on low incomes - percentage is even higher at 54%).
- 5.5. Concern for the 'squeezed middle' group of households who are struggling to cope with inflation.
- 5.6. Increase in indebtedness.
- 5.7. The impact on mental health cause by mounting financial pressures and indebtedness.
- 5.8. The presentation delivered at the May 2022 Area Council meeting by YMCA and Ad Astra was touched upon mentioned. Members were keen to do more to support young people's mental wellbeing as they recover from the wider impacts of covid.

6. What support is already available?

6.1. Household Support Grant (2023/24 Update)

Barnsley MBC has been allocated a total of 4.7 million from the Household Support Grant (HSG) 4th round which is from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). From that a sum of £800,000 will be used to fund community-based services who can support people through the continued cost of living crisis.

6.2. More Money in your Pocket (MMIYP)

Offering advice and signposting for residents.

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/advice-benefits-and-council-tax/help-with-the-rising-cost-of-living/>

Information includes:

- Housing Support
- Support with utility bills
- Food Support inc. Free school meals
- Budgeting Support to help manage money.

6.3. Warm Homes Charter is in draft.

There is a vision which aims to ensure that everyone lives in a warm, healthy and energy efficient home. More information will be available when the charter has been through BMBC's decision making processes.

6.4. Warm Homes Team

Promote, manage and administer grant-funded, fuel poverty energy efficiency schemes (private sector).

- ii. Social Welfare Advice – CAB, DIAL, Romero,
- iii. Assets – Ad Astra, Community Shop, Romero, Community Fridge
- iv. Resources – food banks, food distribution
- v. Activities – Healthy holidays, Health and Wellbeing project work
- vi. Current NAC commissioned services – Housing Cohesion regarded highly
- vii. Energy efficiency providers – Warm Homes, DIAL

7.6. What are the current gaps in provision?

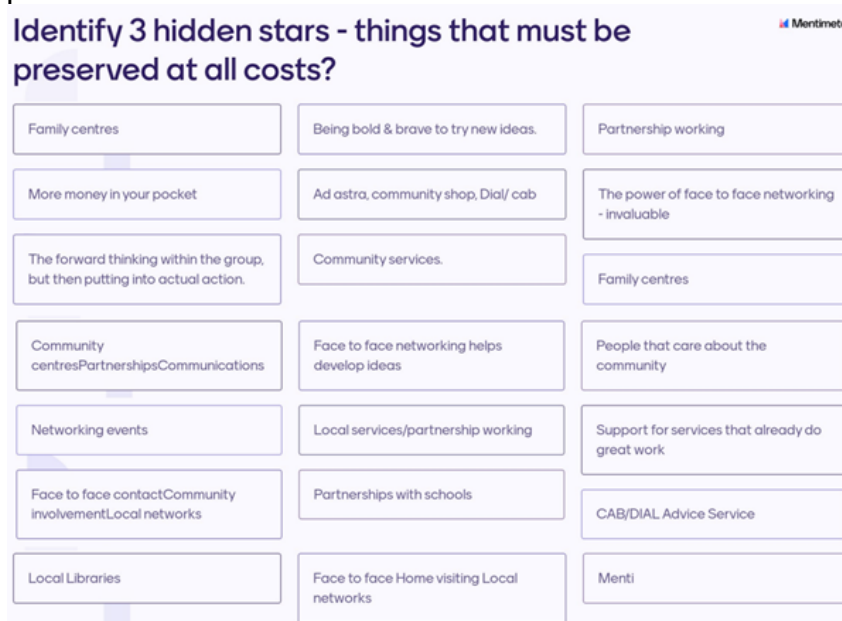
- i. Community Buildings – running costs limit the availability of support for wider community
- ii. Lack of funding to co-ordinate partnership working
- iii. Opening hours of community venues (eg Community Shop)
- iv. Transport – affordability and routes – impacting people ability to connect with services
- v. People being under threshold for support / not meeting criteria for support / falling through the gaps
- vi. Financial support for people in low paid work who can't access welfare provision
- vii. Social Isolation leading to deterioration in personal wellbeing (elderly, men, long term disabilities). Connecting people in the winter months.
- viii. Complex referral process and restricted ability to share information between services
- ix. Digital Inclusion – Access to equipment and broadband and knowledge of how to self-serve online (Internet access identified as a barrier to students completing homework)
- x. Stigma & Pride impacting on people willingness to seek support
- xi. Childcare – no support for people who want to upskill and attending training or improve their own health and wellbeing
- xii. Healthy Activities and Food Programme is not accessible in every ward. Children/ Families are falling through the gaps. Participants interested in more funding for smaller groups to deliver school holiday activities.
- xiii. Hygiene Poverty was identified as a gap

7.7. Addressing the Gaps – Themes

- i. Co-location of provision (resources) multi-disciplined hubs where resources and different services are co-located, improving information flow and access to support [one-stop shops] (mentioned in 3 different round table discussions). [Communities Directorate are currently exploring 'Team Around the Community'].
 - People having issues dealt with within one place
 - Housing/ Health Visitors/ ASB Team / South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
 - CVS organisations for professionals to spend time in the same place
- ii. More partnership networking and information sharing opportunities within localities
- iii. Early Intervention – Offering support before crisis i.e. psychological wellbeing. Helping to identify people early before deterioration occurs. Participants asked if additional mental health provision could be commissioned?

- iv. Raising awareness of funded provision for Social Isolation & asking residents if we have the right support in place.
- v. Data Sharing – register of vulnerable people (GDPR and data sharing mentioned as a barrier on ½ the tables)
- vi. Out of hours provision for working people
- vii. More support for people who are in low paid work but are struggling financially to survive and manage household budgets
- viii. Fund longer opening hours for community spaces – Welcoming Spaces
- ix. *Helping hands – volunteers to support people with hoarding (clearing out spaces)*
- x. Community Connector model –exciting provider-led- peer support model – employing people to work within their own communities – empower people to pass on information
- xi. Game changer – employing people – linked to 5 ways to wellbeing

7.8. At the end of the session participants were asked that services/ways or working must be preserved



7.9. Thursday 13th October – Identifying opportunities for investment

7.10. Attended by Councillors Leech, T Cave, Tattersall, Newing, Denton, Hunt and Lofts.

7.11. Participants shared money saving hacks in round table discussions. This was intended to get people into a positive frame of mind where they were more likely to be solution focussed.

7.12. Adding Value – Participants were asked: What type of local community provision would help to address the gaps identified and add value to the services that you deliver?

7.13. Consultation

- i. Ask residents what is needed in terms of services / provision
- ii. Are we on the right track?

7.14. Partnership Working – Maximise North based resources (Accessibility of provision)

- i. Connect partners, buildings (multi-service hubs & co-location)
- ii. One Stop Shops
- iii. Coordinate activities
- iv. Rolling programme of service delivery for each building
- v. Funding to coordinate more partnership working
- vi. Increase knowledge and understanding of all roles within the North Area.
- vii. Spread the word about the More Money in Your Pocket provision
- viii. General Enquiry – Drop In Sessions at community hubs
- ix. 'Resident First' - staff available 7 days both early and late

7.15. Community Champions

- i. Community Connectors (Volunteers or paid staff?) – Provider led, peer support model embedded into communities to sign-post, guide and mentor individuals. A successful early intervention model.
A paid model would be similar to the HomeStart offer
- ii. Mental Health Champions
- iii. Empowerment provision – How can we help people to help themselves?
- iv. Training free access, mental health champions, community champions – use existing champions to help deliver training – signpost were to do it
- v. Travel Buddies to support others on public transport

7.16. Cost of Living - Food and Fuel

- i. Coordination of Food Parcels
- ii. Food Vouchers - Aldi Vouchers (Gift Card 1 can't be used to purchase alcohol) & Rose Vouchers or local scheme similar to Fresh Street Vouchers.
- iii. Cost of Living Advice Sessions (MMIYP) – Fun, Creative and Empowering
- iv. Cook and Eat Programme with Slow Cookers (Advise on meal planning, shopping, healthy bulking of meals, store cupboard essentials)
- v. Grow Your Own
- vi. Sewing workshops
- vii. Thrifty Tips – linked to recycling and reuse
- viii. Household Financial Management Sessions
- ix. Household Energy Assessments and Advice to householder

7.17. Young People

- i. Hygiene Poverty project with schools
- ii. Inclusive Healthy Holiday programme with more flexible funding solutions. Prioritise places for parents who work
- iii. Fund Breakfast Clubs for School Children
- iv. Free School Meals for all children whose parents are in receipt of Universal Credit
- v. School Uniform swap shop

7.18. Low / Medium Cost

- i. Community Hubs with warm spaces: providing hot drinks/snacks and empowering activities
- ii. Book Clubs – linked to library provision
- iii. Free Child Care enabling parents to upskill or attend wellbeing sessions

7.19. High Ticket Items

- i. Re-instate MiCard
- ii. Additional Mental Health provision
- iii. Community Bus (Gap evidenced by ASDA / Yorkshire Rose Bus collaboration)
- iv. 'Resident First' - Service systematically approaching vulnerable households to proactively ask if they are getting the support they need?

7.20. Participants were asked to summarise their workshop experience in 3 words:



7.21. Participants have actively approached the Area Manager and requested more face-to-face workshop-based opportunities to help them be more effective in their roles.

7.22. The Area Manager expresses thanks to the North Area Team, Area Council Managers and all Members who attended the workshops for their support in the facilitation of the events.

8. Practical Support

8.1. At the March Area Council Meeting it was proposed that an underspend from the Housing and Cohesion Officer vacancy would be used to devolve £2,500 to each of the Ward Alliances for a Cost of Living focused project. This is not agreed. A request was made to utilise funding at Area level and consider funding additional summer holiday provision. A workshop was requested to explore opportunity more fully.

8.2. 10th May 2023

A workshop was held at the Roundhouse Library. Attended by Councillors: Leech, Denton, T.Cave, Lofts and Newing.

Supported by BMBC officers:

Chris Crookes – Project Officer – Wellbeing (HSG)

Rachel Lancaster – Healthy Food Programme Coordinator (HAF)

Stuart Rogers – Sport and Recreation

Tom Smith – Senior Link Officer to Area Council

North Area Team

8.3. Household Support Grant (2023/24 Update)

Members were made aware of Household Support Grant and how it is designed to support residents. Barnsley MBC has been allocated a total of 4.7 million from the Household Support Grant (HSG) 4th round which is from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for the period April 2023 – March 2024 (applications close on the 19th May 2023).

From that a sum of £800,000 will be used to fund community-based services who can support people through the continued cost of living crisis.

Aiming to provide support with the following:

- Food.
- Energy and water costs,
- Wider essentials, these may include but are not limited to
 - Period and hygiene products such as personal hygiene products or household cleaning items
 - Support with other bills such as broadband or phone bills
 - Clothing such as school uniforms, clothing for an interview or children's clothing
 - Essential transport related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle or paying for fuel

Practical projects that encourage sustainability are being encouraged.

Further information is available from: hsg@barnsley.gov.uk

8.4. Food Access

Rachel described the different levels of Food Access and the need to encourage more sustainable access across the borough. She explained that Foodbanks and Food Parcels provided no choice to the recipient and that there was often more benefits to the low cost / high value of the Community Pantry Model. Examples include Store House and Field at Shafton where there are over 70 members paying a small subscription every week and receiving a

higher value of consumables. Worsborough Community Pantry works in a similar way and members must live in Worsborough.

8.5. Healthy Activities and Food

This Department for Education programme is funded by the Department for Education. The opportunities are specifically for children who are eligible for free school meals and are delivered over Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays. In the North Area the current provision is show below. It was identified that there isn't currently any provision in Darton East.

Ward	Provider	Location	Age Range	Number of places
Darton West	Wellspring Academy	The Maker, Barugh Green Road, Higham, S75 1JT	11 to 16	60 (15 per session)
Old Town	Totally Runable	Honeywell Sports Village	7 to 11 Girls	160 (20 per session)
	Mid Yorkshire Community Foundation	Emmanuel Church, Huddersfield Road, S75 1DT	5 to 12	160 (20 per session)
St Helens	Barnsley Gymnastics	Units 7 & 8 424 Carlton Road, S71 3HX	4 to 16	240 (40 per session)
	Grassroots Sports Academy	Holy Trinity School	8 to 14	320 (40 per session)
	Momentous Football Academy	Athersley Rec Football Club	5 to 14	400 (50 per session)
Total				1340

Contact Rachel for further information: rachellancaster@barnsley.gov.uk

8.6. Sport and Recreation

Members were updated on the What's Your Move programme. Over the coming months this includes:

- Ramp Up (Bike confidence, skills and maintenance)
- Walking Festival (May)
- Move More Month (June)
- Summer Cycling and Sports Van Opportunity (July)

Members were keen to ensure that there was adequate provision for children in the summer, specifically the children from the families who are just about managing (JAM).

Members were in agreement to fund the sports van for summer 2023 and very keen that the Ramp Up sessions should be maximised in the North Area. It is recommended that the Area Team and Ward Alliances support the Sports Van and Ramp Up sessions.

Contact Stu for further information: stuartrogers@barnsley.gov.uk

8.7. Outcomes

Following the workshop Members wished to explore opportunities further, considering the following points:

- Members were in agreement that funding should be utilised at Area Level not Ward Level in this instance
- Members were interested in assisting people with practical solutions
- Members wanted to ensure that the community were accessing community buildings for support with cost of living
- Members would consider a small grant opportunity for projects that would help address cost of living (food access, and hygiene including personal, home and sanitary) and encourage sustainability, welcoming projects that brought people together with food and warmth.

8.8. Area Council – May 2023

At the Area Council meeting in May 2023, it was agreed that:

- i) The Sport Van would be funded and the Area Manager would also aim to secure Ramp Up sessions to run across the area in the Summer holidays.
- ii) The £10,000 identified would be utilised as a micro grant opportunity, working with the Connecting Communities Grant providers to deliver communal eating opportunities for communities during winter 2023/24.

9. Risks

- 9.1. The Area Manager wanted to ensure that provision funded by the North Area Council does not duplicate the work of the Household Support Grant.

10. For consideration by the Priority Working Group:

- 10.1. Consider the information collated in the workshops.
- 10.2. Refer to appendix 1. How the Connecting Communities providers responded to the micro grant opportunity. These opportunities compliment the provision already being delivered by the same providers in the North Area.
- 10.3. The proposed funding is allocation based on the proposals below, totals £9,424.
- 10.4. Consider if this represents good value for money.

11. Next Steps

- 11.1. The priority working group is requested to direct the Area Manager regarding proposals received for communal eating opportunities during winter 2023/24.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
26th June 2023

Appendix 1:

Provider	How would your organisation utilise the funding to support existing delivery?	Where would you deliver the activity / opportunity?	When would you deliver your intervention/activities?	Who would your beneficiaries be and how many people would benefit?
DIAL	Providing fortnightly sessions for existing Connect Together and new members where they could come together and have a warm meal and chat. We will also encourage members to bring along food that they have made e.g. cakes and to share tips and recipes for cooking on a budget. The activity would be supported by our current Social Inclusion Worker.	Fortnightly sessions at Emmanuel Church and Kexborough Community Centre.	During autumn/winter 2023, commencing October 2023 until March 2024.	Local residents who are socially isolated and or struggling with the cost of living crisis and who primarily, but not exclusively have a long-term health condition. We expect to reach 100 residents over the six month period.
Age UK	Age UK Barnsley would use the funding to develop and deliver two new affordable eating opportunities; a new lunch club (using care kitchen to deliver affordable balanced meals), and a breakfast group. This would support our existing social inclusion project as it would expand the offering of communal eating groups for those individuals who need additional support during the next autumn/winter period of the cost-of-living crisis. Social inclusion officers would be able to identify members of the group who would need additional support and work with them further or refer to our other services for help with benefits, shopping etc.	We would deliver two groups. The breakfast group would be delivered in the Darton West ward and the lunch group would be delivered in the Old Town ward. Alternating fortnightly.	Delivered over the difficult months of autumn and winter. This will mean that the attendees are able to access both a hot meal and a warm space.	We would be able to support 20 socially isolated older people 50+ at each of the two groups who are in need additional support due to the cost-of-living crisis. Enabling us to reach a wider group of older people with this additional support.
Reds in the Community	Extend an existing class. The activity consists of circuit training, healthy lifestyle advice, combating social isolation and intervention opportunities. We would utilise the funding in order to feed participants that currently attend and promote towards new participants. They will be fed healthy meals, shown how to cook / prepare meals and given 'takeaways' to then prepare and eat at home.	Delivered at our Feel Good to Lose activity on a Monday 2pm-4pm at Redbrook and Wilthorpe Community Centre.	The activity will be delivered from September to December 2023, with the activity culminating in a Christmas Celebration event.	Currently we engage around 15 participants on a weekly basis, these are consistent in attending and we would also look to use the funding as a catalyst towards engaging new participants.

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 9

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council:
10th July 2023

Agenda Item: 9

Report of the
North Area Council Manager

Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report updates the North Area Council on financial position the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2023/24 period.

2. Recommendation

- 2.2 **That each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2023/24, in line with the guidance on spend.**

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 As part of the decisions made by the Council's Cabinet in 2013 each Ward was allocated an annual Ward Alliance Fund of £10,000. In addition, the Area Council has devolved £10,000 to the Ward Alliances between 2014/15 and 2019/20; no additional funding was devolved in 2020/21 and a reduced amount of £5,000 was devolved in 2021/22. The £5,000 devolved funding from the Area Council was been agreed for 2022/23. At this time no additional funding has been identified for devolution to Ward Alliances during 2023/24.

- 3.2 All funding decisions must meet with Ward Alliance approval and be allocated with in accordance with the ward Alliance Funding 2016/17 – Briefing Note. This requires half of the fund to be allocated to projects where there is match funding.

- 3.3 In considering projects for the use of the Devolved Ward Budget, Members will need to be satisfied that:
- it meets a recognised need for the Ward,
 - it is in the wider public interest (i.e. the whole community can potentially benefit),
 - it represents value for money.

4.0 2023/24 Financial Position

- 4.1 The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2022/23 Ward Alliance Fund was added to the 2023/24 allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the conditions of the ward alliance budget allocation.

4.2 Budget allocations for 2022/23

Ward	Base Allocation	Carried forward from 2022/23	Total available
Darton East	£10,000	£1,243.20	£11,243.20
Darton West	£10,000	£6,011.02	£16,011.02
Old Town	£10,000	£8,664.33	£18,664.33
St Helen's	£10,000	£7,795.22	£17,795.22

4.3 All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.

4.4 Please refer to Appendix 1 for a full breakdown.

5.0 Challenges and Opportunities

5.1 All wards should take an opportunity to consult on their ward plan early during the financial year 2023/24. This will help the Ward Alliances to review the existing plans, reaffirm their ward priorities and plan projects and initiatives that will address the ward centric priorities.

5.2 Any projects requiring a long lead in time will require the involvement of the Area Team as early as possible.

5.3 Proactive promotion of the Ward Alliance Fund to local not for profit groups and organisations is highly recommended to ensure efficient expenditure over the financial year.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
20th June 2023

Appendix 1:

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

For 2023/24, each Ward will have an allocation of £10,000 for the Ward Alliance Fund.

All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.

The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2022/23 Ward Alliance Fund will be combined and added to the 2023/24 Allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the above conditions.

50% of the funding requires a match-funding element of volunteer time that directly relates to the project in question, or other match funding resources (such as free room hire or donations of goods and equipment). This reflects the fact that the fund is intended to support volunteering and social action in our communities.

50% can be used for initiatives that have no volunteer element – such as the purchase and installation of benches, hanging baskets or other street furniture.

Area Councils have the option to allocate up to £20,000 from the Area Council budget to each of their Ward Alliances. This is discretionary to each Area Council.

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

DARTON EAST WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24 the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£1,243.20

Total Available Funding	£11,243.20
--------------------------------	-------------------

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'
1	Crafts and Chat Group	£470.00	£2,630.40	£5,621.60	£10,773.20

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

DARTON WEST WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24 the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£6,011.02

Total Available Funding	£16,011.02
--------------------------------	-------------------

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'
1	Q4 Secretary Payment - DW (2022/23)	£125.00	£0.00	£7,880.51	£15,886.02

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

OLD TOWN WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24 the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£8,664.33

Total Available Funding £18,664.33

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

ST HELEN'S WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24 the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£7,531.12

Total Available Funding	£17,531.12
--------------------------------	-------------------

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'
1	Health and Wellbeing Garden	£785.00	£794.60	£8,765.56	£16,746.12
2	St Helens Gala	£1,200.00	£0.00	£7,565.56	£15,546.12
3	Hanging Baskets 2023	£2,000.00	£0.00	£5,565.56	£13,546.12

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 10

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
Monday 10th July 2023

Agenda Item: 10

Report of North Area Council
Manager

North Area Ward Alliance – Operational Updates

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report appraises the North Area Council of the progress made by each Ward in relation Ward Alliance implementation.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the North Area Council receives an update on the progress of the Darton East, Darton West, Old Town and St Helens Ward Alliances for information purposes. Members are reminded of requirement for Ward Alliance minutes to the received by the Area Council.

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 This report is set within the context of decisions made on the way the Council is structured to conduct business at Area, Ward and Neighbourhood levels (Cab21.11.2012/6), Devolved Budget arrangements (Cab16.1.2013/10.3), Officer Support (Cab13.2.2013/9) and Communities and Area Governance Documentation (Cab.8.5.2013/7.1). This report is submitted on that basis.

4.0 Ward Alliance Meetings

- 4.1 This report includes all notes of North Area Ward Alliances, received by the North Area Team, that were held during May and June 2023.

Appendices:

Darton East Ward Alliance Meeting:	Appendix One
Darton West Ward Alliance Meeting:	Appendix Two
Old Town Ward Alliance Meeting:	Appendix Three
St Helens Alliance Meeting:	Appendix Four

The reporting into the North Area Council, of the Ward Alliance notes is in line with the approved Council protocols. The notes are for information only.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
25th June 2023

Appendix One:

Darton East Ward Alliance
Tuesday 9th May 2023 – 6 PM
Face to face meeting.

Present:

Cllr Richard Denton – Darton East Ward Councillor
Cllr Steve Hunt – Darton East Ward Councillor
Caroline Hague – Village Hall Assistant Manager
Paul Marsh – Local Business Man
Rebecca Batty - North Area Team
Gerard Morrall- Local Business Man
Teresa Wilcockson – Local resident
David Lockwood – Local Business Man
Helen Altun – Secretary
Rosie Adams – North Area Team
Nicola Wilkinson - Library

1. Election of the chair for 23/24 municipal year.

Steve Hunt proposed Richard Denton to be the chair of the Darton East Ward Alliance meeting for 23/24.

The attendees of the group approved this.

Thank you to Steve Hunt for being chair.

2. Apologies

Cllr Matthew Crisp - Darton East Ward Councillor
David Hilton – Green space
Nick Hibberd - Mapplewell Village Hall Manager

3. Mapplewell Library (Nicola Wilkinson)

The group welcomed Nicola. She explained she was the head of Library's for Penistone, Mapplewell and Hoyland. She was the team leader for the lightbox in Barnsley until last year.

Nicola explained that the library in Mapplewell is trying to put on new events and activities for the public. They are looking at what the public would want, and a popular topic seems to be health and wellbeing including the menopause.

The library is due to start a games night for 12 years plus with parents or 14 plus are welcome on their own as the library is trying to get the wider community to use the late-night facilities of the library. The games night is due to start in June. The library is keen to know what teenagers want and will link in with Darton Academy.

Adverts for the game's night will go out on the North Area Facebook page and in the library, Chronicle, and the Darton Arrow.

Nicola also said that it would be great if they could get a gardening and wicker basket volunteer for some events.

A member of the group asked what the needs of the Mapplewell community are. Nicola explained it was young families or more mature adults using the library facilities but not many teenagers or adults of working age.

Nicola explained the library could link in with the village hall garden and work together.

The gun club was also mentioned as a link with the library, but Nicola explained she would have to ask the head of services regarding working together with the gun club.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with the library, they should contact Laura O'Neill who is the volunteer co-ordinator.

The village hall would like to be made aware of events so they can promote them and know about them. Nicola explained she was going to have a quarterly meeting with the village hall manager.

The group asked how they could support the library. Nicola explained that they may require funding for materials and sessions with speakers. Their first funding request will be put in next week.

The library has previously completed Lego and coding sessions and eBooks and audio books are also available from the library.

4. Declarations of Interest. None.

5. Minutes of previous meeting. Approved. Caroline asked for her surname to be changed to Hague.

6. Matters Arising. A member explained they were waiting for a response from Rachel Paling after asking them if governance of Ward alliance meetings should take place annually.

A member has contacted Paul Castle regarding the parking problems in the village. They have asked for more enforcement to be present around the village. The hot spots are the sandwich shop, fish and chip shop and four lane ends. The car parking availability is currently being reviewed in the village. It would be great to get more parking if funding was available and occasional enforcement.

A member explained that a photoshoot was scheduled with the youth club this Sunday, but it had to be rescheduled so a new date will be coming out soon.

7. Financial Update

£11,243.20 in total. £5621.80 in match funding and in none match funding.

8. Applications for Funding: None

9. Ward Action Plan

An update had been sent from Nick Hibberd the village hall manager to explain the King's coronation pie and pea afternoon had gone very well which had been funded through the pop in club funds.

Mapplewell village hall building works are on schedule.

The levelling up fund team have paid for a mechanical and engineering report and another Asbestos survey conducted on the building.

10. Environmental Contract

The new environmental contract will be starting possibly by the end of June.

A comprehensive update was provided last time at the meeting.

Twiggs finished their contract at the end of March 2023.

The new contract will be an 80% maintenance-based schedule identified and directed by the Ward alliance.

The posts have been advertised now for a team leader, member of staff and apprentice.

This contract will keep things simple and scheduled and it may rotate year on year.

This contract is not intended to replace normal neighbourhood services.

There is still volunteering opportunities, but these have been scaled back.

The team leader and the ward alliance will speak at three meetings per year.

11.AOB

A member asked if the racking in the container had been completed as they had some items which need to be stored in the container. It is not up yet but it will be chased up.

A member had also contacted the owner of the one stop shop in Mapplewell to explain it was a mess in the car park with litter weeds and generally looked unpleasant. The owner said he had asked for the current tenant to clean it up and he had been told it had been done but the member who had reported it said it was no better and looked an eyesore. A councillor also said they would go and speak to the person leasing the shop.

The councillors will clarify what environmental enforcement can do in our area.

The summer event was not given a go ahead from the FOMAS group.

Ward Alliance members said they could lead on it. It was agreed to speak to David Hilton at the next ward alliance meeting as he is also a member of fomas group (friends of Mapplewell and Staincross). A member also agreed to email him about a summer event.

A summer event needs advance planning from October. It also needs lots of volunteers to run the event.

A member stated she had some old signs in her garage from a previous member that she needed to be moved as she did not have the space for them.

10-year anniversary for the ward alliance event is on the 15/09/2023.

It was proposed by the chair of the meeting that the meetings would be no longer than 90 minutes. The chair would like any other business sent to him if possible before the meeting and anything else that needs to be read before the meeting.

Meeting closed.

12. Time and date of next meeting Tuesday 13/06/23 at 6pm.

Appendix Two:

Darton West Ward Alliance Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 24th May 2023

Attendees: Cllr Sharon Howard (Chair), Cllr Trevor Cave, John Ryan, Shelly Jepson, Christina Carroll, Richard Haigh

Apologies: Cllr Alice Cave, Ann Carroll, Annabell Watson

North Area Team: Rebecca Battye, Rosie Adams.

1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 The minutes of the meeting 17th April 2023 were reviewed and agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Rebecca to send card and best wishes to Annabell Watson

Rebecca to look at Ward Notice Boards across the Ward pending purchase of small steps to assist

Rebecca to update with any progress re: litter bins at Vets for Pets and Ripley Grove

Rebecca to investigate possible use of Green Notes for Summer Activities programme (Agenda item)

Rosie to send letter to Dominic McCall re: protocol for attendance at meetings

Trevor to contact Barugh Green School to look at any opportunities for engagement with Ward Alliance initiatives

Shelly to update of any developments with the Memorial Garden

Richard to look at costings for manufacture and design of History Board 5 for Gawber Primary School

3 Ward Action Plan

Cllr Trevor Cave presented the Ward Action Plan this was discussed and updated.

4 Active Travel Update

Nothing to report

5a WAF Budget

This was presented by Rebecca

Remaining Budget £15,740.02

£1000.00 to be allocated for Summer School Provision

at Barugh Green and Darton (Agreed)

5b WAF applications

None received

6 Darton West Asset list, key locations, and events

Rosie presented proforma and updated members regarding Darton West Asset List and additions made

Rosie informed members of North Area Council events for Summer Activities (Agenda item)

Rosie informed of September Celebration Event for Ward Alliances

7 A.O.B.

Christina Carroll declared an interest with regards Green Notes

Date and Time of next meeting

Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 5.00 pm Darton Centre

**Darton West Ward Alliance
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday 21st June 2023**

Attendees: Cllr Alice Cave (Chair), Cllr Trevor Cave, Ann Carroll, Christina Carroll, Richard Haigh.

Apologies: Cllr Sharon Howard, Shelly Jepson.

North Area Team: Rebecca Battye.

1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 The minutes of the meeting 24th May 2023 were reviewed and agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Rebecca to look at Notice Boards across the Ward

Rebecca to update any progress re: Litter bins at Vets for Pets and Ripley Grove

Rebecca to monitor progress with summer hanging baskets across the Ward

Rebecca to investigate department to assist with restoration of Milestone markers at Redbrook and Barugh Green

Rebecca to send calendar of Summer School Activities and dates to Ward members

Rebecca to confirm if Rosie Adams sent protocol letter to D McCall

Rebecca to send contact details of Alison McCally to Cllrs

Cllr Trevor Cave to contact Barugh Green School to discuss any opportunities for engagement with the Ward Alliance

Cllr Alice Cave, Cllr Sharon Howard, Cllr Trevor Cave to meet with management of Kexbrough Social Club to offer any assistance with their future plans

Christina to email Cllr Trevor Cave with details of the School Reader Programme

3 Ward Action Plan

Cllr Trevor Cave presented the Ward Action Plan this was discussed and updated.

4 Active Travel Update

Nothing to report

5a WAF Budget

This was presented by Rebecca

Remaining Budget £15,740.02

5b WAF applications.

**Gawber History Group
Greenotes CIC**

Darton Darby and Joan Club

Hanging Basket Provision

Agreed in principle

Agreed in principle

Agreed in principle

Agreed in principle

6 Summer School Events Programme Update

This was discussed and a calendar of events to be supplied to Ward members

7 Darton West Asset List/Key Locations and Events Update

This was discussed and timetable of job rota was supplied

N.B Springfields group to be added to August rota

8 Protocol for attending Ward Alliance Meetings

This was discussed by members

7 A.O.B.

Nothing to report

Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 17th July 2023, 5.00 pm at the Darton Centre

Appendix Three:

Old Town Ward Alliance

Communities in Monk Bretton, Smithies, Wilthorpe, Honeywell, Old Town and Pogmoor

Notes of 13th April 2023

In Attendance

Cllr Phil Lofts (V. Ch), Cllr Jo Newing (Sec), Lee Swift, John Love, Bill Gaunt,

Apologies

Cllr Pickering, Luke Holmes, Gill Nixon.

Notes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record, except that J.Love and B. Gaunt were in attendance and not gave apologies.

Matters Arising.

None

1. Funding Bids

- a. Willowbank Community Partnership, event insurance £342.39. -Approved.

2. W.A. Fund

Currently stands at £18,664.33.

There has been a delay in approving some bids, due to the requirement to have six members in attendance.

4. Membership

Discussed who we might approach to join the W.A. J.L. and B.G. to ask some residents they know from the allotments.

Need to approach Community Organisations.

L.S. to leaflet local businesses in the Ward.

5. Environmental contract

L.S. updated the meeting regarding Twiggs, the contract is now ended, and Neighbourhood services will provide the service although under a very different model. 80% direct work 20% voluntary/community work.

6 a&b Ward Plan

L.S outlined visions and goals of Barnsley 2030 plan, (health, Learning, Growing and Sustainable) however unable to develop further until the Ward Alliance has more members. Discussed possible event at Honeywell Community Centre with the Mental Health Hub.

7. 10 year celebration

Possibly mid-September, 7pm venue to be confirmed.

I group from each ward in North area to present a project, Green Corridor from Penny Pie Park to the Canal project.

Meeting to plan further on 22nd May 11.00

8. AOB

Discussion re assets, key locations etc.

Next meeting 11th May 5pm at the Town Hall.

Old Town Ward Alliance

Communities in Monk Bretton, Smithies, Wilthorpe, Honeywell, Old Town and Pogmoor

Notes of 11th May 2023

In Attendance

Cllr Phil Lofts (Ch), Cllr Jo Newing (Sec), Lee Swift,

Apologies

Cllr Pickering, Luke Holmes, Gill Nixon, John Love, Bill Gaunt,

With no community members present, this meeting was held as an informal Members update meeting, and included proposed areas, groups and individuals to approach to offer application of membership to the Ward Alliance.

N.B. Old Town Ward Alliance did not meet in June 2023

Appendix Four:



**St. Helen's Ward Alliance
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 20th April 2023, 4pm, Roundhouse Library**

Present : Cllr Platts (Chair), Cllr Leech, Cllr Tattersall, Lee Swift, Madge Busby, Tony Lowe, Neil Wright, Dawn Bailey, Kath Bostwick, Andrea Spencer (NHS), Annie Moody, Rosie Adams

Apologies : Michelle Cooper, John Hallows, Freda Stenton, Rebecca Leech

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone was thanked for their attendance.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes were passed as a true record by the members.

Hospital Governors: Annie Moody and Andrea Spencer gave a brief presentation on the purpose and benefits of becoming a hospital governor.

The governors are a requirement for the hospital and Andrea wants to get a wide scope of them to ensure fair representation. It is completely free to sign up and it is for a term of 3 years. You can serve a total of 3 terms.

The purpose of the governors is to scrutinise and quality check decisions made by the Executive Directors of the Hospital. They analyse rising trends and help suggest improvements or delve into why things haven't improved.

Those who sign up get access to newsletters updating on upcoming decisions and topics, and are able to attend executive meetings should they wish. There are 6 meetings a year which are required to attend although these can be online which is easier. There are also optional "insight" meetings which delve into specific topics

Members asked how much their views are taken into consideration and Annie and Andrea both said they are taken seriously. There is a chance to influence decisions on the running of

the hospital, but not make them outright. You can however have the right to make your views clear.

Another question was raised about medical jargon – Andrea said that every governor is provided with training and support. All training is online so there's not as much imposing feeling of being scrutinised yourself.

Andrea and Annie were thanked for their time and those who want to join as a governor can go to <https://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/about/theboard/our-governing-council/meet-the-governors/>

Treasurers Report: Due to replacing funding back into the pot from working budgets and taking totals directly from the financial spreadsheet, the amount of funding to allocate in this new financial year is £18,020 a significantly larger amount that previously thought.

Funding Applications:

St Helens Gala - The bid was for £1,200 to help run the gala this year. Updates on the status are in the section below. All members agreed to the full amount.

St Helens Hanging Baskets - The bid was for £2,000 to help pay for 31 baskets. It was noted that this is an initial outlay and that 12 of the baskets are sponsored, so that money will be returned to the ward alliance, making the final total much smaller.

Hanging Baskets – BMBC have come back to us, and there is only one lamppost deemed unsafe, and it's an unsponsored one, so we are not anticipating any further problems this year. Lee is now working with the other Wards to coordinate creation of sponsor plaques and providing lists of brackets to be moved and installed. All being well, notifications on plaques will go out to sponsors at the beginning of May. Basket numbers were provided to First Impressions, so they should be grown in time.

Events:

St Helens Gala - All the planning is coming together. The birds of prey stall has cancelled, but it was agreed to see if Chris Corker at Berneslai Homes is that provider, and if not, to contact him. Other possibilities are being looked at. Wigfield Farm was considered but they don't bring animals outside anymore. They did provide a voucher however.

Cllr Tattersall suggested holding a fancy dress for the coronation. It was felt to be a great idea, but seeing as the coronation will be over with by a couple of months, it was agreed to either look at a more appropriate theme or have a general fancy dress as part of it. It will require prize support, but the organising sub-group will need to look at this.

Kath suggested that due to the cost of living, we should do something similar to the jubilee event last summer and provide packed lunches. It was a big draw in previous gala's, but concerns were raised about the raising of expectations and the amount of work it will take to source food supplies for this. It was agreed to limit the number to the first 100 children (especially to try and avoid angering the food vendors) and that the £200 working budget could be used. Kath offered to help source these items (sandwiches, drinks etc.)

In terms of food vans, Neil requested that the site plans be modified to move the burger van to the other side of the park, as people were complaining about exhaust fumes from the van last time. Lee agreed to work with Rebecca to look at this, but did say that often times the vendors ignore our instructions and put themselves where they want.

Environmental contract – Rosie provided an update on the environmental contract. Twiggs are now out of contract and Neighbourhood Services will now be taking it over. There will be three workers, but won't likely be in post until August. The contract will be different with a lot more directed work, and less community partnership work. They are contracted to work one day per week in the Ward, but Rosie still envisages a flexible approach to how that day is split up. In addition, she has built in three evenings / Saturday workings in the year per Ward. These should be targeted to community activities.

Rosie provided a list of current tasks she envisages the group to do in the area without direction (cleaning ginnels etc.) and asked people to let her know if there's anything she's missed.

It was asked if they will be working bank holidays? Rosie said yes, provided it's needed and planned in good time.

Ward Plan: A separate meeting is needed to discuss the Ward Plan, Lee to look at dates/times for this meeting.

Roundhouse Library will be having their relaunch celebration on Tuesday 4th April from 10.30am. All welcome to attend. Members discussed that more activities are needed for the children in the community, e.g. Lego club, reading club, etc. Members also agreed that the library needed a cafe

Forthcoming Projects and Bids:

Notice Boards - Because of the length of the meeting, notice boards were deferred to the next meeting.

Caterpillar Club- the Caterpillar Club are intending to submit a bid to the Ward Alliance to look for funding to support the group. They are currently setting up a community bank account and will submit the bid to the next meeting.

Library - there was an open day at the library recently and it went very well. Following this, Libraries, the North Team, and other organisations are keen to establish groups in the building for people to use. Top of this list is the inclusion of a coffee morning / café using the kitchen. Cllr Tattersall said her and Cllr Platts had been to New Hope Church to gather the pots and pans with Michelle, but everything beyond a few bits of crockery and some fridges were gone. Because of the number of people interested, a coordinated meeting needs to take place to explain all of this and work through the best way forward. Rosie suggested taking this conversation to the St Helens Together meeting also to gather the names of all interested parties. Lee agreed to do this.

Any other business:

John Hallows - Cllr Tattersall said John Hallows is currently in hospital and isn't very well at the minute. She did take him his certificates and award and he was very happy with them. Unfortunately, his trophy has been broken, and Cllr Tattersall asked if a new one could be purchased. It was agreed to order a new one and it could be paid for out of petty cash.

Great British Spring Clean – Cllr Tattersall asked if we could look at organising a couple of litter picks for the spring clean, around the ginnel at Laxton Rd to Beeston Sq and Laxton Rd park. There is also the New Lodge play area. It was agreed for Cllr Tattersall to suggest a date after the election and to see if the Ward Alliance members could support this.

PACT Meeting- Dawn asked when the next PACT meeting was – it was confirmed to be Tues 16th May, 2pm at New Lodge Community Centre

Halloween Event – Neil suggested that because of last years success, could the Ward Alliance look at doing a Halloween event this year? It was suggested that it could possibly be done at the Library. It was agreed to raise it at the next meeting.

Athersley South – Kath said Athersley South residents are complaining that there's little community activity on the South area. This is clearly because of the lack of community venues. It was suggested that some kind of Ward Alliance stall could be placed at the Spar on a day with some activities. It was agreed to look at this at the next meeting.

Jenny's Retirement – As Cllr Platts will be retiring from her term as Cllr this year, it was announced there will be a small leaving party taking place on Tuesday 2nd May at 10.30am at Roundhouse Library. All are welcome and invited. Madge said it clashes with the coffee morning, but nothing has been announced just yet, so there's a chance to combine it.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Meeting closed at 18.10pm

The next meeting is on Thursday 1st June, 4pm, Roundhouse Library.



St. Helen's Ward Alliance
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 1st June 2023, 4pm, Roundhouse Library

Present : Cllr Leech, Cllr Tattersall (Chair), Cllr Wright, Rebecca Leech, Lee Swift, Madge Busby, Michelle Cooper, Kath Bostwick

Apologies : Tony Lowe, Dawn Bailey, John Hallows, Freda Stenton.

By Invitation: Amanda Hardcastle, Karen Thompson (Caterpillar Club)

Welcome and Introductions: Introductions were given. Everyone was thanked for their attendance.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes were checked by the members and passed as a true record.

Funding Applications:

Caterpillar club - Pre School Playgroup. This bid is for £870 and is to help support the group for the next 12 months with rent, insurance and resources. Amanda and Karen attended the meeting to discuss their bid. Amanda explained that this group has been running for a very long time but has recently had to relocate. They are needing new equipment due to water damage and also new storage containers. Amanda explained that they will fundraise, etc, to match the funding for this bid. The Ward alliance offered to advertise this group to attract new members. Amanda and Karen left the meeting, and the members discussed the bid. Cllr Leech declared an interest.

The members agreed to the full amount. Secretary to email Amanda to let her know.

Events:

St Helens Gala - All the planning is coming together. Lee to chase contact information for another birds of prey team. The free packed lunches were discussed. It was discussed the money it will take to supply these, that they will have to be prepared and stored properly, allergies have to be taken into account, and Kath is fully prepared to ensure there will be packed lunches at the gala for the first 100 children. She agreed she will accept all responsibility for obtaining and distributing these packed lunches. Lee to help Kath in sourcing quotes.

Ward Plan: A meeting is needed to just discuss the Ward Plan. Lee to look at dates and send out an email asap. Refreshments will be provided.

Hanging Baskets - The council have checked all the lamp posts and we have been given the go ahead to put up the hanging baskets. We are looking at the end of June, early July for installation depending on the company.

There will be 30 baskets installed with 15 of those being sponsored. All plaques will stay on the lamp posts after the hanging baskets have been taken down.

Treasurers Report: Lee reported a total of £13, 052.72 as of 1st June 2023.

Forthcoming Projects and Bids: Lee to speak to Pete Goodlad to discuss the fireworks bid and to explain that the budget for the Ward Alliance has been cut so we won't be able to provide the same amount of funding as other years.

Cllr Wright offered to speak to community groups about ways to organise fundraising events to be able to raise their own funds.

Any other business: It was discussed that the Ward Alliance needs new members. Application forms have been sent out to potential new members but they haven't been returned. Jenny Platts is unable to return for 12 months after her retirement from the Council.

Cllr Leech asked that, due to the budget being cut, we discuss lowering the amount that community groups can apply for. It was suggested the limit be lowered from £1,500 to £1,000 with groups only allowed to submit 1 application form per year. Members discussed and agreed.

Notice boards report - Cllr Tattersall asked how, we, as a Ward Alliance repair the notice boards in the ward. Cllr Leech said that for an outside company to do the repairs is very expensive so he proposed that Cllr Wright and himself would carry out the repairs. It was discussed and agreed. Cllr Leech and Cllr Wright will do a visit of the notice boards and obtain costings for the repairs.

Lee Swift discussed the up coming 10 year celebration of the Ward Alliances. This will be a big party taking place in September in Mapplewell, which all are invited to. The members were asked to think of a project that the Ward Alliance has funded to go to the celebration and

discuss how they have used the funding and what differences in the community that bid has made.

A few suggestions were given but the members agreed on Michelle Cooper on behalf of Ad Astra. Michell is happy to do it.

Environmental contract - Twiggs contract has now finished and Neighbourhood services have taken over. Any work needing doing will come through the ward alliance and Cllr Leech will take it to the Steering group working party.

New Defibrillator - it was discussed at a previous meeting that a new defib would be fitted in the ward. This defib will be installed at Lindhurst Lodge.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Meeting closed at 17.30pm

The next meeting is on Thursday 13th July, 4pm, Roundhouse Library.