

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 22 July 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Reception Room and Room 2, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

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

8 **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

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

9 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 3rd June, 2021 (Pac.22.07.2021/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd June, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 3rd June, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

10 **Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 1st July, 2021 (Pac.22.07.2021/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meeting held on 1st July, 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 1st July, 2021 be received.

11 **Section 106 - Laura Sharman (Pac.22.07.2021/4)**

Laura Sharman, S106 Programme Manager was welcomed to the meeting to give an overview of what the Section 106 obligations were and the monies available and due in the future for the Penistone area.

Members were reminded of the basis of Section 106 payments through planning obligations which included affordable housing, education, public open space and sustainable transport. Members were informed that the sustainable transport criteria had been adopted in 2019 resulting in the monies from that criteria would be seen in the near future and that those monies were charged in addition to other S106 funds and not taken out of the original 3 criteria.

Members were informed about the process for spending S106 financial contributions and that once signed, it came into effect if the planning permissions was implemented and reached the trigger point for payments such as commencement on

site or just prior to occupation and that it is registered as a land ensuring that any future land owners would be obligated to pay until the terms were met.

Members questioned what affordable housing. They were informed that it could be either the purchase of land in order for the Council to build new affordable housing or the purchase of empty properties for Berneslai Homes to rent out.

Members spoke of their previous concerns around S106 monies being accumulated through developments in the area which were then placed in a Borough wide pot and spent elsewhere. They were reassured that this was no longer the case and that any monies accumulated through agreements in the Penistone Area would be allocated and spent in the Penistone Wards.

Members were provided with an update on the Section 106 monies that had been spent in the area under each of the 4 criteria and the future agreements that had been signed but had not been implemented at the time of the meeting.

Concerns were raised around the monies made available to fund schools places, members stated that whilst this was welcome, the schools around Penistone were full to capacity and that the buildings could not physically take further children by expanding as they do not have the space. They were also concerned that further building of houses in the area would result in the radius for school allocations to shrink resulting in children that technically lived in the area for Penistone schools to not receive places and them having to travel further afield having a knock on effect on other schools in the Borough such as Horizon, Darton and Kirk Balk.

A verbal update was provided on the 400 property Wellhouse Lane Development which had been agreed through Planning and an outline of the agreed S106 monies that would be paid was given including £200,000 for works to be carried out around the Bridge End junction plus funding towards 79 Primary School places and 56 Secondary Schools places.

Members were informed that an Annual Infrastructure Fund Statement had been produced since 2019/20 which set out the Section 106 activity of the period, including the Council's internal process relating to S106 contributions, the contributions made in the particular year, projects delivered throughout the Borough and S106 monies secured for future years.

Members raised concerns around Section 106 contributions promised to local projects that had not been paid resulting in the projects having to find contributions elsewhere, ie through the Ward Alliances. They were informed that if the development was not to happen or it was stalled for reasons such as lockdown then the funding would not come into the pot until the agreed trigger points for payments such as an amount to be paid on the 25th property being sold. Members noted that whilst this had happened in the past, schemes would not be taken to Panel and approved unless the money was already there.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and hard work undertaken by Laura Sharman in the management and allocation of Section 106 contributions.

12 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.22.07.2021/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council manager who drew the attention of the members to the Supporting Vulnerable and Older Peoples Service, members were reminded that an extension to the Age UK contract had been awarded until the end of December, 2021 and informed that a procurement process had been established which included a member workshop to take place on 17th August, 2021, which members were encouraged to attend, to agree the new grant specifications followed by a period of time during October when grant funding applications would be accepted with a view to then organising a Grants Panel for assessment of the applications during November and December, 2021 to ensure the new service chosen would be ready to be delivered in January 2022.

Members received an update on the Penistone Area Council Working Together Fund, which had a remaining balance of £33,599 in the fund. Members were informed that a drive to encourage more applications had taken place through an advert in the Penistone Living supplement and members were encouraged to push forward any suitable projects to receive funding.

Members were informed that the Working Together Grant Fund – Supporting Young People Grant Fund was standing at £40,594 with 5 projects approved that would be reported on once they had completed their first quarter.

The Clean Green and Tidy contract which was agreed at a cost of £100,000 for the 2021/2022 year continued to thrive and members were informed that they would receive a further summary for the full Quarter 1 at the next meeting of the Area Council to take place in September, 2021.

The Ward Alliances opening budget for the financial year 2021/22 was £26,925. Members were informed that an increase in applications for funding were being received as groups had started to commence. Projects totalling £6,937.77 had been approved at the meeting held on 1st July, 2021.

Members were reminded of the additional £10,000 ring fenced budget to encourage applications from groups to provide summer holiday activities, and whilst there had been 2 projects approved from this initially no further applications had been received. Members were asked whether they wished to place the remaining budget of £8,410 back into the main Area Council budget or whether they would be minded to use this money out of the school holiday for other projects.

Members then went on to raise concerns around the initiative for children who receive free school meals called the Healthy Holidays Club which had replaced the vouchers and food parcels sent out in previous school holiday periods. The majority of concerns were that whilst it seemed a good idea, hardly any placements had signed up for the club and the ones that had in the area were full to capacity leaving families without. Members questioned whether it would be feasible to use the ringfenced pot of money to fund some vouchers or food parcels.

Issues were raised around identifying children eligible for the free school meals and ensuring the families eligible received the parcels or vouchers. Members agreed that they would like this to be investigated further and expressed their support for this initiative.

Members noted that the spend to date from the 2021/22 financial year budget was £100,000 on the Twiggs Contract with a further £35,000 for the Age UK 6 month extension and £10,000 for the Ward Alliance, leaving a total of £70,225.

Members were informed that a reimbursement was expected from the Local Support Grant which supported the Welfare Information and Advice Service which was available for people self isolating and based on the numbers of people coming through the Information and Advice Service which would be updated at a future meeting once it had been received.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the update on procurement activity be received;
- (ii) That the update of contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant Fund within the report be noted;
- (iii) That the update on the grant procurement process and timetable to establish future provision to support vulnerable and isolated older people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted
- (iv) That update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be received;
- (v) That the update on ringfences 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 received;
- (vi) That the updates on the new Clean and Tidy contract started in April 2020 with the report be noted;
- (vii) that the update on the Ward Alliance Fund budget be noted including the £10,000 ringfenced funding pot to support young people's activities during the school summer holiday period 2021 be noted;
- (viii) that the Area Council Manager investigate whether the remaining money in the Working Together Fund – Supporting Young People ringfenced budget could be used to fund food parcels or food vouchers for children who receive free school meals and acquire the required approval from Ward Alliance Members;
- (ix) That the current financial position for 2021/22 be noted.

13 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.22.07.2021/6)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, drawing attention to the £20,000 annual allocation and carry forward of £6,925 giving a total of £26,925. Members were informed that following further application approvals a budget of £22,276 remained.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and thanks be placed on record for the Ward Alliance's efforts in funding many projects that are good value for money.

14 Interim Performance Report - Presentation (Pac.22.07.2021/7)

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of performance, which included all contracted services and made members aware that they were between quarters and it was expected that the Quarter 1 update would be provided at the September meeting.

A brief reminder of contracts awarded by the Area Council was provided to members and that the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People's contract had been extended to the end of December, 2021.

Highlights were provided of the work carried out by Age UK including the move to engage with more service users face to face in the aim to get people out and about moving due to the increased evidence suggesting that they were struggling with mobility due to the long periods of lockdown. Walks for Health which had begun in Silkstone had been popular and more walks had been planned to include Wentworth Castle Gardens in the future and Tai Chi classes had been reintroduced in Penistone with a planned new programme in Pilley. Members noted that the initiative to deliver meals and activities to homes had ceased but would be reviewed and ready to start up again if needed.

Members were informed that discussions were being held around a relaunch of the Men in Sheds initiative to encourage new members and that they would be looking to expand their workspace. Members commented that Springvale Community Gardens may have some free space and also the Penistone Community Church had some space they would designate for community use.

Members expressed their disappointment at the continued restrictions on the community car share scheme, but they were informed that once restrictions had been lifted this would be reviewed and a push would be made to get it going once again.

A brief introduction to the Take a Seat Campaign was provided and members were asked to identify existing benches around the area which could be utilised to support older people. Members were encouraged by the campaign and named a number of areas that could be used. Twiggs had been working in collaboration with the scheme in order to restore any benches that may have been earmarked for the campaign.

Members noted that a Dementia friendly café session would be held in July at Penistone Leisure Centre with dementia specific activities being provided.

A brief overview of the work being carried out by Twiggs was provided including the continued support with individual litter picks by providing tools and equipment, work carried out during the volunteers week and Great British Spring Clean which included work on the tank ramp and turntable in Penistone and a number of village clean ups including Cawthorne and Thurlstone with discussions taking place with a view to holding one in High Hoyland.

Contact had been maintained with Hoylandswaine, Cawthorne and Silkstone Primary Schools with the mini Christmas tree competition and regular updates had been provided on Penistone FM to promote volunteer opportunities. Support had been provided for young people taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's award and Princes Trust work experience and a new apprentice had joined the Team.

The DIAL Service continued their service online and over the telephone which had been deemed a popular way for service users to contact them as they felt there was less stigma attached to a phone call rather than walking into a face to face appointment. The new contact methods were more advantageous to service users instead of having to wait for the Thursday drop in at Penistone Town Hall.

Members were informed that most of the contact made was in relation to Personal Independent Payments (PIP) but that demand remained steady and numbers were enhanced with the safe and well checks and support with public health guidance.

Outcomes on benefit gains had remained high with further discussions to take place regarding service delivery in the future as restrictions came to an end.

The CAB debt advice service was funded to the end of September, 2021 with a 6 month extension to the end of April, 2022 funded from the financial hardship fund. Contact to the service remained by telephone and online, although the video appointment option had not seen much take up but these methods were also deemed a preferred way to contact the service as service users felt it maintained anonymity within the community.

An upsurge in debt recuperation was expected as restrictions were lifted and the courts worked through their backlog of cases which was predicted to see average rent arrears rise to between £7,000 and £9,000 from pre-pandemic numbers of around £2,000. Training and recruitment of new volunteers continued and there was a need for an evaluation of the type of service that would be required post pandemic.

An update was provided on 5 projects that had been granted from the Supporting Young People Grant Fund which were:

- Ad Astra – to provide gender specific mental wellbeing sessions to pre-16 pupils at Penistone Grammar School
- Penistone Grammar School – to provide mental wellbeing sessions for post-16 pupils from September
- Penistone Girl Guiding – to provide support to young women through positive experiences and activities to enhance self-esteem and wellbeing
- Angel Voices – community based singing workshops to lead up to community performance events to raise funds for charity, 2 had been held in July with a third to be held in August
- Penistone Leisure – to hold a range of activities such as Teen Boxing, skating and a planned resilience bootcamp plus structured activities to support mental health
- Active Minds Project Penistone FM – to provide training to a core group of young people in broadcasting skills to then engage with other young people to pass on their experiences and advise through podcasts

Members were provided with an update on the work the Area Team had carried out including the continued support to local businesses and community venues through the Public Health funded Neighbourhood Engagement Officer. The Penistone Living magazine had been published with promotion of the role the Area Team hold in the community and hopes that people would be encouraged to come forward.

The community mapping exercise to determine the number of operational community groups in the area and what support they would need for future development continued.

Members were informed that a covid-19 fund of £250,000 was available for applications for funding for already established voluntary and community organisations across the Borough who had been adversely affected as a result of the pandemic and were facing financial difficulties.

As part of the Community Listening exercise, an intensive period of community engagement had been planned during August and September in order to understand more about the Penistone Community including a stall at the Community Gala and a market stall on a Thursday morning. There were also plans for a walk on the Trans Pennine Trail around the Penistone East Ward calling off at venues in the villages and Towns and speaking with members of the community.

Members were provided with a brief overview of some of the other work the Team had carried out and were informed that Mandie Olofinlua, the new Neighbourhood Engagement Officer would be starting in August to provide public health support post pandemic.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair