

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a virtual Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Tuesday, 7 July 2020 at 10.30 am.

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

Mrs A Burns	Mr B Shirley
Mr F Cassidy	Mrs H Wall
Mr D Gawne	Mr MH Worth
Mr W McEwan (Vice-Chair)	Mr R Worthington

Also in Attendance:-

Mr G Acton	-	Project Lead - Economy and Infrastructure
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mr G Kenyon	-	Programme Lead - Infrastructure Planning
Mrs A Meadows	-	Community Development Officer
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Mrs V Upton	-	Traffic Management - Team Leader

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members and officers held a minute's silence to show their respects and remember Cumbrian residents who were no longer with us due to the COVID-19 outbreak and members of the Flynn family who had recently lost their lives due to a tragic accident.

1 ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

All of the above members and officers were present at the meeting.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr K Hamilton be appointed Chair of the Local Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr Hamilton thereupon took the Chair.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr W McEwan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Local Committee for the ensuing year.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D English and Mr S Wielkopolski.

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions, statements or petitions relating to the business of the Committee on this occasion.

8 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9 ALTERNATIVE PROVISION LOCATIONS IN BARROW

The Committee received a presentation on the development of an Alternative Provision Learning Hub in the Barrow area which included details on the proposed sites at Channelside and Sandscales Park which had been shortlisted for further investigations. Members were informed that following assessment of both sites and taking into consideration the planning restrictions at Sandscales Park, Channelside, Furness Business Park had been recommended as the preferred location.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed site and the local Member for Dalton North asked what impact a delay with the project would have on the young people. Officers confirmed no further delays were anticipated and the site would be ready by December 2021. It was felt this site would help to retain young people in the local area and would allow the opportunity for local people to be educated in a mainstream school.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

10 ASKAM STATION IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave an update on the outcome of the Askam Station Improvements Report (which was undertaken as part of the Whitehaven Parking Study). It was explained that the Study had been undertaken by consultants WSP and was funded by Sellafield Limited through the Sellafield Planning Performance Agreement.

Members were informed that Cumbria County Council had been working in partnership with Sellafield Limited and Barrow Borough Council to undertake the Askam Station element of the Whitehaven Parking Study. The Committee noted that the Study would inform the planning, development and management of parking in the various locations as well as inform future design work for proposals to enhance the stations and encourage sustainable modes of travel.

During the course of discussion members asked if discussions had taken place with the Bowls and Rugby Clubs. Whilst officers had not had dialogue with the Bowls Club they felt their car park was already used heavily during the bowling season. It was confirmed that some discussions had taken place with the Rugby Club.

The Committee was informed that the Study had considered parking issues and potential station improvements in Askam. It was explained the Station Improvements report had identified a package of schemes to create parking and other improvements at Askam railway station and the surrounding area.

Members were informed it was felt there was a need to develop a robust and integrated strategy to address the parking requirements and to manage parking in Askam and the impacts on the village and its users. It was explained that it had been suggested that the introduction of parking restrictions between 10.00 am and 11.00 am would prevent commuters parking on the site all day.

Members were informed the delivery of the improvements was subject to funding being secured. It was explained the Study had been prepared using a robust evidence based approach and provided the basis to support the partner organisations in seeking to secure funding from internal and external sources. It was recognised that further scheme development would be required for some of the improvements and at that stage further stakeholder engagement/ public consultation would be undertaken.

The local Member for Dalton North welcomed the proposals and thanked members of Askam and Ireleth Parish Council for their input into the project and asked that they be included in the ongoing consultation. He asked officers how they could be sure local people would not be penalised and it was explained that the scheme would be designed to allow sufficient parking to be retained for local residents. The parking enforcement proposals regarding the restrictions between 10.00 am and 11.00 am were highlighted, and whilst acknowledging this was in the early stages emphasised this would be key to the success of the scheme. It was explained that whilst it was acknowledged that resources could not be guaranteed discussions had taken place with the Parking Enforcement Team who fully supported the proposals.

A discussion then took place regarding funding of the scheme and whilst there was no obvious funding at present a positive dialogue had taken place with Sellafield regarding this matter.

The Chair of the Local Committee thanked officers, the local Member and his predecessor together with Askam and Ireleth Parish Council for their continued support in this project.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the proposals of the Askam Station Improvements Report (as set out in the Appendix to the report) be endorsed;
- (2) partnership working with Barrow Borough Council and Sellafield Limited to explore the opportunities to secure funding and to co-ordinate delivery of the improvements be continued;
- (3) the use of the report to inform future infrastructure planning and the development and management of parking measures and station improvements in Askam be supported.

11 BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave details of the discussion and recommendations of the Highways Advisory Sub-Group (HASG) for the Barrow area which met on 4 June 2020.

The local Member for Hindpool raised the concerns of Buccleuch Street residents' regarding the number of HGVs parking on the footway and causing damage. The Local Area Highways Network Manager acknowledged the problems incurred and explained the best option to alleviate the issues would be to remove the existing flags and replace with black top.

(1) **Minutes**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2020 be noted.

(2) **Alfred Barrow Health Centre – Duke Street Pedestrian Safety Concerns**

RESOLVED, that an assessment of the crossing of Duke Street from the patient car park to the health centre to be funded from the APM Speed Monitoring budget; and the results be considered at a future meeting of the Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group.

(3) **Devolved Highways Capital APM Budget 2020/21 – Allocation of Traffic Scheme Design Budget**

The local Member for Hawcoat drew attention to the proposed pedestrian crossing at St Paul's C of E Junior School, Hawcoat Lane. He outlined the criteria of the survey which had to be met and emphasised this would be impossible to meet on this Scheme. During the course of discussion he explained that Cumbria Police had previously indicated that they felt a pedestrian crossing would slow down the traffic.

The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed the criteria set was in accordance with the Department for Transport. He explained that the criteria was in place countywide and any changes would need to be reviewed centrally. The Team Leader, Traffic Manager confirmed that the Cumbria Policy had been followed and the site assessment criteria had been met for a school crossing patrol but not a zebra crossing.

RESOLVED, that the Devolved Highways Capital Programme for 2020/21 with reference to the APM budget 'Traffic Scheme Design' allocation (referred to in Appendix 1 of the report) and the specific schemes that officers recommend (as detailed in paragraphs 4.7–4.10 inclusively and 4.13 of the report which is attached as Appendix 2 to the report) be approved.

(4) **Nelson Street, Dalton-in-Furness**

The local Member for Dalton North welcomed the proposed scheme in Nelson Street, Dalton-in-Furness and asked that this be undertaken as soon as possible.

RESOLVED, that traffic management measures on Nelson Street, Dalton-in-Furness be included in the 2020/2021 Traffic Scheme Design allocation within the Devolved Capital budget.

12 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which detailed information from across the Community teams including Community Development, Waste Prevention and Libraries, and provided an update on work and agreed activity since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Committee were updated on the COVID-19 response since the last meeting noting there had been significant changes to the work of the Community Development Team and the Council as a whole in light of the pandemic. It was explained that the Barrow Welfare Hub which responded to Barrow borough related calls had been led by the Area Manager and Community Development Team in the locality, together with staff from other services in the County Council, and also full time staff from Barrow Borough Council who continued to serve as welfare officers.

Members were given an update on area working and community services noting that the Team locally had also continued to work to support area planning activity, and priority areas of work with key areas including Barrow Main Library Redevelopment, Ormsgill Hub, Barrow Island Hub and Tackling Inequalities Fund.

Members noted that the Town Deal Board had been a key area of focus for Local Committee. It was explained that through discussions with the Borough Council and partners, the County Council had submitted a project for consideration to the Town Deal Board for inclusion in the Plan:

- Ormsgill Community Hub
- Bram Longstaffe
- Developing a Hub in Hindpool / Central
- Earnse Bay Skills and outdoor recreation centre concept

The local Member for Ormsgill informed members that due to a number of issues, including the pandemic and vandalism, work had been delayed on the Ormsgill Hub but this had now been resumed with security being provided.

The Committee was informed the project had been shortlisted and work was currently being undertaken with consultants to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for completion in mid July. It was explained this would be submitted to the Borough Council to form part of their overall submission to government. Members would be kept informed of details regarding the submission.

A discussion took place regarding Children and Young People and members noted this remained a key area of work for the Local Committee and had been a standing item on the Barrow Local Resilience Group agenda, with partners coming together to address any issues that had arisen throughout the pandemic.

Members were informed that one issue which had been highlighted was that the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Group and the Locality Children's Trust Board Group had a very similar membership and remit, and, therefore, it was proposed to merge the two groups into the Children's Trust Board Group and disband the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Group.

The Local Committee were, therefore, asked to consider disbanding the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Group and instead having representation on the Barrow Trust Board Group. This Group in turn would regularly update the Local Committee and other key stakeholders.

It was noted that in March 2020 Local Committee had committed £9,500 for the development and running of a Festival of Activity. It was explained that this was unable to take place due to the pandemic and members were asked to consider de-committing this amount back into the General Provisions budget.

The Committee welcomed the report and congratulated the whole Team on their outstanding work during COVID 19. They embraced the strong partnership working with the Borough Council, third sector and wider partners which had been undertaken and hoped this would continue in the future.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Partnership Group be disbanded and merged with the Barrow Locality Children's Trust Board Group (as detailed above);
- (3) the £9,500 previously allocated for holding a Festival of Activity in 2020 be de-committed and transferred back into General Provisions (as outlined in paragraph 4.31 of the report);
- (4) the previous budget allocation work carried out (detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) be noted and kept under review.

13 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor A Burns emphasised the update which the Area Manager had reported regarding Barrow Town Deal and the Future High Street Fund, highlighting the outstanding work undertaken by officers.

Members were informed the Future High Street Fund included infrastructure improvements in and around the town centre and market.

It was explained to members that the Barrow Town Deal had brought together a number of the Local Committee's agreed area planning priorities into one and included Ormsgill Community Hub, Bram Longstaffe, Developing a Hub in Hindpool/Central and Earnse Bay skills and outdoor recreation centre concept. Members noted work was currently being undertaken with consultants to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case for completion by mid-July, where it would be submitted to Barrow Borough Council to form part of their overall submission to Government.

The Chair thanked Councillor Burns for her update.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Friday 18 September 2020 at 10.30 am at a venue to be confirmed.

The Chair thanked all members and officers for taking part in this new way of working.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm