

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 4 October 2018
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

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

19 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

20 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 19th July, 2018 (Pac.04.10.2018/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th July, 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 19th July, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

21 Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 26th July, and 6th September, 2018 (Pac.04.10.2018/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 26th July, and 6th September, 2018.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance meetings held on 26th July and 6th September, 2018 be received.

22 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.04.10.2018/4)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, reminding Members that at the Area Council meeting on 19th July, 2018 a further £20,000 had been devolved from Area Council budgets to the Ward Alliance Fund.

From a total allocation of £40,000, £13,980.54 remained to allocate. A number of applications have already been received to be considered at the next meeting of the Ward Alliance.

Members noted the review of the Ward Alliance Governance Framework which was ongoing, and discussed the possibility of devolving future Area Council finance to the Ward Alliance Fund to be prescribed for allocation to specific priority areas.

It was noted that preparations were being made for the Area Council to consider the Area Priorities in the near future, and that the Ward Alliance may also wish to do so.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

23 Interim Performance Report (Pac.04.10.2018/5)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, previously circulated. Members noted that the document was an interim report and therefore the statistics remained the same as quarter one, but with an updated narrative.

In relation to the performance against the contract held by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Members heard that the team had been proactive throughout the summer, working with businesses, schools and community groups. Members noted the improved promotion of regular volunteering opportunities.

Those present heard of the efforts being made to improve relationships with school and with Parish Councils in the area.

An update was given on the contract held by Age UK, with performance being positive. It was noted that more intense work with individuals was now taking place, and work was increasingly targeting outlying areas. Tankersley had been highlighted as an area with a concentration of loneliness and isolation and as a result a drop in session held over 4 weeks had been arranged.

Members noted the Winter Warmth event arranged to take place on 24th October, 2018 and the case study included as part of the report, which served to highlight the intergenerational benefits of the service.

The attention of Members was drawn to the performance information provided by Penistone Local Link. Members heard how the service had begun to promote volunteering, consult with residents and consider how the service may become more sustainable in the longer term. This included potentially extending the service to take shoppers to Fox Valley.

Members noted the brief update from Penistone Round Table regarding the Community Equipment Bank. Feedback was positive and the resource was used widely throughout the community. Members noted that there was an underspend, and it was advised that details of the proposed use of this will be taken back for decision to the Working together fund panel.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

24 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.04.10.2018/6)

Members were reminded of the previous decision to extend the contract with Age UK in to a second year and it was noted that the contract was now in the final quarter.

In considering how to respond to the learning from the service to support isolated and vulnerable older people, a previous meeting of the Area Council had agreed to establish a grant fund to support this demographic. Members noted that necessary documentation and appropriate arrangements for the grant fund were currently being developed and it would be operational by the end of October, 2018.

It was suggested that the fund would be targeted in the first instance, and would then be advertised more widely. It was hoped that the fund would enable collaboration between larger and smaller groups.

With regards to the Working Together Fund a total of £202,038 had been made available and £3,608 remained. It was noted that a further application could be forthcoming to extend advice services in the area. It was suggested that Members consider options to fund further advice provision in the area at the next meeting of the Area Council, which may include extension of the Working Together Fund.

The attention of Members was drawn to the financial overview provided, with £186,709 allocated from the 2018/19 budget, and £18,448 remaining. £57,171 had been allocated from the 2019/20 budget.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the updates, as contained within the report be noted;
- (ii) That the financial position of the Area Council be noted;
- (iii) That the next meeting of the Area Council considers options for providing advice services in the Area.

25 Safer Neighbourhood Service Update (Pac.04.10.2018/7)

Inspector Andrew Norton was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on the Safer Neighbourhood Service and their work in the area.

Members were reminded of the structure Members were previously briefed on, with a public service hub and locality based teams. The area was overseen by Inspector Norton, but with a team of PCs and PCSOs to support, working with Council officers to solve issues.

Those present heard of a number of significant incidents that had impacted on policing in recent weeks, but assurances were given that teams were now back to their normal working patterns.

Members heard how colleagues had worked with neighbouring authorities on the issue of cross border rural crime, and good practice had been shared.

The current focus of the service was on the dark nights period, with a phased approach being taken. A communication strategy had been developed and messages were being distributed through Police Alerts, Barnsley Chronicle, and work with schools with work being guided by South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Those present heard work had started to promote responsible retailing, with test purchases of items such as eggs, flour, and fireworks being undertaken. ASB offenders were being visited, as well as the victims of repeated ASB. Young people were being signposted to diversionary activities such as Cycle Penistone in the area and Crucial Crew further afield.

With intervention prior to the event, it was expected that issues would be minor and low level.

Members were reminded of the current PACT priorities, which included issues around the Market Barn, and on the Trans-Pennine Trail. Those present were encouraged to continue to supply intelligence. It was noted that intelligence and

opinions of residents were taken together with statistics to inform the response in the local area.

Members were made aware of the changes to the website, with direct contact details provided, crime analysis, and details of current PACT priorities.

Those present were encouraged to use 101 and online reporting to feed in intelligence, and Members were assured that many of the issues associated with the service had been resolved.

The balance between providing information directly to officers and central was noted, and online reporting was now being actively encouraged.

Encouraging volunteering was discussed and it was noted that neighbourhood watch is being well supported throughout the area, and work is being developed around community safety speedwatch. The complications involved in utilising volunteers in roles such as at the front desk of the Police Station were noted but it was suggested that volunteers were essential in engaging the community and communicating messages such as PACT priorities.

Noted was the need for officers to have a balance between being operational within the community and having a base, and Members noted that there were currently no plans to close the Police Station in Penistone.

Quarterly data was available, and Members heard that the number of repeat callers has now reduced in Penistone, and work was ongoing to ensure those calling with issues such as mental health problems were referred to appropriate agencies.

Members acknowledged the strength of feeling within rural areas with regards to cross border crime, with some farms, and outlying communities such as Ingbirchworth feeling vulnerable. Members supported the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Service officers in both responding to incidents and working to prevent crime where possible.

Members heard how organised crime groups did often target affluent areas, and these often were operational regionally or nationally, and South Yorkshire Police worked with relevant partners on this issue.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the update provided.

26 Section 106 Update (Pac.04.10.2018/8)

Paul Doherty, Group Leader for Planning, Building Control and Enforcement was welcomed to the meeting.

Members were reminded of the basis of Section 106 payments, which were related to mitigating the site specific impacts of developments. Payments can be levied against areas such as affordable housing, improving community facilities, improving local transport, highways and public rights of way, lessening the impact on the local area, and local employment and training strategies. Members were made aware of the three tests applied to the use of Section 106.

An example was given about how around £8,000 per unit could be levied as a contribution to the provision of education, and it was noted that this was proposed to be increased to around £16,000 following the adoption of the local plan.

The provision of Traffic Regulation Orders by using Section 106 finance was discussed, and it was noted that the recent application to the Section 106 panel to provide an order around The Green area had been unsuccessful.

Members noted that a Section 106 Panel met bi-monthly and had been established in order to oversee the strategic allocation of funds. The method used to score potential schemes in order to provide objectivity was also acknowledged, and Members requested that more detail be provided on this if possible.

The meeting discussed CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and the reasons why this had been considered, but had not been adopted in Barnsley.

Members were presented with an overview of project delivery in Penistone from 2014 to date with almost £1.3m being allocated. Also considered were projects in the pipeline, totalling in excess of £550,000. Comments were received on the finance allocated to Cannon Hall Park. Whilst it was noted that this was a well-used facility, and of strategic importance in Barnsley, Members discussed whether there could be more local mitigation against the loss of green space and increased pressure on amenities due to housing development.

Those present noted the finance currently available, and requested to be consulted on any schemes being put forward which utilised Section 106 finance generated by developments in the area. In addition Members felt that there were a number of schemes they were aware of that could be funded through the provision of S106 finance; including a potential project to expand the show ground area, and the provision of an interchange at Penistone railway station.

Members noted the difficulties in providing affordable housing in the area, with developers often referring to viability issues. It was noted that options such as purchasing empty homes to bring them back into circulation was an option that could be considered in lieu of provision of housing units on site.

RESOLVED

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation;
- (ii) That Members be consulted on the potential use of Section 106 finance related to the Penistone Area;
- (iii) That the Area Council schedules the item for discussion 2-3 times annually.

Chair