

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 8 February 2018
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

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

32 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

33 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 7th December, 2017 (PAC.08.02.2018/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th December, 2017.

Members received an update regarding the alley between Market Street and Market Place. The alley had been cleaned and spikes installed to deter birds. As this had not been successful, Pest Control would return and make changes to the placing of the spikes. It was noted that continued cleaning would be at a cost, but Members noted that this was important before high profile events such as the Tour De Yorkshire and Armed Forces Day.

Members discussed the high numbers accessing the DIAL service, and the possibility of implementing an appointment system. The Area Council Manager made Members aware that this was currently being discussed with the Manager at DIAL with the potential of implementing a system of half appointments and half drop in sessions.

With reference to the presentation on Affordable Housing, noted were the proposals currently being consulted on as part of the Local Plan process. It was noted that many of these sites were based in villages in the Penistone area. Members discussed the need to avoid sprawl, and to ensure that the infrastructure was appropriately supported through the planning gain process.

Members discussed the numbers of empty properties, and the efforts made to return these to the housing market, and also the target number of housing units to be built and how achievable this was. Members commented on the need to ensure that new developments had on site provision of affordable housing, acknowledging that smaller in-fill sites would not trigger the need for this to be provided through the planning process.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 7th December, 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

34 Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 30th November, 2017 and 11th January, 2018 (PAC.08.02.2018/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 30th November, 2017 and 11th January, 2018.

With regards to the 30th November, 2017 notes it was noted that action points from the Ward Alliance celebration event had been followed up.

In relation to the 11th January, 2018 notes it was noted that Springvale Community Garden were interested in maintaining a some of the planters, and that Neighbourhood Services had advised that there would be a cost to the removal of planters that were broken or no longer able to be maintained.

Members heard how the Police and Crime Commissioner was looking favourably on joining the Rural Crime Network. Members commented on the positive impact of the Police Station in Penistone being staffed again, rather than being serviced from one of the four hubs. It was noted that progress was being made on establishing a Barnsley wide community support volunteer programme, and that this could include volunteers for the Penistone area.

In relation to the Libraries Review, Members commented that consultation held local was well attended, which highlighted that high usage of the service. It was noted that wider public consultation was expected in the summer.

A brief update was provided in relation to Penistone Arts Week which was set to run 18th - 24th March, 2018. The Comedy Train from Huddersfield would be starting the proceedings on 18th March, 2018, rappers would be performing in Penistone Market Barn, and authors such as Willy Russell and Milly Johnson had been engaged.

Members received an update on the alehouse project, and plans to commemorate the end of the First World War on Armed Forces Day and on Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 30th November, 2017 and 11th January, 2018 be received.

35 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (PAC.08.02.2018/4)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. It was noted that, at the time of writing the report, £4,109.81 remained from an allocation of £40,000 for the year 2017/18.

Given the number of applications pending, it was acknowledged that the amount of finance to be carried forward at the end of the financial year was likely to be minimal.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

36 Performance Report (PAC.08.02.2018/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item making Members aware that the report covered quarter three of 2017/18. It was noted that the report did provide an update on the performance of the new contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, but that this did not cover the full quarter due to timing of the contract start.

The attention of Members was drawn to Part A of the report, which provided an overview of performance. It was noted that the number of jobs, apprentice placements and work experience placements taken up had increased, as had the number of clean and tidy activities involving businesses, and also the proportion of finance spent in the local area.

It was noted that the numbers of young people engaged had increased significantly, as had the number of new community groups supported and therefore correspondingly the number of volunteer hours recorded.

Consideration was then given to Part B of the report whereby an update was provided on the performance of each commissioned service, and also each project funded by the Working Together Fund.

The performance of Twiggs against the contract to provide a clean and tidy team was positive, with them being very proactive at the start of the contract, and a number of contacts had been made with local businesses and Parish Councils. Performance had been rated 'amber' within the report as no quarterly review had taken place at the time of writing the report, but which had since taken place satisfactorily.

The contract with Age UK had concluded its first year and a contract review meeting had been held. Moving forward it was hoped the commission would work more in localities, with campaigns such as 'Sloppy Slippers' being used as a way of engaging isolated in villages in the area.

Members received an update on the Penistone Youth Project, noting that there had been significant underspend which had led to the ability to continue delivering the project for a further quarter. Performance of this would be recorded appropriately.

Questions were raised with regards to community transport, and it was noted that the number of journeys under the volunteer car scheme had increased by 67, with word of mouth being thought to be the reason for its growth.

In relation to the local community bus scheme it was noted that the pilot had been extended through the Working Together Fund. The Area Council Manager had been in discussion with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive around the future of the service. As discussions were still ongoing, but as the pilot was due to conclude at the end of March, it was agreed that the Area Council Manager progresses discussions as soon as possible.

Members suggested that Age UK could promote access to online service for those who are isolated and vulnerable, especially in light of the impending closure of banks in the area. It was noted that the library did provide support for those accessing online banking, with a rolling programme of sessions arranged, and it was suggested that this could be promoted through Age UK, and through the Area Team.

Members discussed other ways of accessing banking services, such as through the telephone and Post Office. A suggestion was made for banks to be contacted to see whether they would be willing to promote their services such as online and telephone banking in the area, and to contact the Post Office for clarity around their offer.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Area Council Manager progresses discussion with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive with regards to the community bus scheme;
- (ii) That the Area Council Manager contacts relevant banks to see whether they would be available to promote their offer in the area;
- (iii) That the Area Council Manager contacts the Post Office to seek clarity around their offer; and
- (iv) That the report be received.

37 Procurement and Financial Update (PAC.08.02.2018/6)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, previously circulated. It was noted that the contract with Age UK to support isolated and vulnerable older people had officially been extended in October, 2017 to run for a further year 1st January, 2018 – 31st December, 2018. An update on progress would be provided later in the year. Members heard how the project was considering how it could make its efforts sustainable should future funding not be forthcoming.

The Working Together Fund was discussed and it was acknowledged that from a total budget of £202,038 the balance remaining for allocation stood at £33,856. A suggestion was made that this ought to remain allocated to the fund, with the Area Team launching a promotional campaign to raise interest.

A brief reminder was given in relation to the contracting arrangements with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, and it was agreed that a six month progress report would be presented to a future meeting of the Area Council.

Members were reminded of the previous decision to produce two further editions of the community magazine in 2018, which would be funded through advertising within the publication. Those present were asked to consider funding the distribution of the publication to every household in the area, at a cost of £3,362 for both editions. Some concerns were expressed regarding whether this provided value for money as there was only anecdotal evidence of how wide the publication was read. It was noted that officers in Communications were considering how this could be evidenced for each of the community magazines.

The Area Council Manager provided Members with an update of the financial situation of the Area Council. It was noted that in the financial year 2017/18 £5,157 remained unallocated. For 2018/19 £148,000 remained unallocated. However, taking into account the finance carried forward from 2017/18, and assuming the Clean and Tidy Contract was funded for a further year, and distribution of the community magazine was also funded, £51,788 remained within the 2018/19 budget

RESOLVED:-

- (i) The update on procured services be noted;
- (ii) The update on the Working Together Fund be noted;
- (iii) That the remaining Working Together Fund finance be carried forward to 2018/19 and a promotional campaign be delivered to attract new applicants;
- (iv) That a six month progress report on the Clean, Green and Tidy contract be presented to a future meeting of the Area Council.
- (v) The financial position of the Area Council be noted;

- (vi) That two further issues of the Community Magazine be distributed throughout the area at a cost of £3,362.

38 Tour De Yorkshire (PAC.08.02.2018/7)

The Community Development Officer for the Penistone Area was welcomed to the meeting, and gave a brief presentation on the current situation in relation to the Tour De Yorkshire.

It was noted that both men's and women's races would start outside the Town Hall in Barnsley, and that this would be the focal point of the race for many.

Members heard how only the men's race would pass through Penistone, and as the race went through more of the borough, it was possible that Penistone would not receive as many visitors as in previous years. In 2017 approximately 25,000 visited to watch the race, with an estimated economic benefit of approximately £538,000.

The race was expected to pass through Penistone in the middle of the afternoon, and it was noted that many local schools had arranged for their INSET days to coincide.

Roads would be closed in Barnsley Town Centre, but a rolling roadblock throughout the borough lasting approximately an hour was expected. Advance notice would be issued to ensure roads were clear of parked cars, and appropriate enforcement activity would take place if required.

Members heard of 'The Great Barnsley Bunt Off' which was happening in various venues across Barnsley, including an event in Penistone on Friday 23rd March, to prepare for the event.

With regards to the engagement of the public and businesses, it was noted that a number of roadshows had been planned, with one expected in the Penistone Area. Members stressed the need to engage community groups and business to replicate their efforts in the previous year, and it was noted that the lead in time was now shorter than previously.

It was noted that the Market Barn had been reserved for use on the day, but that final decisions had yet to be made about this. Suggestions were put forward regarding about having a screen to watch the race live, or market stall holders selling produce.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

39 Principal Towns Update (PAC.08.02.2018/8)

The Area Council Manager provided an update on the current position in relation to the Principal Towns Programme. Members were reminded that the programme was launched in 2017 and will run to March 2020. £5million was made available across the borough with minimum project sizes of £100,000 for Principal Towns and £50,000 for Local Centres. The finance was to encourage investment from the private sector and other funding sources to help ensure high streets thrive and communities are strong and resilient.

Members were reminded of the work undertaken by students from the University of Sheffield and the registration of interest submitted to the Commissioning Board, with a proposal suggesting a holistic programme of change to encourage the town as a tourist destination.

It was noted that the Commissioning Board had recently given approval for a feasibility study to draw up and cost proposals.

Members noted further consultation planned, including in the Market Barn and further engagement with businesses. As part of this a stakeholder event was planned to work with the appointed consultants to shape and scope the feasibility study. It was noted that the feasibility would include consideration of the planning of public areas, and of town centre car parking.

RESOLVED that the update be received and the progress made so far be praised.

Chair