

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR COPELAND

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Copeland held on Friday, 20 May 2022 at Cleator Moor Civic Hall at 10.15 am

PRESENT:

Mr K Hitchen (Chair)

Mr MS Barbour
Mr AWC Lamb
Mr FI Morgan
Mr DE Southward

Mr CP Turner
Mr CJ Whiteside
Mr D Wilson (Vice-Chair)
Mr AW Wonnacott

Also in Attendance:-

Ms C Clark	-	Library and Customer Manager (Copeland)
Mrs L Davis	-	Democratic Services Officer
Mr M Reeves	-	Traffic Management Team Leader
Ms L Shaw	-	Area Manager - Allerdale/Copeland
Mr M Taylor	-	Local Area Network Manager (Copeland)
Mrs G Ternent	-	Public Health Locality Manager - Copeland
Mr L Thorburn	-	Area Planning Manager
Ms C Tubman	-	Community Development Officer

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

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr K Hitchen be elected chair for the ensuing year.

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr D Wilson be elected Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Hawkins, Mr G Roberts, Ms E Williamson and Mr A Pratt.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr F Morgan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 9 – Area Planning Report – as a Board Member of Phoenix Enterprise Centre.

Mr A Lamb declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No 10 – Copeland Champions Update - as an employee of North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust.

The Chair welcomed three members of the newly formed Shadow Authority who were attending to observe the meeting.

5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair welcomed Ms Wildwood to the meeting.

Ms Wildwood read the following statement:-

In my submissions to the Traffic Management Team I made it clear that the existing 40mph speed limit is routinely flouted. There is never any enforcement of compliance by The Police who never implement speed-trapping on this stretch. They do speed trap down Arlecdon Hill and at Rowrah where, according to local councillor Steve Morgan, compliance is amongst the worst in Cumbria. I would suggest that some detailed monitoring of traffic speeds is enacted to reinforce the veracity of my contention. Resultant from that I would hope to see the present 40 limit being reduced to 30mph and rigorously enforced by routine speed-trapping. This would result in 2 benefits:

1. The safety of residents (several of whom are vulnerable due to extreme youth - a 5 year old resident - or due to old age - myself and 2 other residents when crossing the road.
2. Drivers of through traffic would be perfectly able to pass the parked cars, simultaneously in both directions. The road is 3 car widths wide (row of parked cars plus 2 through carriageways). Such passing is perfectly possible to execute where vehicles are travelling at a reasonable speed.

Would the Panel please mandate further attention by the Traffic Management Team with a view to installing a 30mph speed limit so as to insist on the residential nature of this stretch of road and to enhance the safety of residents?”.

Members were invited to ask questions of Ms Wildwood.

The Chair thanked Ms Wildwood for her attendance and gave the following response:-

Thank you for your statement and for expressing your concerns to the Local Committee. Road safety is a matter that both highway officers and elected Members of this Committee treat with the highest importance.

This issue was previously discussed at the Casualty Reduction and Safer Highways (CRASH) group in 2019. The CRASH group is attended by representatives of both

Cumbria Police and Cumbria County Council, along with other partner agencies, and is a forum where matters of road safety are discussed and actioned. In 2019, CRASH arranged for traffic surveys to be undertaken alongside the properties on Waterloo Terrace, the results of which showed generally good compliance with the posted speed limit of 40mph. However, in light of your comments, Members of the Local Committee will ask officers to again raise this item for discussion at the CRASH group for further consideration.

Additionally, a review of the speed restrictions within Copeland is due to take place later in the 2022/2023 financial year. The Local Committee will ask officers to review the existing speed limits in the area and assess whether a reduction is appropriate.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2022 be agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

8 COPELAND HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

Members received a report detailing the discussions and recommendations from the meeting of the Copeland Highways Working Group held on 20 April. The minutes from the meeting were appended to the report.

The Local Area Network Manager outlined three of the recommendations made by the Highways Working Group to the Local Committee for consideration.

The Local Member for Egremont North and St Bees raised concerns about National Highways' capacity as well as investment. The Local Area Network Manager agreed to circulate details of the next meeting of the A595 Liaison Group when confirmed. The Traffic Management Team Leader outlined the revised Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposal for The Forge, Cleator and confirmed that discussions would take place with Ennerdale School with regards to proposal 17, the proposed introduction of 'No Stopping on School Entrance Markings'.

The timescale for implementation of the TRO proposals was discussed.

RESOLVED, that

1. the minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Copeland Highways Working Group held on 20 April 2022 be noted;
2. a letter be sent by the Chair on the Committee's behalf, regarding the lack of investment and capacity in the area by National Highways to the Local MP for Copeland and to the Chairman of the House of Commons Transport Select committee;
3. the proposed option, for the use of the allocated additional budget of £200,000 dedicated to the treatment of potholes be agreed;

4. Officers may proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order (“the Order”) which would:
Consolidate the provisions of: -
 - (i) The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Borough of Copeland) (Consolidation and Provision of Traffic Regulations) Order 2020; and
 - (ii) The County of Cumbria (A5086/U4017 Arlecdon Parks Road, Arlecdon) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2003 as attached as Appendix 44 to the report of the Working Group; and
 - (a) Introduce new restrictions as shown on the plans attached as Appendices 2, 3, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33A, 34, 36A, 37, 38, 39, 40, & 42 ONLY to the report.

9 AREA PLANNING REPORT

Mr F Morgan declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a County Council appointed Board Member of Phoenix Enterprise Centre.

Members received a report that provided an update on the activity undertaken by the Community Team since the last meeting of the Committee. The report also advised members on their current budget position.

A summary of the Local Committee Budget Summary for 2022/23 was attached to the report at Appendix 2 with new allocations approved at County Council on 10 February at Appendix 1.

The Area Manager outlined a number of grant allocations listed in the report and updated members on revised Local Committee priorities and area planning matters. Members were informed of Dementia Action week and the work that the team were carrying out with partners to hold a range of events and activities to raise awareness, provide information and support.

The Area Manager reported on the allocated Environment Fund for 2022/23 and the projects proposed by members and developed with relevant partners and organisations for part of the funding. It was reported that the Financial Summary Statement 2021-22 (at Appendix 2) showed an overspend of £82,624 for the full year against the budget of £400,000 (£200,000 Environment Fund / £200,000 COMF). The overspend was made up of £78,792 which related to the Environment Fund and £4,633 which related to COMF. It was noted that these costs were applied at the very end of the financial year and did not yet reflect the contributions from other parties to these works which will be made during the current financial year. The recommendation, subsequently agreed by members, was that the overspend be deducted from the Environment Fund for 2022/23 as a temporary measure until other contributions were received. The Area Manager agreed to discuss work on Middlebank Suspension Bridge with the Local Member for Egremont outside of the meeting. The Local Member for Millom expressed his appreciation of the work that had taken place in the Millom area.

The Library & Customer Manager (Copeland) updated members on library services. Members noted the reopening of services following the pandemic, expansion of services and partnership working that was taking place with the DWP using Whitehaven Library to host DWP Youth Hub appointments. The Chair highlighted the launch of the Youth Hub project scheduled to take place on 1 June and requested that discussion take place with DWP to introduce this service in Millom. Members were asked to contact the Area Manager with requests for attendance at the launch. To conclude the Library and Customer Manager advised on joint working that was taking place with Allerdale and Copeland's Public Health Teams.

The Area Manager gave a verbal update on the Copeland Town Deal programmes. It was noted that public exhibition events would be taking place for both Cleator Moor and Millom & Haverigg Town Deal projects. The purpose of the events was to share information, update on progress and outline key milestones with the community and other stakeholders. Both exhibitions will include all projects within each Town's Investment Plan. Members noted that the Cleator Moor exhibition would be held week commencing 23 May and Millom and Haverigg would be held week commencing 20 June.

The Public Health Locality Manager updated members on public health matters advising that Covid had not gone away, encouraging the take up of Covid boosters and highlighted the cost of living crisis impacting on health and wellbeing. A short discussion took place around NHS dentistry, the lack of NHS dentists and facilities.

RESOLVED, that

1. the contents of the report be noted;
2. the revised priorities for 2022/23 be agreed;
3. the Copeland Local Committee budget allocations in the 2022/23 County Council budget, as outlined in Appendix 1, be noted;
4. the Copeland Local Committee outturn budget for 2021/22, outlined in Appendix 2, be noted;
5. the Neighbourhood Development budget of £86,308 be allocated to the Community Development Team for 2022/23;
6. the Money Advice Contract with Citizens Advice Copeland with an allocation of £57,060 from the Money Advice budget line be agreed;
7. the School Crossing Patrol budget of £20,873 be allocated to fund the provision of school crossing patrols in Copeland as per the Service Level Agreement at Appendix 3;
8. the 0-19 allocation of £55,737 be delegated to the Children & Young People's Partnership for distribution through grant funding and commissioned services;

9. the virement of £15,000 from the 0-19 Universal Services to the School Crossing Patrol budget to fulfil the full cost of the Service Level Agreement be agreed;
10. the 11-19 Universal Services allocation of £24,400 to be added to the 0-19 budget for distribution through the Children & Young People's Partnership be agreed;
11. £54,112 General Provision budget to be distributed through grant funding applications measured against agreed local priorities be agreed;
12. the priorities for the use of Local Committee grant funding as attached at Appendix 4, be agreed;
13. the community grant allocations agreed since 1st April 2022 be noted and the allocations listed below ratified:-
 - £35,263 to Citizens Advice Copeland from General Provision towards the costs of a three year financial inclusion service, which includes additional capacity to address an increase in demand;
 - £17,000 to Phoenix Enterprise Centre from General Provision towards the Digital Access, Advice, Food and Support project, specifically supporting costs of the Thrift Hub Food Pantry;
 - £12,000 to Rosehill Arts Trust from a ringfenced allocation with 0-19 Universal Services to run a Copeland Collective programme from October 2022 to March 2023;
 - £21,600 to Howgill Family Centre from 0-19 Universal Services to enable all primary schools in Copeland continue to be part of the PhunkyFoods health lifestyle programme.
14. allocations outlined in paragraph 4.24 of the report against the Environment Fund be agreed;
15. to utilise the Environment Fund for 2022/23 to fund an overspend of £82,624 against the 2021/22 COMF and Environment Fund Budget be agreed.

10 COPELAND CHAMPIONS UPDATE

Dementia Champion

The Dementia Champion highlighted the fact that it was Dementia Awareness week and the Community Development Officer outlined the work that was being carried out with partners to raise awareness, offer support and advice.

Fire Champion

The Fire Champion advised attendance, together with the Area Manager, at an excellent Emergency Planning Oscar decontamination training exercise. Arising

from this, the involvement of existing community groups to assist in an emergency was discussed.

Health Champion

The Health Champion advised on matters that had been discussed at the Cumbria Health Scrutiny meeting. These included the pandemic and impact on hospitals, OPAL levels at both North and South Cumbria hospitals, future health legislation and the pressures faced by the North West Ambulance Service.

The Chair thanked the champions for the updates.

11 VERBAL UPDATE FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES/EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

The officers agreed to action the Local Member for Cleator Moor East and Frizington's request for a review of the Committee's appointments to outside bodies.

12 NUCLEAR ISSUES

Mr D Southward, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property updated the Committee on nuclear issues. The Cabinet Member advised on advanced modular reactors (AMRs), small modular reactors (SMRs), discussed Fusion power, the STEP project and concluded on the geological disposal facility (GDF). It was hoped by members that the newly formed Shadow Authority would have involvement in the GDF process and have officers with specific knowledge of the nuclear industry.

To conclude the Chair discussed the value of Local Committees and having a devolved budget to influence projects for and benefiting the residents of Copeland.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Local Committee was scheduled for 20 July at 10.15 am at Millom Network Centre.

The meeting ended at 11.50 am