

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 29 November 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Pickering, Platts and Tattersall

31 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

The Chair asked that get well wishes be sent to Rosie Adams, Area Council Manager, who is currently ill with Covid and also to Cllr Trevor Cave who is also ill at the moment.

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

32 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 20th September 2021**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th September 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 20th September 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

33 **The Fleets Project Update - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Mike Winstanley and Lucy Brown**

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Mike Winstanley and Lucy Brown were welcomed to the meeting and updated Members with regard to the Fleets Project. Work completed since the start of the project in April 2019 included: 0.23ha community orchard created; planted 500 hedgerow trees and additional 33 orchard trees; 2,000 daffodils planted and 0.20ha wildflower meadow created. In addition, 120m² groundworks have been completed for the rain garden and 0.67ha of wet woodland improved. Between November 2021 and December 2022, benches will be installed, the sensory garden designed and installed alongside a community tools hub to involve the community. There are also plans to improve the steps and possible installation of a ramp. Interpretation boards detailing the work done to date and how the rain garden works will be erected. Mike and Lucy thanked the Council for its involvement and also for the grant funding and S106 contributions. It was highlighted that this is a strategically important area and when the capital works have been completed the site should continue to be developed as a community hub for the foreseeable future. A member expressed disappointment that Barnsley College had not been as involved with the site as originally envisaged.

RESOLVED that

- i. Members note the update;

- ii. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust be thanked for attending the meeting and all the work done to date and that;
- iii. A visit to the area for Members of the North Area Council should be organised in the Spring/Summer of 2022.

34 Community Listening Update - Katy Ashworth

Katy Ashworth, Stronger Communities Project Officer, attended the meeting and updated Members with regard to the Community Listening initiative. Members of the community were asked four questions about what they loved about their community, what is needed now and in the future in the community, what would add to their quality of life and finally how life will be different as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Responses were predominantly from females in the 30-39 age group.

Key findings included: People love the friendliness and community spirit of the area, the beautiful environment and countryside, community facilities, events and activities and the supportive and helpful nature of the community. Respondents felt that more activities and facilities are needed for children and young people (including community events and activities) and that this would improve quality of life; parks and greenspaces should be adequately maintained and that they would like to see a reduction in perceived levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. 184 respondents expressed a view about how life will be different as a result of the pandemic. It seems that people are now more cautious, value their life and are thankful for what they have, looking forward to socialising again with family and friends. In summary, the survey identified lots of strengths, challenges and areas for improvement, which will help drive forward the work of the North Area Council.

A number of Members felt that there is a clash between aspirations and budgets, with more money needed for youth provision, which was cut by the Government many years ago. It may be possible to establish if there are differences across individual wards through further analysis. Drugs issues seem to be prevalent across all wards, but require a societal change.

The findings from the review will be put on the Area Council page and in the 'What's On' guide, pulling out key themes around young people in particular. The review highlighted the need to spread the message far and wide via various means (including word of mouth), as many residents seem unaware of what is happening in their area.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members note the update; and
- (ii) Katy be tasked with carrying out further analysis of the findings to determine if there is a difference between the wards of the North Area Council.

35 Health and Wellbeing - Connecting Communities Grant Panel Outcomes

This item was introduced by Rachel Payling, Head of Service, Stronger Communities, who updated Members with regard to the outcomes from the recent

Connecting Communities Grant Panel Meeting. Cllrs Hunt and Platts reported that the exercise was very positive and that the bids that went through were the correct ones. Cllr Leech expressed disappointment at the lack of representation from Old Town ward.

RESOLVED that participants be thanked for their involvement and that the small amount of funding remaining should be repurposed as highlighted in the report.

36 Performance Report Q2 2021/22

This item was introduced by Katy Ashworth, who provided Members with a comprehensive North Area Council Performance Report for the period October to December (2021/22 Quarter 1).

Councillor Platts asked if it would be possible to put numerical information within the report rather than percentages as it is easier to understand, particularly when there are no targets set. Recognition of the work that the Council is doing itself should also be recognised.

It was highlighted that a number of groups have been formed with the support of Twiggs, but support for existing groups is not measured, which is also important. Katy reported that the report is a condensed version of information provided by Twiggs and she will look into their KPIs and ask them to report on that too. It seems there is a discrepancy regarding the YMCA/Ad Astra information. Katy explained that some of the transition work did not take place due to Covid and they are still in the 'settling in' period.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members note the contents of the Performance Management Report;
- (ii) Katy to investigate Twiggs' support of existing groups with a view to incorporating this information within their KPIs and also more information about their future plans for each ward as current information received is not always comprehensive; and
- (iii) Rachel Payling to meet with Twiggs to address concerns raised by Members.

37 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

Rachel Payling introduced this item, providing the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillors note the final output figures for the Warm Connections Service delivered by DIAL Barnsley included in the performance report and that the service has now concluded
- (ii) Councillors note that the 'Connecting Communities' grant panel has met and moderated all applications;
- (iii) The North Area Council note the existing budget position, the existing funding commitments and the updated projected spend and the £20,000 Covid Recovery funding to support social inclusion, to be included in the Stronger Communities Grant opportunity for 2022/23.

38 Stronger Communities Grant 2022/23

This item was introduced by Rachel Payling, who sought Members' approval for the Stronger Communities Grant Panel's recommendation to make the grant funding available for 2022/23.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members agree to run the grants programme in 2022/23 and the terms of reference;
- (ii) Members agree the value of the grant funding pot for 2022/23 of £20,000 together with an additional £20,000 combined within base funding, and
- (iii) Councillors Howard, Lofts, Tattersall and Hunt be nominated to sit on the Grants Panel

39 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

Rachel Payling introduced this item, updating the North Area Council on financial position the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid-19 Recovery Plan document when developing projects during the remainder of 2021/22, and
- (ii) Each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2021/22, in line with the guidance on spend.

40 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 14th September and 12th October, 2021; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 22nd September and 14th October, 2021; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 14th September and 12th October, 2021; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 9th September 2021.

Members of the North Area Council were updated regarding the progress made by each Ward in relation to Ward Alliance implementation. The following additional information was provided:

Darton East – A Christmas event was held on Friday evening, the location was changed to the Village Hall as it is the hub of the community and a safer location. The event was fantastic, well attended by over 500 people, with stewards to keep everyone safe, songs from the Primary school choir and a visit from Santa. 150 selection boxes were provided for local children. Thanks were expressed to Rebecca Battye for all her help. A video is on the Talbot Facebook page. The event scheduled for this evening at Woolley Colliery Village has been cancelled due to the weather and will now take place on Thursday.

Darton West – The Christmas event takes place tomorrow and Twiggs are installing a tree at Wilthorpe and Redbrook Community centre, others will follow shortly. The

Church choir and dancers from Horizon will be in attendance. Leaflets have not been distributed due to the bad weather. Funding has been granted to Pogmoor FC for video equipment to enable them to film the matches with a view to improve training etc. They have also received an additional £30k from the Football Association and plan to eventually build a pavilion. They have 22 football teams at the moment, including boys/girls and a disabled team. Thanks were expressed to the Vicar at Darton Church who provided water bottles for the graves as the tap is not available.

Old Town - The girls and disabled teams at the Pogmoor ground have been expanded. Winter winter warmer packs have been provided and funding for retirement groups granted. Cut Christmas trees are to be used this year while the planted trees grow. They will be installed on Wednesday and the lights switched on on Friday. A tree is to be planted at the Recreation ground, supported by Pogmoor FC. A bench is to be sited at the end of West Road. It was also reported that four fruit trees have been stolen. Defibrillators are to be installed on Rockingham Street and outside the recreation ground at Pogmoor

St Helens – Four Christmas events are taking place this year, at various locations. Some have planted trees whilst others are not yet big enough. Selection boxes will be distributed to children and choirs from local schools will be in attendance. 100 winter wellbeing packs with the Ward Alliance logo are to be distributed via community groups working in the area. A working budget of £1500 has been set aside for Christmas. Any underspend will go back into Ward Alliance funds. Various volunteers are dressing the trees and the Ward Alliance has only had to pay for the tree at the community shop. Funding was given for refreshments on Remembrance Sunday. Councillor Leech is sorting out the bench issue. £1500 was given for the firework display at Athersley Rec, which was well attended. Ad Astra have asked for funding to replace tables; Twiggs are seeking funding for summer holidays projects. Future plans include a Jubilee event, which will be discussed at the January meeting. Local groups are beginning to filter back now and have been advised to ask for funding to restart groups.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be received.

Chair