

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday 11 July 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Coates (Chair), Bellamy, Bowler and Danforth

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

2 Minutes of the Dearne Area Council Meeting held on 17th January, 2022 (Dac.11.7.2022/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the Dearne Area Council held on 17th January, 2022, the notes of the informal meeting of the Dearne Area Council held on the 14th March, 2022 and the minutes of the inquorate meeting of the Dearne Area Council held on 16th May, 2022.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 17th January, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record;
- (ii) that the notes of the informal meeting of the Dearne Area Council held on 14th March, 2022 be noted; and
- (iii) that the minutes of the inquorate Dearne Area Council meeting held on 16th May, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Dearne Electronic Community Village Update - Rory Garforth

Rory Garforth, Dearne Electronic Village Ltd, was welcomed to the meeting.

Members were updated on the Assisted Employment Project. 25 learners had received support since April, 2022 with all session taking place at the Lifelong Learning Centre, Thurnscoe Library. All learners who joined received an initial assessment on IT, Maths and English and following that an individual learning plan was put in place.

Members heard how 6 learners had passed their courses since joining in April, 2022 and how that number was expected to increase. Work to aid learners in searching for jobs had also been undertaken in order to meet the requirements of the Job Centre. It was reported that the awarding body would be changing from OCR to Pearson due to them removing their digital skills qualifications.

Around 7 learners had gone on to find employment varying from customer service advisor, care worker, gardener and teaching assistant, amongst others. It was reported that 2 volunteers had started post lockdown.

It was reported that the project had been funded for 3 days per week, but that an additional grant from a different pot of money had been successful resulting in a further 2 days being funded bringing the capacity to the full 5 days per week. Member enquired as to how many people were seen within the working week and it was reported that around 25 people were seen a week on either a one to one basis or in small groups of up to 3 people and that most people seen were referrals from the Job Centre or via advertisements on social media.

Members were informed that the most needed courses of English and maths had previously been delivered through Dearne Valley College but that had ceased and conversations were ongoing with Adult Learning in order to provide these courses going forward.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and update and that Rory be thanked for all his hard work.

4 Twigg's Grounds Maintenance Update - John Twigg

John Twigg and Adam Roberts from Twigg's Grounds Maintenance Ltd, were welcomed to the meeting.

Members were provided with an update on the work undertaken and informed that for the quarter 53 new volunteers had started equating to 285 overall and totalling 1,145 volunteer hours giving a social return of £15,625.85.

It was reported that 46 sessions had been held with 11 existing community groups but that no new groups were being formed and that some older groups were diminishing. 9 collaboration events had taken place with businesses and Berneslai Homes and 366 sacks of waste had been taken away with 4 cases of flytipping being reported back to the council.

Members questioned whether Twigg's had been able to cover all contracted hours with the information regarding being without a member of staff due to injury, it was reported that whilst all hours could not be covered fully, the main events and requests for works were being covered in the area. It was also reported that a schedule of works had been created from the Barnsley MBC Neighbourhoods service which had helped in avoiding duplication or missing something.

The issue around removal of purple volunteer bags and whose responsibility it was to oversee that was raised, members were informed that this was the responsibility of Neighbourhood Services but that Twigg's had helped out during the pandemic to remove purple sacks as and when required.

Members queried the level of training given to new volunteers, whether training on how to deal with sharps for example was provided. It was reported that there was no specific training course but that an informal chat was provided on handing over the volunteer packs.

Members were informed of the positive change in the upsurge in number of volunteers that had been seen since the start of the project in 2014, when it was reported that people had to be enticed in to help and now people voluntarily came forward.

RESOLVED that thanks be given to John Twigg and Adam Roberts for the presentation and update and all the hard work the Twiggs Team were doing in the Dearne Area.

5 Best Bar None Awards - Darryl Hand

Darryl Hand, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, was welcomed to the meeting to provide members with an update on the Best Bar None Scheme.

Members were informed that the Best Bar None Scheme was a national accreditation scheme regulated by the Home Office. In total 9 venues had been accredited in the Dearne Area and around 16 had been identified in total but that there had been insufficient time to have them all accredited. Officers had identified a number of other venues to include in the future scheme such as cricket clubs and footballs clubs.

Members queried how venues became accredited and were informed that there was a list of 90 questions, mostly set by a national team but that some local schemes had been included such as pub watch which is a local safeguarding scheme. Out of the 9 accreditations, 6 of those venues also received awards at the awards evening.

For those venues that had either none or very few of the standards such as first aid training, public liability cover or a licence to record people on CCTV, a number of visits and information had been passed onto them in order to get them up to standard. Plans were in place to review what could be improved upon and that venues were already in contact who wished to take part in the future. Councillors requested a copy of the Best Bar None criteria and information packs that were distributed to licensees.

RESOLVED that thanks be given to Darryl for the update and all the hard work that had been undertaken in pulling together the Best Bar None scheme in the area.

6 Future Commissioning Report (Dac.11.7.2022/6)

The Area Manager introduced the item, referring to the Tackling the Environment commission provided by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance which was due to end in March, 2023.

Members were informed of the choices they had going forward which were outlined in the report and also how some aspects of the specification had changed for the new commission. In considering the choices set out for the service, members were minded to choose Option B to recommission the service at a cost of £90,000 per annum with an up lift of 3% for the second year.

Members attention was then drawn to the Housing and Cohesion Officer post funded by the Area Council which was due to end in March, 2023. Members were provided

with the 2 options set out in the report and informed that if at any time the Area Council wished to cease with the commission of the officer then any redundancy costs would be covered by the Safer Neighbourhood Service.

In considering the options members reiterated the importance of the proactive role in the Dearne Area and were minded to choose Option B to commission the post for 2 years at a cost of £33,277 for the first year and £33,967 for the second year.

Members were provided with an update on the Dearne Development Fund and requested to approve a further £30,000 into the budget from the Area Council Funds in order to approve projects that meet with the Area Council priorities in a timely manner. Following the publication of the report a further grant had been approved leaving a total of £5,976.41 in the pot.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the options set out in the report for future Dearne Area Council commissions be noted;
- (ii) that the specification for the Tackling the Environment Commission be approved and that approval be given to procure this service for 2 years at a cost of £90,000 for the first year with a 3% uplift in the second year;
- (iii) that the Housing and Cohesion Officer service level agreement be approved for a further 2 years at a cost of £33,277 for the first year and £33,967 for the second year; and
- (iv) that the allocation of £30,000 into the Dearne Development Fund budget be approved.

7 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.11.7.2022/7)

The Area Council Manager provided members with an update in relation to the financial position of the Area Council.

From a starting balance of £256,980.34, after all allocated spending of £197,277 on various commissions leaving a total of £59,703.34 to spend on Dearne area priorities during the 2022/23 financial year.

In addition members were updated on the Dearne Development which had since commissioned a further grant of £6,000 leaving a total of £5,976.41.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances held on 17th May, 2022 (Dac.11.7.2022/8)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance and Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 17th May, 2022.

Dearne South had received a presentation from Caroline Oxley and Elaine Oliver from Adults, Skills and Community Learning with regards to training that could be provided locally for residents wishing to improve their skills and training whilst gaining qualifications. Three applications for funding had been received including the bulky rubbish extension. The planning of future events was underway with the funding of a Shake Rattle and Roll event and a Christmas event in St Andrews Square.

Dearne North had remained a virtual meeting and the newly elected member was welcomed and Caroline Oxley and Elaine Oliver had attended to provide members with the same update as had been presented to the Dearne South Ward Alliance. Focus was primarily around forthcoming projects from the action plan and how that could be supported by Alliance Members. Four applications for funding had been submitted and approved including bulky rubbish extension for 12 months, hanging baskets contribution, Thurnscoe Flower Park to hold 'Pictures in the Park' supported by the area team and St Helen's church hall for jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED that the notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received

9 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.11.7.2022/9)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report circulated.

The Dearne North Ward Alliance had a starting budget for the 2022/23 financial year of £11,186.89 which included an underspend of £1,324.89 from the 2021/22 budget. Four projects had been supported totalling £3,220.00 leaving a balance of £7,966.89.

The Dearne South Ward Alliance had a starting balance of £15,817.72 for the 2022/23 financial year which included an underspend of £5,817.72 from the 2021/22 budget. Three projects had been supported at a cost of £5,500 leaving a balance of £10,542.72.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair