

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 26 May 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cherryholme, Ennis OBE, Green, Makinson, Peace, Richardson and Webster

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

Cllr Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute number 5 as he is a Member of Citizen's Advice.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 24th March 2022**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 24th March 2022.

RESOLVED that thanks be passed on from Carol Foster following her retirement.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 24th March be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair**

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout March, April and May. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – Cllr Hayward informed the room that there is now a tiger in situ at St John's Gardens along with the elephant already in place.

There are 8 street parties planned for the Queen's Jubilee for the Cudworth Area.

The Ward Alliance is supporting the Resolute woman's domestic violence project which has gone from strength to strength. It is being supported for a further year with a goal to becoming self-sustainable within this time. They are additionally supporting the Majorettes and Tea in the Park on a smaller scale than previous years. Furthermore, support is being given to Cudworth Earthers who volunteer in the parks with litter picking and painting. There are currently 10-15 volunteers including children involved in this project and members would like them to participate in the environment committee, as the previous one collapsed due to covid.

Monk Bretton – Cllr Green is hoping to get some new members together in Monk Bretton and has had 8 Applications for Queens Jubilee celebrations. Applications are being received for hanging baskets. The Medieval Mayhem event has been popular, and Yorkshire in Bloom is going to concentrate on a red/white and blue theme this year.

North East – Cllr Ennis acknowledged that in the North East the Dell is underused and the presentation addresses this.

The relocation of the Grimethorpe Community Farm is being planned and the ward want to make sure that it is retained in Grimethorpe, as the local academy has become independent and have requested that it be moved from their premises. It is a massive undertaking with possible pitfalls but there is a lot of support for the farm from the community.

Plans for the Queens Jubilee celebration are underway with an allocated budget of £800 for each of the 4 villages. There was a mass of applications which may see the ward go over budget.

Shafton Parish Council pay for the grass cutting of fields and parks and at the last meeting there was talk of Shafton Parish Council moving the contract from Barnsley Council to Twiggs. However, the Ward does not want this to happen, and the council are complying with requests to get the grass cut in time for the Queens Jubilee celebrations. The previous issues had been highlighted with Barnsley Council which related to the grass being wet with some parts being cut whilst others were left.

Royston – Cllr Makinson is managing all funding for the Queen’s Jubilee Street parties in Royston and there are currently 10 applications across the ward.

- i. The ward has recently had the Achievement Awards with the 4 schools from the ward in Chambers; the parents, young people and teachers all enjoyed it.
- ii. The ward has a bear which has come from the culture department for the Twisted Festival celebrating Fantastical Beasts.
- iii. Royston in Bloom is being planned.
- iv. Age Concern want to sign post volunteers for the green spaces.
- v. Budgeting has been approved for the year.
- vi. The Governance framework has been agreed.

Healthy holidays were delivered in two schools during the last half term. However, attendance was not what it could have been. It was clarified that the scheme needs promoting to make people aware that it is available.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

Anti-social behaviour in Monk Bretton and the messages parents being involved is sending out. It was explained that there is work being carried out to address this and it is vital for community members to have their say, with PAC meetings restarting and what we can do to facilitate this. Furthermore, evidence had been put out on social media to disrupt this behaviour.

Cllr Hayward acknowledged that trees are being planted for the Jubilee and these are being funded out of all the Ward Alliances. It was not ascertained whether this is being done in North East, but it is not too late to do this.

4 The Dell Project - Lawrence Dodd, the Community Development Officer for the North East and Cudworth, to present an update on an environment project in Grimethorpe

Members welcomed Lawrence Dodd to the meeting to give a presentation on the Dell, Grimethorpe. The project concentrates on engaging with groups of residents and has been carrying out work around the pond over the last 2 years. The residents have a Facebook group with over 1000 members, who have been surveyed with the Dell coming up numerous times as a place which would benefit from development. However, there were issues with anti-social behaviour and disrepair in the area. They highlighted how the Dell used to be when it was looked after, and sports were played there. The community want young people to be able to use the Dell for activities. Lawrence was able to work to bring people together as part of The Dell Steering Group, exploring how they would like to see it develop. The group is now established and constituted. They have been working with BMBC to prune bushes and clear paths, and with Sheffield University where they have commissioned a live project costing £800 which allows for 15 students to work with the group to make ideas and plans into a proposal. This started at the end September 2021 and involved codesigning a series of events, exploring what the area needed and working with an early prevention officer to liaise with young people to identify how the Dell was currently being used.

A young engagement event came from working with the University which included a climbing wall, bucking broncho, totem poles and craft exercises so that young people could be involved with shaping the plan.

It was not just community members taking park but also partners from Yorkshire Wildlife, Barnsley Parks, Councillors and other stakeholders who wanted to be involved. Capacity building and confidence was instilled in the people participating and with an emphasis on it being community led. Typically there aren't design spaces in the community, but the opportunity was here and there is a valuable lesson to be learnt from this. There were 230 people were directly involved and, in the Dell, there are 4 ponds in addition to the fishing pond which can be opened out to make it a place which people enjoy. There is going to be a community orchard which will be planted up in Autumn 2022 and larger proposals will include exploring a community café.

Right now they are carrying out regular volunteer sessions to explore access at the old Willowgarth School and they are developing a pump track proposal. Some areas need moving forward and principal towns may play a part in this as collaboration builds trust, transparency, goals and improves relationships.

The focus is on the community taking the lead, providing them with the tools and the knowledge to proactively make improvements. By harnessing this passion, people will have a sense of ownership and responsibility.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

Congratulating Lawrence for the time and effort given to getting the project off the ground and for involving the University. It was noted that this has enthused the people of Grimethorpe and that it would be great to re-establish the newts which were originally in the Dell and that the vast majority of things in the plan are achievable at a fairly low cost.

By having the right people involved in the process it was determined that plans are achievable and that many of the plans will be delivered by community will, but that section 106 will be funding the disabled access.

- i. Members stated that a large proportion of the Dell is not accessible, and that section 106 funding should not be used as the council have a statutory duty to fund this.
- ii. Members stated that it is a wonderful project, and it is community led, as Cllrs are there to guide it which is what makes it so special and keeps the community interested.
- iii. It was noted that the Greenspace Pavilion in the park was very similar project which worked well by involving national organisations, this would be useful when planning similar projects. Furthermore, it was highlighted that ASOS have a community fund which could be investigated despite them already having contributed to the community.
- iv. Additionally, the building for the café was explored and it was brought to light that there is an organisation in Sheffield who use old shipping container for buildings. It was noted that there is a similar structure at Rabbit Ings in Royston.
- v. Thoughts were given to the university students being involved and whether they would come back and see how things developed. It was clarified that they would work on another element of the project the following year as they move through university and develop their skills.
- vi. Opposite the Dell in Grimethorpe is Countrywide Healthcare and the people there love the view and could possibly provide some disability equipment once the access is in place. They may also be able to help with guided walks with disability scooters etc.

Thoughts were given to the university students being involved and whether they would come back and see how things developed and if the project became a success. It was clarified that they would work on another element of the project the following year as they move through university and develop their skills.

RESOLVED that contact information for the shipping containers be shared.

RESOLVED that Lawrence be thanked for attending the meeting, for his presentation and for answering Members questions.

5 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects

Christie McFarlane gave an update on the delivery of the commissioned projects:

a) Slipper Swap in Monk Bretton handed out a total 75 pairs of slippers with the initiative attracting many new people.

b) Age UK - Social Isolation and Dementia Project Q3 21/22

Supported 98 Mother's Day gifts, launched a new walking netball group at the Dorothy Hyman Centre and delivered the recently postponed Christmas Party event, which highlighted that service users would like more events. Furthermore, they delivered 122 pairs of slippers to 4 care homes across the area and supported an additional 92 service users.

c) Youth Development Fund overview for 22/23

Exodus – project in Brierley Q1 Delivered 11 kids club session, 12 rock solid sessions and 1 weekend camp which equated to 416 volunteer hours.

The funding and the renewal of this project supported the children of Cudworth to access Jenny Field in South Hiendley, but Members noted that a venue closer to home in the North East area would enable Royston children to participate. It was stated that commissioning on 2/3 yearly basis would be beneficial to enable interventions to have continuity and that it may be wise for members to visit Jenny's Field, as it is for young people who do not have holidays.

Members highlighted that there are at least three buildings in Cudworth where activities can take place and that Exodus have offered provision for Royston. Furthermore, regarding provision for Monk Bretton discussions need to be had to decide if the grant is converted to a contract which would then need to go out to tender.

d) Private Sector HEO 21/22

The job role was highlighted as being a busy and challenging role which had the worker managing 105 cases across the Ward with 51 in Cudworth, 14 in Monk Bretton, 22 in the North East and 17 in Royston.

RESOLVED that C Mcfarlane will call a meeting with the Youth Development Fund panel and Exodus to discuss moving forward and what capacity there is to open up to other areas. Along with clarifying what the provision is for - residential, overnight etc.

6 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

C. Marfarlane stated that the Area Council is where it should be at this stage, but the new social isolation commission has just gone out for tender and the closing date for this is Friday 3rd June 2022. Following this, applications will be discussed, and this will be fed back at the next Area Council meeting. It was clarified that whoever was successful would not be based within the area council team but with their employer.

As agreed at last Area Council, each Ward Alliance have £10,000 budget.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

Commissioning and the value of the contracts and that a huge amount of money had been brought to the area with the support of CAB - which is funded by the North East Alliance to people with financial issues.

It was noted that although we pay for services through the wards some areas are paying for similar through the area council. It was acknowledged that funding and service needs require further discussions to ensure that the processes and how we move forward, are streamlined to avoid duplication.

C. Mcfarlane stated this could be put together to discuss with providers and what can be put in place for the budget.

7 Report on the use of the Ward Alliance Funds

The reports are quite sparse, and meetings had not happened. There will be more of an update next time.

RESOLVED that Cllr Makinson be congratulated on her new role as Public Health and Community Spokesperson.

Chair