

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 8 April 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Greenhough, Hand-Davis, Kitching and Wilson

16 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

17 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 11th February, 2021 (Pac.08.04.2021/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th February, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 11th February, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

18 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th March, 2021 (Pac.08.04.2021/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th March, 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th March, 2021 be received.

19 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.08.04.2021/4)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, drawing attention to the significant amount of carry over funds that had come into the 2020/21 budget of £16,970 together with a covid income of £1,277.40 and the base allocation of £20,000 which gave a total of £38,247.45. It was reported that whilst there had been a slow start to Groups coming forward for funding this had grown momentum which had resulted in £6925 being carried forward into the 2021/22 budget. This was hailed as a tremendous success given the difficult year everyone had endured.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

20 Interim Performance Update (Pac.08.04.2021/5)

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of performance, which included all contracted services and made members aware that they were between quarters and expecting the Quarter 4 update at the June meeting.

A reminder was provided to Members to inform them that the contracts in place for the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People grants were due to finish in June and that a new specification was being drawn up for that. The Clean Green and Tidy Service had moved into its' second year following member approval at the last PAC meeting. The new DIAL contract had commenced but no updates were due until the June meeting of PAC and the CAB debts advice service was in place until September with a 6 month extension to the contract funded by financial hardship monies to take it to end of March 2022.

Members were informed that Age UK had undertaken a number of initiatives including working in collaboration with Wortley Golf Club to provide 244 meals to older people across the area which had been picked up by the local news. Age UK had also linked in to Barnsley Walking Development Group and had met via Microsoft Teams to discuss extending their walks to older people in other areas after the 12th April, as the Walk for Health Group in Silkstone had been a success before it had been suspended due to lockdown rules. The work Age UK have been doing to link up with Wentworth Castle Garden had been suspended but plans were in place to open the site up with some long and short routes around the gardens plus logistical arrangements around available transport such as Community Car Scheme or Dial-a-Ride minibus to aid older visitors in getting there.

Volunteers had continued to support service users, some visiting in gardens where possible and providing delivery of meals, plus delivery of some Activities at Home packs to help keep people occupied. Members were informed that Karen Tyas from Café Crème had been given a Barnsley Age Friendly Award for her support to the local community during the pandemic. Working with the area team and volunteers Age UK delivered 90 Winter Wellbeing packs to older people in the Penistone area. Age UK had been trialling a new app called Volunteero which was a volunteer management tool to allow a more efficient way of managing volunteer activity and interactions. A significant increase in falls had been reported due to lack of mobility and a decrease in taking part in activities due to the lockdown, this had been targeted in a leaflet included in the Winter Warmth pack around exercising at home.

Twiggs were commended for finding alternative ways of working with volunteers during the lockdown such as training over the telephone or online. A significant increase in volunteers for litter picking had been seen not only across the Penistone Area but throughout the borough. Funding from the Ward Alliance had provided an equipment tool bank which was proving invaluable and extremely popular.

Other initiatives included tree planting in Thurgoland, incredible edible beds in various locations and planning for future events such as Cawthorne Spring Clean and various litter picks. Members were also informed that Twiggs had been donated Easter Eggs from Tesco, Co-op Asda and Spar which they had given out to the volunteers who had given their time for litter picking.

In respect of the DIAL contract, whilst there were no new figures to report since the Quarter 3 report in January, it was reported that there had been and continued to be a large uptake in their advice and information service since lockdown began. It was reported that their online and telephone advice sessions would continue until it was safe to hold one to one sessions once again.

An update was provided on the works carried out by the Area Team including some extensive work around re-mapping of all the Community Groups in the area and work to contact the groups to discuss recovery steps and forward planning for coming out of the pandemic.

The Area Team have worked to promote the Supporting Young People's grant fund within the Penistone networks to which they had received 9 enquiries at the time of the meeting, with a good variety of potential projects. Discussions had been held with a voluntary sector service to provide free accredited training in support of young people's mental health with future funded projects that would be engaging with Young people. The Area Team had been volunteering during the Easter Holidays in the Borough wide initiative to provide food and activities for families who receive free school meals. Lessons learnt from the initiative were that food parcels were heavy so a review would be needed in time for planning for the next school holidays.

Members were informed that the Area Team had also helped with distribution of winter warmth packs, provided support to Twiggs in securing additional volunteers equipment bank and also with Neighbourhood Services to ensure a smoother process for volunteers. The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, Rana Kubesi continued to work closely with the Public Health Team to ensure support around Covid guidelines continued in the Penistone Community. Work is progressing on the Principal Towns Programme for Penistone with site visits looking for locations for way finding and public art spaces. Members noted that a new Project officer had been working with the Team to refresh and re-design the social media platforms hoping to attract a wider audience, and that this was an ongoing piece of work.

RESOLVED that the report be received and that thanks be placed on record for all the hard work the volunteers and Groups had carried out.

21 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.08.04.2021/6)

The Area Manager spoke to the item, reminding members that the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Fund's current contract was due to end in June, 2021 after an agreed extension and that the procurement process was being developed.

The Working Together Fund was still available with previous contracts awarded to DIAL and CAB, it was reported that Penistone FM would be encouraged to resubmit an application for a project around supporting young people in the Penistone Area. Members noted there was £42,776 left in the fund and the Area Team would continue to promote this to encourage further applications.

Members were informed that the Supporting Young People Grant was now available and had received a good level of interest. The closing date for applications was 8th April and a Panel would be convened to determine the grant applications with an update to be provided on the successful projects at the next meeting of the Area Council.

The Clean Green and Tidy Service providers Twiggs would be invited to attend the June meeting of the Area Council to provide members with a full report and update of the service in light of members agreement to fund the second year of their contract.

Members were provided with an overview of the current financial position. It was noted that no further spend had been allocated after the previous Area Council meeting resulting in £15,225 being carried forward from the 2020/21 budget, together with the Penistone Area Council budget allocation of £200,000 giving a total of £215,225 for the 2021/22 budget. Members noted that the spend to date from the 2021/22 budget was the Twiggs contract at £100,000 leaving £115,225.

Members attention was drawn to a previous allocation from the budget of £3,000 for 2 publications of the Penistone Living Magazine. Only one publication had been produced in the year which left around £1500 to be spent. Members were informed that the Barnsley Chronicle had been in contact about an insert in the paper for the Penistone Area to promote what was happening in and around the area, what activities may be going ahead, plus the chance to promote businesses re-opening which would cost around £800. Members expressed their interest as the money had already been allocated plus it would be positive promotion of the area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the update on procurement activity be received;
- (ii) that the update on contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant fund be noted;
- (iii) that the proposed grant procurement timeline to establish future provision to support vulnerable and isolated older people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted;
- (iv) that the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be noted;
- (v) that the update on ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Fund to establish specific activities that will support young people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted;
- (vi) that the updates on the Clean and Tidy Contract, started in April 2020, be noted;
- (vii) that the Area Council Manager investigate the publicity opportunities utilising funds partially allocated in the previous year; and
- (vii) that the financial position for the 2021/22 budget be noted.

22 The Economy in Penistone (Pac.08.04.2021/7)

Chris Savage, Project Manager Markets and Town Centres, was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on the Economy in Penistone.

Members heard how in terms of business support, teams were working collaboratively with Enterprising Barnsley, Public Health and Regulatory Services to ensure businesses get the support they need in order to keep trading through lockdown, to reopen on 12th April or 17th May and to help support business recovery.

Members were informed that Penistone Market had continued to trade throughout lockdown with a number of Traders supplying essential goods with a regular presence from Town Centre Ambassadors tasked with encouraging shopping safely and local and weekly visits from a Covid Development Officer, both activities provided from the Reopening High streets Safely Fund. A Business Boost Skills Programme had been run by online workshops and one to one sessions and had been well attended by businesses such as retailers, close contact services and pubs and hospitality. Grants had been distributed by Enterprising Barnsley.

Those present heard how Covid Development Officers had engaged with businesses face to face to advise on covid secure measures, marketing and running click and collect services safely plus referring any queries to Licensing, Regulatory Services and Public Health in order to act as a one stop shop.

In relation to reopening of services on 12th April and 17th May, members were informed that Penistone Market would be fully open from Thursday 15th April and the weekly Covid Development Officer visits would continue, support would be provided to Public Health in visiting pubs and bars and refreshed guidance would be provided for close contact services, hospitality, licensed premises and retail. Members were informed of a Consumer Confidence Campaign funded by the Reopening High Street Safely Fund with a key message around getting Penistone back in business. Adverts would be on buses, bus shelters and flags on street lighting as well as business having a reopening back to encourage people to come back to shopping in a safe manner.

Members were made aware of several initiatives business could get involved in such as the Barnsley Gift Card, MiRewards, Yoello, ShopAppy, all of which are free for business to sign up to. The Barnsley Business Boost Programme is to return, the Shop Front Scheme run by Principal Towns is still active and Skills workshops will be run by Enterprising Barnsley.

Members raised questions around receipt of government funding towards this initiative and were informed that the Covid Development Officer, Town Centre Ambassador and Consumer Confidence Campaign were funded through the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund which is ERDF and NHCLG funded and is Borough wide.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and that its contents be noted.

23 Covid-19 Update (Pac.08.04.2021/8)

Lucy Butcher, Public Health Practitioner and Rana Alkubesi, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer were welcomed to the Meeting.

Members were provided with a written progress update in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and were invited to ask questions either through the meeting or by direct contact. No questions were raised during the meeting.

Work continued in the Community by the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer in collaboration with Public Health in providing support and help to all Businesses in understanding the new guidelines. 37 licenced premises had been contacted around opening on the 12th April, with 11 visits made, more visits were planned in order to

support these business to open safely on 12th April and that contact would be made with those premises planning to open on 17th May in the coming weeks.

Work was being carried out with the Area Teams in contacting Community groups to aid them restarting safely in Covid guidelines. Support was provided to the Healthy Holiday and Food Programme with packaging and distribution of parcels and planning to identify the most in need groups. In respect of Group gatherings members were informed that they could report this to the NEO's who would contact Covid Marshalls to investigate.

Members commented that the ongoing work was vital to everything opening back up safely.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the report and its contents noted.

Chair