

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 3 June 2024
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

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

1 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

2 **Announcements**

Members noted the changes to the staffing arrangements across the Community Service. The meeting would mark the final North Area Council Meeting to be attended by R Adams and R Battye. A handover period would be undertaken to enable K Lycett to become the new North Area Council Manager and T Dickinson to become the new Community Development Officer.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks to R Adams and R Battye for the fantastic work provided to the North Area Council over the years, and he wished them well for the future.

Councillor Leech welcomed Councillor Nayeri and K Lycett to their first North Area Council Meeting, and introductions were made.

3 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 11 March 2024 (Nac.03.06.24/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 March 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 11 March 2024 be approved as a true and correct record.

4 **Wilthorpe Canal Ecology - Russ Boland (Nac.03.06.24/3)**

Members received a presentation from R Boland, Parks Officer, on the Wilthorpe Canal Ecology.

Over the past few years, a joint venture had been undertaken between Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency, which had funded the release of the Floating Pennywort Weevil, a biocontrol agent, at a site in Barnsley to help tackle the Floating Pennywort which one of the most invasive aquatic plants, that can grow up to 20cm a day in the wild. Floating Pennywort impacts on the aquatic ecosystem as

it forms dense floating mats of weed across waterbodies and is transferred in numerous ways including wild fowl and ducks picking it up on their feet.

It was noted that 6ft warning signs were displayed along canals where Floating Pennywort grew to highlight the dangers. Following health and safety assessments, life belts had been installed on numerous water ways in Barnsley, although none had been installed at Wilthorpe.

After a decade of safety and efficacy testing by CABI, a nonprofit intergovernmental development and information organisation, which specialises in invasive species management using nature-based solutions, the Floating Pennywort Weevil was approved as a biocontrol for release into the wild in England in autumn 2021.

As part of ongoing trials by CABI, the Floating Pennywort Weevil was introduced into a large pond owned by BMBC in July 2023. If successful, it was hoped this biocontrol agent will provide a long-term and sustainable solution to the problem and contribute to the national strategic approach to Floating Pennywort management.

A joint project had commenced on 9 December 2023 to introduce the Floating Pennywort Weevil into the Wilthorpe Canal, which was starting to make an impact. A total of £50,000 S106 funding had been allocated to commence a programme of treatment.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks to R Boland for all the hard work undertaken.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

5 Area Team Update - Rebecca Battye (Nac.03.06.24/4)

Members received a presentation from R Battye, Community Development Officer, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the North Area Team during the past few months. The following highlights were noted:-

The Darton West Ward Alliance had funded a Marvellous Mini Beasts children's activity provision over the Easter holiday, which had been delivered by Greenotes CIC to provide a fun interactive session. This was focused on the Kexborough area for families in need, following the success of the Green Monday holiday provision provided last summer. The event had met a number of priorities which included healthy and learning Barnsley 2030 priorities, Ward Alliance priorities of needs related issues, environment, community health and wellbeing, recreation and the arts, together with Area Council priorities of health and wellbeing, opportunities for young people and connecting communities. The session had been a great success and had been fully booked with 35 children attending, 90% had been from the targeted area. Children had learnt new skills, socialised with their peers and had created something to take home. Parents had the opportunity to meet with other parents.

The Community Clean Up had been held on 13 May 2024, which was a joint initiative between the Darton East Ward and St Helens Ward, with a target area of the A61 Active Travel route of Smithies, Athersley North and Royston. Community caretakers, rangers and volunteers were all invited to join. Feedback from the volunteers had indicated that they had enjoyed helping in the community. A total of

45 bags of litter had been collected and a great deal of fly tipping had been removed. The initiative had met a number of priorities which included healthy and sustainable Barnsley 2030 priorities, Ward Alliance priorities of environment and health and wellbeing, together with Area Council priorities of health and wellbeing, environment and connecting communities.

Members noted the latest round of Household Support Grant, which had enabled Kexborough Primary School to receive a total of £10,000 funding and Darton Primary School to receive a total of £6,900 funding. The aim of the grant was put funds into the hearts of the local communities to those most in need.

Members were referred to the following plans towards the summer period:-

Within the Darton East area, the Grassroots Sports Van would be coming to Mapplewell Park on a fortnightly basis. Activities will be aimed towards older children and teenagers. Wednesday Activity Sessions will be held in Mapplewell Park and the Community Gala is scheduled for 7 September 2024.

Within the Darton West area, Green Mondays would run the summer club again and a breakfast club to support children would be held at the Café Crossroads in Barugh Green.

Councillor Howard expressed her thanks for the work undertaken and she referred to the positive feedback received from Kexborough Methodist Church. She was pleased to observe that Kexborough Primary School had received funding.

Councillor Tattersall expressed her thanks to the teams involved in the Community Clean Up sessions which had been well supported.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks to R Battye for all the work undertaken.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

6 Youth Resilience Fund 2 - Grant Development (Nac.03.06.24/5)

A report was presented which provided Members with an update on the development of Youth Resilience Grant Mark2. The report provided a summary of the current performance and an overview of the review process, together with details specified by the priority working group, details on the grant framework and procurement timeline.

At the last Area Council Meeting held on 11 March 2024, Members had agreed to fund the Youth Resilience Fund for a second round and had devolved responsibility to R Adams and the Priority Working Group to develop a framework. The Priority Working Group had met for a series of workshops during April 2024.

The Youth Resilience Fund competitive grant opportunity had been advertised on YORtender, with a closing date for applications of 14 June 2024.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Priority Working Group members shared learning with colleagues from their participation in the Reflect, Redefine and Refine process.
- (ii) Members familiarised themselves with the main outcomes identified for the grant programme 2024-2026. Section 8.5 of the report.
- (iii) Noted the closing date for grant submissions – 14th June 2024.
- (iv) Agreed that K Laycett join the Panel, to ensure that she has been fully appraised during the process in terms of continuity and handover.

7 Performance Report - 2023/24 - Q4 (Nac.03.06.24/6)

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 2024. The report provided a summary of the performance management report for each of the contracted services for 2023/24 Quarter 4 (January - March). The report provided RAG ratings plus updated information from all North Area Council Providers, following submission of their quarterly reports and subsequent quarterly contract monitoring/management meetings.

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

8 Priorities, Commissioning, Project Development and Finance (Nac.03.06.24/7)

A report was presented which provided Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that had been proposed. The report also highlighted the need to agree a clear plan for commissioning against the priorities.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Members noted the progress on the development of the Youth Resilience Fund Round 2, full details could be found in Agenda Item 5.
- (ii) Members noted the update in relation to young people summer activities. If Members wished for an alternative to be sought, it was recommended that a funding commitment of £3,000 is agreed for sessional work over the summer holidays.
- (iii) That a workshop would be held to confirm Area priorities and discuss investment for 2025/26. This will help determine future investment options.

9 Reports to the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac.03.06.24/8)

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budgets for each ward for the 2024/25 period. The carry forward of remaining balances of the 2023/24 Ward Alliance Fund was added to the 2024/25 allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the conditions of the ward alliance budget allocation.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2024/25, in line with the guidance on spend.

10 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances (Nac.03.06.24/9)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 12 March 2024 and 9 April 2024; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 11 March 2024 and 17 April 2024; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 13 February 2024, 12 March 2024 and 9 April 2024; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 22 February 2024 and 4 April 2024.

Councillor Denton referred to the work undertaken by the Darton East Ward Alliance. The Community Summer Gala was scheduled to be held on 7 September 2024 in Mapplewell Park. Assistance would be required from K Lycett and T Dickinson to help deliver the event. A Health and Wellbeing event was scheduled to be held in November 2024, which would provide information and guidance on the winter months.

Councillor Howard referred to the work undertaken by the Darton West Ward Alliance. A meeting had been held with the Committee of Redbrook/Wilthorpe Community Centre to provide assistance in commencing a number of projects and to discuss the defibrillator which required new pads. It was noted that the pads cost £62 per set and had 4 year's battery life.

Councillor Newing referred to the work undertaken by the Old Town Ward Alliance. Following the sad passing of J Love, who had been a very valuable member of the Ward Alliance, work was underway to increase the membership. Friends of Wilthorpe Park had been presented with a service award, and two members of the group would attend the garden party at Buckingham Palace. A garden party would be held for everyone at Wilthorpe Park. It was envisaged that a community pantry would be open by the end of June 2024.

Councillor Wright referred to the work undertaken by St Helen's Ward Alliance. Plans were underway for the summer gala, which would take place on 6 July 2024, with attendance from many groups around the Ward to provide support on various aspects. Consideration had been given to flower plantation around the Ward. Councillors Wright and Leech had recently attended a meeting to discuss the Santa Sleigh, which would be built for the use and benefit of the borough.

R Adams expressed her thanks to the North Area Council for all their hard work and dedication over the past 10 years.

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

Chair