

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council
4th May, 2021

Report of South Area Council Manager

South Area Council – Procurement and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a procurement update and recommendations for consideration. To inform and provide a steer on intentions for:
- Anti-social behaviour and off-road biking pilot
 - Post office – costs for additional opening hours

2. Recommendations

Anti-social behaviour and off road biking pilot

- 2.1 That members consider the request outlined at section 3 to run a pilot to better tackle off road bikes / quad biking across the South and if recommended approve the costs to purchase a Wide Lens, Long Range Camera, SD card and carry bag for £2500.

Post office – costs for additional opening hours

- 2.2 That Members consider the request outlined at section 4 for extending the opening hours of the Post Office currently based at the Wombwell Library and if approved agree the recommendation to fund the £1414 costs.

3. Tackling Anti-social behaviour and off-road biking

- 3.1 The Hoyland Milton Rockingham Ward Alliance have been discussing the issues of quad biking and anti-social behaviour in Jump for some time, particularly as more concerns have been raised locally throughout the pandemic. A number of options to tackle the issues have been discussed resulting in meetings with key partners including BMBCs Community Safety team, SY Police, Early intervention and Prevention Team, Berneslai Homes and South Area Team.
- 3.2 Although the initial discussions were regarding quad bikes in Jump Valley, during the discussions it was suggested by partners that a South Area wide approach would be more effective in tackling the wider issues rather than taking an approach looking at individual access points. Darfield, Wombwell and Hoyland Milton and Rockingham wards have all seen an increase in reporting locally of off-road bikes across the area and continues to be raised as an issue.
- 3.3 SY Police and BMBCs Community safety team have confirmed that tackling off road biking across the South Area Council is a key priority for their teams and are committed to working locally to look at addressing these issues.
- 3.4 In order to tackle the issue partners identified the need to:
- Increase reporting of incidents
 - Build a better picture of local intelligence and incidents
 - Clarify how and when to report incidents

- Increase number of seizure notices locally and identify hot spot areas where notices can be placed
- Make best use of the SY Police and off-road bike team through the purchasing of a Wide Lens camera. Other Authorities have used similar equipment to better identify off road bikers and can be used at a distance which will help when unable to pursue and for seizures after the fact.

3.5 The following is a suggested way forward for Members to consider as a pilot for the South Area:

- Signage in hot spot areas, this will allow bike seizure in hotspot area and help increase reporting. SY Police will be producing and funding these signs.
- Purchase a Wide Lens Long Range camera, this would be kept with the South policing team and used in the South Area. It would also be made available to BMBCs community safety team to tackle other issues across the South Area Council including for out of hours and weekend patrols.
- Communication campaign jointly between SY Police, BMBC and Berneslai Homes. The campaign would include key messages about reporting, where and how to report, reporting on seizures and successes leading from increased intelligence and a photo gallery.

3.6 Partners confirmed that there is evidence that the combination of increased reporting, improved intelligence and use of a wide lens camera provides sufficient evidence to increase the number of bike seizures which can be after the fact. The local policing team will also be in a better position to request the off-road bike team and to better target this resource.

3.7 If the above recommendation is agreed the costs to purchase a Wide Lens, Long Range Camera, SD card and carry bag would be £2500.

4. Wombwell Post Office – request for additional opening times

4.1 Wombwell Post Office moved out of Heron Foods on Wombwel High Street into Wombwell Library on 29th January 2021. The Post Office is delivered on an outreach basis from Birdwell Post Office and with two staff present. The Post Office is currently operating during library opening times in the extension as follows:

Monday 1.30pm – 4pm
 Tuesday 10am – 4pm
 Friday 12 noon – 4pm

4.2 The Post Office are working with local businesses to try and identify and secure a permanent solution on the High Street and take over the Post Office function in the longer term.

4.3 A request has been made to the Libraries service regarding the feasibility to open the Post Office on a Wednesday when the library is closed. Facilities Management are able to open and close the building and provide the additional cleaning. The charges to open the library are £54.38 per week, total cost of £1414 for a 6 month period.

- 4.4 Any training delivered to a potential interested business must be completed face to face, however due to Covid 19, this has delayed the opportunity to fully explore this. It is hoped that this can move on in the next 6 months however there is the possibility that this could take longer or that a longer term option on the High street is not found.
- 4.5 'Improving the Local Economy' is one of the South Area Council priorities. As part of this priority the South Area Council are asked to consider the request for extending the opening hours of the Post Office currently based at the Wombwell Library and if approved agree the recommendation to fund the £1414 costs.

5. South Area Council Finances

- 5.1 The South Area Council currently have a commissioning budget of £24,800 which is unallocated.

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