

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday, 28 November 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

	The Mayor (Councillor Markham)
Central Ward	- Councillors D. Birkinshaw and Bruff
Cudworth Ward	- Councillors Hayward and Houghton CBE
Darfield Ward	- Councillors Saunders and Smith
Darton East Ward	- Councillors Hunt and Spence
Darton West Ward	- Councillors A. Cave, T. Cave and Howard
Dearne North Ward	- Councillors Gardiner, Gollick and Phillips
Dearne South Ward	- Councillors Danforth, C. Johnson and Noble
Dodworth Ward	- Councillors P. Birkinshaw, Fielding and Wright
Hoyland Milton Ward	- Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe
Kingstone Ward	- Councillors Mitchell and Williams
Monk Bretton Ward	- Councillors Felton, Green and Richardson
North East Ward	- Councillors Cherryholme and Ennis OBE
Old Town Ward	- Councillors Lofts, Newing and Pickering
Penistone East Ward	- Councillors Barnard
Penistone West Ward	- Councillors Greenhough and David Griffin
Rockingham Ward	- Councillors Andrews BEM, Lamb and Sumner
Royston Ward	- Councillors Cheetham, Makinson and McCarthy
St. Helen's Ward	- Councillors Platts and Tattersall
Stairfoot Ward	- Councillors Bowler, Gillis and W. Johnson
Wombwell Ward	- Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Daniel Griffin
Worsbrough Ward	- Councillors Carr, Clarke and Lodge

142. Flooding in Barnsley and South Yorkshire

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton (Leader of the Council) asked if he could take the opportunity to comment on recent events in Barnsley and South Yorkshire around the recent floods in the area.

As Members were aware parts of Barnsley had been flooded as well as other areas around South Yorkshire and indeed further afield. He asked to place on record his sincere thanks first of all to all the Emergency Services for the work they had undertaken in ensuring that people remained safe. He then asked to record his thanks to the staff of the Authority, some of whom had worked virtually three days without sleep and who were on site with residents making sure that they were safe and assisting in ensuring that water was removed from premises, helping to clean up afterwards, making sure that they were financially secure in the immediate aftermath and then helping them to prepare for the future.

Staff had behaved in an exemplary manner as did many Members who also became engaged in their wards, supported the staff and supported the residents as well who all deserved credit for all that they had done.

Clearly, this had been a difficult issue for the Authority which would now be looking at not just the causes of the flooding but also how further improvements to flood defences could be made as well as learning the lessons from what had occurred and why. The good news was that the flooding this time had not been as bad as it had been in 2007, nevertheless, it was still bad for the people who had been affected. It was hoped, therefore, that in the future such events could be managed even better but, of course, that would require help from the government financially to support some of the activities that required to be undertaken.

The work that had been undertaken by Barnsley Council staff, the work that had been undertaken in some cases by volunteers and Members and been absolutely outstanding and what had been a difficult situation had been prevented from being something worse because of their actions so every Member in the Chamber this morning would agree with him in expressing sincere thanks to each and every person involved because on those days and beyond they did Barnsley proud. He also stated that in addition, some staff of the Authority had assisted colleagues and residents in both Rotherham and Doncaster so, on behalf of the whole Council and the people of Barnsley, he expressed thanks to each member of staff, Member and volunteer who had been involved in this exercise.

143. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items relating to Berneslai Homes in her capacity as a Berneslai Homes Board Member.

144. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September, 2019 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

145. Young Mayor of Barnsley

Mm Alyssa Butler, having been elected to the office of Young Mayor of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley duly made her declaration of office as required.

The Mayor, Councillor Markham, and Councillor Bruff (Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services) and Members of the Council congratulated Ms Butler on her appointment.

146. Communications

National Fostering Network Fostering Excellence Award

The Chief Executive was pleased to inform the Council that one of our own Foster Carers had recently been nominated for a National Fostering Network Fostering Excellence Award and had been awarded The Jon and Kathy Broad Award in recognition of his outstanding work in supporting Looked After Children and Young People with learning difficulties.

Rick Morris had been a Foster Carer with the Council for over a quarter of a century. For most of this period, Rick had fulfilled his role alongside his wife Chris, both of whom fostered over 64 children offering them a loving and caring home.

At the age of 72, Rick was a fantastic role model to those around him and especially the child he had looked after for 10 years. This child had an undiagnosed condition which had led to him having quadriplegia and unable to communicate verbally. Tragically when Rick had lost his beloved wife Chris to cancer, he had been determined that this child should remain living with him until the right placement and planned move could be made.

Rick's grand-daughter, Alicia Taylor, who nominated him for the Award had said:

'My grandad is disabled himself as a result of his time in the Army and working in the mines and I know it has been physically hard for him to give the boy the best life chances every day. But what isn't hard is the obvious love my grandad has for the young boy and the love the boy has back for him. He's my grandad and my inspiration, but he's been a grandad to many many more, giving hope and instilling happiness'

This child had now moved to a new foster placement by Rick was determined to stay in his life as a grandad figure, maintaining this consistent and caring relationship. This commitment was supported by everyone involved.

Rick Morris was in the Chamber this morning and the Chief Executive asked Members of the Council to join her in commending him for the deep commitment he had brought to foster care in the Borough, much of which had been alongside his wife, Chris, and to congratulate him on being given this national award in recognition of his achievement in caring for vulnerable children in care.

Councillor Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services in congratulating Rick Morris on this achievement stated that he had started fostering with his wife in 1993 and was one of Barnsley's longest standing foster carers. From 1993 to present Rick and his wife Chris had fostered over 60 children. In the early years they had fostered mostly younger children who either returned to their families or moved on to their adopted families. They had become highly skilled at helping children to make good moves and settle into their new homes. In 2007 they accepted a placement of a child who had significant disabilities and whilst the plan for this child was initially to adopt things didn't go quite to plan and he was still in Rick's care 12 years later.

Very sadly Chris passed away in 2014 but Rick remained committed to the child and to fostering and was such that he continued as a single carer supported by his friends and his adult children right up to this year. Tracy Ellis from Fostering Services had been Rick's support worker for many years and together they had been a formidable team in supporting vulnerable children in Barnsley.

Rich was a very modest man and was very quick to complement others and divert the attention from himself. His dedication and commitment to his last foster child and to the other children who had had the good fortune to find themselves in his care had been truly exceptional and Barnsley Children's Services were very pleased that he had been recognised at this national level and was very proud to have him as part of the team.

The Mayor also asked to place on record her own personal congratulations to Mr Morris on this achievement. She had had to pleasure of entertaining him in the Mayor's parlour and thanked him for being such an inspiration to everyone and for what he had done for the young people of Barnsley.

147. Statutory Polling District and Place Review 2019

The report of the Executive Director Core Services on the final proposals arising from a Review of Polling Districts and Polling Station provision as required under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 was:

Moved by Councillor Andrews BEM – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the polling districts and places listed in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be designated as required for all Parliamentary and Local Elections; and
- (ii) that the Returning Officer be empowered to make any enforced changes to this schedule as required if buildings become unavailable in consultation with the Elected Members for the affected wards until the next statutory review.

148. Annual Report of the Care4Us Council (2018/19) (Cab.13.11.2019/6)

The report of the Executive Director (People) was presented by Joel Besau and Harmony Marriott in their capacity as representatives of the Care4Us Council.

Moved by Councillor Bruff – Seconded by Councillor Saunders; and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the contribution of the Care4Us Council in enabling the voice of children in care and care leavers to be heard and acted upon during the planning and commissioning of services aimed at meeting their needs, as detailed in the Annual Report for 2018/19, be noted; and

- (ii) that the Annual Report of the Care4Us Council be received and noted as part of the Council's commitment to supporting the needs of children in care and care leavers, as corporate parent.

The Mayor and Members of the Council thanked Joel Besau and Harmony Marriott be thanked for attending the meeting and for presenting the report.

149. Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents/Planning Advice Notes (Round 2) (Cab.13.11.2019/9)

Moved by Councillor Cheetham – Seconded by Councillor Frost; and

RESOLVED that the report be approved and the Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Advice Notes as detailed within the report now submitted by adopted.

150. Appointments to Regulatory Boards and Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the following changes be made to the bodies indicated for the remainder of the Municipal Year:

General Licensing Regulatory Board

Councillors Noble and McCarthy

Planning Regulatory Board

Delete Councillor Pickering
Add Councillor Green

Barnsley Magistrates Court Liquor Licensing Forum

Councillor Noble

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Tattersall

151. Audit Committee - 11th September, 2019

Moved by Councillor Richardson - Seconded by Councillor Lofts; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on the 11th September, 2019 be received.

152. Planning Regulatory Board - 24th September, 2019

Moved by Councillor D. Birkinshaw - Seconded by Councillor Richardson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on the 24th September, 2019 be received.

153. Planning Regulatory Board - 22nd October, 2019

Moved by Councillor D. Birkinshaw - Seconded by Councillor Richardson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on the 22nd October, 2019 be received.

154. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 23rd October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Tattersall – Seconded by Councillor Green; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel meeting held on the 23rd October, 2019 be received.

155. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 23rd October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Tattersall – Seconded by Councillor Green; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board held on the 23rd October, 2019 be received.

156. General Licensing Panel - Various

Moved by Councillor Tattersall – Seconded by Councillor Green; and

RESOLVED that the details of the various Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board Panels held in the last cycle of meetings together with their decisions be received.

157. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various

Moved by Councillor Shepherd – Seconded by Councillor Makinson; and

RESOLVED that the details of the various Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board Panels held in the last cycle of meetings together with their decisions be received.

158. Health and Wellbeing Board - 8th October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Platts; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Health and Well Being Board held on the 8th October, 2019 be received.

159. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Thriving and Vibrant Economy) - 1st October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor W Johnson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Thriving and Vibrant Economy Work Stream) held on the 1st October, 2019 be received.

160. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (People Achieving their Potential) - 5th November, 2019

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor W Johnson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (People Achieving their Potential Work Stream) held on the 5th November, 2019 be received.

161. North Area Council - 16th September, 2019

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor T Cave; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on the 16th September, 2019 be received.

162. North East Area Council - 19th September, 2019

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor Richardson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on xx be received.

163. Central Area Council - 30th September, 2019

Moved by Councillor W Johnson - Seconded by Councillor Wright; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on the 30th September, 2019 be received.

164. Dearne Area Council - 30th September, 2019

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by Councillor Gardiner; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on the 30th September, 2019 be received.

165. Penistone Area Council - 3rd October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by Councillor David Griffin; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on the 3rd October, 2019 be received.

166. South Area Council - 25th October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Daniel Griffin - Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on the 25th October, 2019 be received.

167. Cabinet Meeting - 18th September, 2019

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 18th September, 2019 be received.

168. Cabinet Meeting - 2nd October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 2nd October, 2019 be received.

169. Cabinet Meeting - 16th October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 16th October, 2019 be received.

170. Cabinet Meeting - 30th October, 2019

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 30th October, 2019 be received.

171. Cabinet Meeting - 13th November, 2019

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 13th November, 2019 be received.

172. Questions relating to Joint Authority, Police and Crime Panel and Combined Authority Business

The Chief Executive reported that she had received no questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

173. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (Draft) - 12th September, 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

174. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 16th September, 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

175. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board - 23rd September, 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

176. Questions by Elected Members

The Chief Executive reported that she had received a number of questions from Elected in accordance with Standing Order No. 11.

Note: A maximum of 30 minutes was allocated for this item in accordance with Standing Order No 11(2)(d).

(a) Councillor Lodge

'What is being done to tackle fuel poverty across the Borough?'

Councillor Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Regeneration and Culture) thanked Councillor Lodge for his most timely question in view of the fact that tomorrow was the Barnsley Fuel Poverty Awareness Day and which gave him the opportunity to remind Members of all the different ways the Authority could assist residents who were having difficulty meeting their fuel bills.

There were a number of causes for fuel poverty as it was not simply a case of having a low income and high fuel costs. Fuel poverty was caused by a combination of factors:

- Energy inefficient housing due to the housing construction type and location; poor insulation and energy inefficient heating in which the Council aimed to intervene via improvements in insulation or heating
- Low household income - the Council aimed to maximise the income of residents; and
- Costs of energy which were influenced by the availability of different fuels, tariffs and payment options. The Council also provided support in that area too

He then referred to some of the major schemes in which the Council was involved:

- Affordable warmth and Energy Efficiency Schemes – the Council currently had a number of schemes which aimed to support fuel poor households in the private housing sector by improving the energy efficiency of the home and increasing the household's income and reduce the costs of paying for heating
 - Barnsley was a member of the Better Homes Yorkshire Programme established in partnership with ten other local authorities in the Leeds City Region in 2015. This scheme was available for owners of homes and private sector tenants; through this, almost 400 private sector properties had received measures including gas central heating, boiler replacements or insulation upgrades in the last couple of years

- The Council had secured funding for 123 first time gas central heating systems over two years of around £250,000 to run an affordable warmth programme which targeted support at low income households with health conditions living in the least energy efficient homes
- The Council had also secured funding from other sources including Npower, ECO and other grants on a case by case basis and judged on different criteria
- Support was available to all residents to reduce the cost of their energy
 - The Council also tried to intervene by offering an energy tariff for domestic properties to reduce the costs of energy in the home. The Barnsley Energy Tariff had been launched in 2018-19 in partnership with Great North Energy. As well as offering 100% renewable electricity, the tariff aimed to tackle fuel poverty by fairer, competitive and more transparent energy deals and proactively encouraging customers to switch away from more expensive prepayment meters. So far 917 residents had switched
 - The Council had commissioned a specialist Warm Homes and Hospital Discharge service with trained advice workers who provided short term support to residents in their own homes with the aim of addressing fuel poverty and cold homes. The Team helped residents with energy price comparison, explained energy bills and demonstrated how to adjust heating controls, provided advice around energy discounts and debts, income maximisation, checked energy efficiency of homes and the eligibility for funding towards energy efficiency measures. The service had extensive referral pathways to ensure that residents could access a range of other services which may benefit them
 - There were, of course, other works being undertaken and an example of this was the North Area Council which had commissioned the disability charity DIAL to run a warm homes and social isolation service to residents in its area
- The Council did not work in isolation of course and one of its chief partners Berneslai Homes had Domestic Energy Efficiency as one of its objectives. Their aim was to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's Housing Stock making them cheaper to heat and to reduce carbon emissions. As a result, the Berneslai Homes Board had introduced their 'Low Carbon Strategy'.

Almost all of the Berneslai Homes housing stock fell into the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band ratings C and D, with a very small percentage of the stock above and below this level. The national average in England and Wales was band D. All stock had double glazing, cavity wall insulation (where possible) and a good level of loft insulation.

Projects that could be implemented to raise the EPC rating of properties included:

- Cavity wall and loft insulation upgrades to 30mm, as well as installing double glazing to windows and doors. Each year Berneslai Homes invested in the 'maintaining the home standard' and around 1,000 to 2,000 dwellings had these measures applied each year
- Using high efficiency condensing boilers and heating systems by replacing existing systems with high efficiency condensing gas boilers, easy to use controls and thermostatic radiator valves would save tenants residing in a semi-detached property of £105 per annum. This

would help reduce fuel poverty in the borough and in addition, more efficient boilers would also emit less CO2 because they burned less gas

- Reducing the reliance on Fossil Fuels for Domestic Heating was also a key priority. Air Source Heat Pumps had been rolled out across larger properties in the housing stock. These were renewable sources of heat and could be used to replace gas powered heating. This was supported by government strategies which envisaged an end to gas central heating by 2025 in new properties; although no date had yet been announced for the replacement systems in existing dwellings. Bernesali Homes was also currently working jointly with the Council on the feasibility of heat pump technology using mine water and was trailing the use of batteries within domestic properties. The Council also currently had 700 domestic properties fitted with solar PV rooftop solar panels.

Councillor Lodge then asked as a supplementary question if the Cabinet Spokesperson would commit to supporting National Energy Acton's recommendations to reduce energy supplier threshold obligations for the Winter Home Discount which currently included Robin Hood Energy who excluded the Broader Group'

Councillor Cheetham in response stated that he would certainly ask officers to consider this request.

(b) Councillor Barnard

'In view of the flooding recently experienced will the Cabinet Spokesperson ask the Environment Agency to return to the old practice of dredging rivers and water courses?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Barnard for his timely question and responded by stating that given the immediacy of the flooding it wouldn't be prudent to comment on whether the dredging of rivers and water courses would or wouldn't have had a beneficial effect in Barnsley. The question may well be part of a more formal review of the recent flooding across South Yorkshire and particularly here in Barnsley and was subject to legislation including the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 and the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Following the flooding events in 2007, the Council had invested more than £1m in improvement and maintenance works and successfully secured an additional £1.2m of external funding to further enhance the Annual Drainage Maintenance Budget.

Improvement and maintenance works that had been undertaken included:

- Rebuilding of flood defence walls and river channel clearance on the River Dearne at Darton. As could be seen, this had had a very beneficial effect and had prevented the dreadful situation that had occurred in 2007
- Dredging and silt removal in the river Dove and Worsbrough, Wombell and Darfield – again to good effect
- Property Level Flood Protection schemes at Lundwood, Darfield Bridge and Bolton on Dearne

- Watercourse (streams etc.) clearance works at Carlton, Wombwell, Hoyland, Royston, Worsbrough and Darfield; and
- Various small flood prevention and improvement schemes across the borough

Members should note that the responsibility for carrying out improvement and maintenance activities across the waterway network was the responsibility of various bodies and not just the Council. Watercourses designated as 'Main River' (River Dearne, Don and part of the River Dove) were administered by the Environment Agency. Other watercourses in the borough were classified as 'ordinary watercourses' and were the responsibility of the relevant land owner (the Riparian Owner) and were administered by the Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority. The borough also had an area that fell under the responsibility of the Danvum Drainage Commissioners Internal Drainage Board and this included particular areas of Cudworth, Darfield, Wombwell and Broomhill. Danvum were also responsible for Water Level management within their area and took on certain responsibilities of the lead Local Flood Authority.

It was interesting to note that river levels experience within the borough approximately three weeks ago were some of the highest seen since 2007 with the river Dearne at Goldthorpe reaching 2.23m and the River Dearne at Grange Lane reaching 3.83m which was higher than 2007 and the highest ever recorded at this location.

With regard to the specific practice of dredging, the Environment Agency had said '*as part of our maintenance schedule, we consider each location carefully and do it where we know it will make a difference. Understanding where dredging will and won't reduce flood risk is key and taken on a case by case basis. It must show clear benefits within the watercourse and overall catchment*'.

It was worthy on noting that over the coming months the Authority had set aside £500,000 of additional funding in order that that could be spent on the clearing and repairing of gulleys which would also have a beneficial effect in terms of preventing flooding.

Members should also note that senior officers of the authority were in regular communication with the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, the Internal Drainage Board, the South Yorkshire Resilience Forum, DEFRA and Sheffield City Region with regard to better understanding the local context of why the recent flooding events occurred and what additional mitigations were necessary to better protect the borough in the future.

From a political perspective he now regularly attended the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the South Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership accompanied by one of the Authority's professional Officers. He was quite certain, however, that behind Councillor Barnard's question was a real concern for those residents and businesses that had suffered as a result of the flooding a month or so ago.

He then went on to outline the mitigations that had been put in place for those residents of the borough:

- An emergency payout of up to £250 was available for essential items such as clothes, food and heating and once processed payments were available within 24 hours
- Council Tax Relief was provided for up to three months where homes had been damaged and if businesses that couldn't trade could also claim business rate relief for up to three months
- Additional flood relieve grants were available for £100 from the South Yorkshire Disaster Relief Fund
- The Community Recovery Grant was payable of up to £500 from the Government for each household affected by flooding

Officers made all residents and businesses affected by the flooding aware of the availability of such assistance and he understood that many of those payments had already been made.

Finally he would like to conclude, following on from the Leader's comments at the start of the meeting, by extending a massive vote of thanks to all staff who worked tirelessly day and night to ensure that the effects of flooding were minimised and that those affected were properly cared for in a way that the Council would expect.

In thanking the Cabinet Spokesperson for his response, Councillor Barnard also echoed the comments made by thanking all the staff and emergency services for the work they had undertaken in assisting residents and businesses. He commented that as the Cabinet Spokesperson had not ruled out dredging (and indeed some had already been done in the borough) if he would remind the Environment Agency that dredging had been a very successful means of countering flooding for hundreds if not thousands of years.

Councillor Lamb responded by stating that he sat on a number of regional and sub regional bodies at which the Environment Agency attended and he would make it a personal task of his to ask those questions and to then the appropriate answers from the professionals and provide a response for Councillor Barnard.

(c) Councillor David Griffin

'Could the Cabinet Spokesperson please explain what measures are being taken to ensure that roads keep moving and residents are safe on the roads during the forthcoming winter period?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Griffin for his question and responded by stating that all Members of the Council would appreciate that winter was one of the most challenging times of the year for the Highways Service. Notwithstanding the potential for severe weather events to disrupt the local road network, there was the general increase in commuter numbers due to the festive period and the continued pressure for the Teams to deliver the core maintenance and repair programmes across the borough.

However, as was the norm for the Highways department, preparations had taken place for this year's winter period and he could confirm the following key measures were in place to try to ensure that the road network was safe and free flowing this winter:

- The 3 Winter Service Co-ordinators were active and would be monitoring road temperature data 24/7 for the duration of the 24 week Winter Service Period
- The Winter Service Standby Team, consisting of 54 operatives had been mobilised and was available to be deployed 24/7 for the duration of the Winter Service Period
- The Neighbourhood Service Teams had also been mobilised to assist in snow clearance should the Snow Plan be activated
- The fleet of 12 demountable 'gritters' and 2 permanent bodied 'gritters' had been serviced, prepped and calibrated
- The two main salt domes at Smithies Depot and Penistone Depot had been filled to capacity, 12,000t in total. To date the Authority had used 225t of grit salt leaving 98% of the reserves. Members may be interested to know that in a mild winter, akin to last year, the Authority had used around 3,400t of grit salt so the current stock levels were more than adequate for the anticipated needs
- The approach, when poor weather arrived, was to focus resources on the Primary Routes – these were the main roads which linked the key community and public assets including primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, key bus routes, the transport interchange, the hospital, South Yorkshire Fire assets, South Yorkshire Police assets and the Yorkshire Ambulance assets
- The network of 540 local grit bins had been filled and were ready to be used by residents
- In order to keep local residents and businesses informed there was a proactive Communications Plan utilising the Council's Facebook page, the @BarnsleyHighway Twitter account, including the #SYGrit tag which was used by all South Yorkshire Authorities for key winter messages
- 127 of the busiest roads would be embargoed from road works from the 27th November, 2019 to 1st January 2020 which meant that no disruptive utility maintenance work would take place during this period.

A full list of the measures taken could be made available to any member who required it.

It had also been decided to extend the winter service period this year by an additional 2 weeks following the long range predictions coming from the Met Office.

Members should be re-assured that the pre-winter preparations were in place and that the teams were now ready to be deployed at any time from now until the 4th April, 2020.

Councillor David Griffin thanked the Cabinet Spokesperson for his comprehensive response and as a supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Spokesperson could confirm that all the estate grit bins in his Ward had been topped up ready for the winter season and secondly, given that there were a number of newer estates in Penistone since the introduction of the Local Plan (with more planned) if he could confirm how grit bins were placed on completed developments or whether this just happened as a matter of course once it was handed over.

Councillor Lamb responded by stating that all of the existing grit bins had been topped up. One thing he would say to all residents and to Members for them to remind residents to use the grit from those bins in the correct manner for roads in the

immediate vicinity of those bins. In relation to the second part of the question he noted that Councillor Griffin had been a great supporter of the Local Plan particularly as it related to the development of new houses for people who didn't want to move out of the area they were from. The location of new grit bins in these areas was dependent upon the gradient of the road and also based on the number of elderly people living in the locality, the presence of homes for the elderly or sheltered accommodation. These principles were applied for all new developments and in the event of them meeting the stipulated criteria, bins would automatically be provided.

(d) Councillor Makinson

'What dedicated support exists in Barnsley to help victims of domestic abuse?'

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities thanked Councillor Makinson for her question and stated that the Communities Directorate commissioned a service through an organisation called Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) to support victims of domestic abuse. The Service included refuge accommodation, independent advocacy and outreach support as well as a Respect Young Person's Programme. More information on Barnsley Services was available through the IDAS website.

Communities also commissioned a domestic violence perpetrator service in partnership with the other three authorities in South Yorkshire. The 'Inspire to Change' programme had been designed to help participants learn new skills and find ways to manage and control their abusive behaviour.

In addition, from April next year the borough would have a new women's centre which would be located somewhere within the Dearne Valley area and run by IDAS. The centre would be a dedicated space where victims of domestic violence could go to receive support and advice. There would also be four new two bedroomed properties that would be used for women leaving prison who were victims of domestic abuse. These were to help prevent women having to return to abusive situations. Women referred to these properties would receive support to help them live independently and help break the cycle of abuse.

Councillor Makinson asked, as a supplementary question whether the Women's Refuge Centre would be residential centre.

Councillor Platts responded by stating that this would not be a residential centre. The four properties referred to above would be used for people leaving prison, however, the refuge centre would act as a drop in centre where people could go as often as required for appropriate support.

(e) Councillor T Cave

'Will there be any electric car charging points outside the town centre?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Cave for his question.

As Members would be aware, the Authority, as part of its ambitions to be carbon neutral had set aside an initial £100,000 for an EV charging project which aimed to install 45 dual charge points (capable of charging up to 90 vehicles) at public car-

park locations throughout the Borough including the Town Centre, Barnsley Premier Leisure sites and in each of the Principal Towns.

A total of 27 dual charge points (around 60% of the total) were expected to be installed outside the Town Centre.

The Authority was currently procuring a service provider and would be looking to appoint in December for an initial contract period of 5 years.

This was the first phase of the public EV charge point provision and additional chargers could be installed to meet additional demand as part of the contract. The Authority was also currently in the process of agreeing a lease to install a rapid charge point in Shrewsbury Road public car-park in Penistone which would be the first rapid charge point provided in a Council car-park.. This charge point was being provided by Highways England.

Councillor Cave thanked Councillor Lamb for his comprehensive introductory report about the really practical developments to help in tackling climate change and he then asked as a supplementary question if there had been any specific challenges to further development of the scheme.

Councillor Lamb stated that one issue immediately sprung to mind in relation to many of the streets with the borough particularly within the town centre where there were streets of terraced houses where residents didn't have off street parking and, therefore, no means of running a charge cable from their home to their vehicle. The Authority was aware of these types of challenges and he, together with his professional officers, were looking at such matters. These types of issues would be factored into all of the considerations as the project was taken forward. This was, of course, an issue not just for Barnsley but also for every town and city across the country.

177. Questions by Members of the Public

The Council received three written questions received from Members of the Public together with responses provided by the appropriate Cabinet Spokesperson/Chair of Regulatory Board/Committee.

In closing the meeting, the Mayor referred to the Christmas Karaoke held last night to raise funds for her chosen charities. Over £1,100 had been raised and it had been a fantastic evening for all who had attended. Thanks went to Councillor W Johnson for organising the event, to the Mayoral, FM and catering staff who had worked so hard and to all staff who had attended. Special thanks were also extended to Francis Brankin (Security Officer) who had won the Karaoke Competition and had donated the £100 prize money to the nominated charities. The Mayor also asked to place on record her thanks (and thanks of all Members) to the fantastic staff who worked so hard and tirelessly for the Authority and on behalf of the Barnsley residents.

In closing the meeting the Mayor reminded all Members that the Christmas Lights switch on was tonight weather permitting.

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Chair