

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Monday, 12 July 2021 at 10.30 am at Museum Room, 1st Floor, Barrow Library, Ramsden Square, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1LL

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs L Harker	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	- Area Manager - Barrow
Ms M Pearce	- Library Customer Manager (Barrow)
Mr K Tetchner	- Local Area Highways Network Manager

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

1 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.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

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

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr S Wielkopolski.

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr B Shirley declared a personal interest in agenda item 8(2) – Barrow Highways Sub-Group - Safer Schools – School Streets Initiative (minute 8 refers) as his child was a pupil at Askam Village School and he was Vice-Chair of the Governing Body.

5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

7 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8 BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave details of the discussions and recommendations of the Highways Advisory Sub-Group (HASG) for the Barrow area which met on 9 April and 11 June 2021.

(1) Minutes

With reference to Minute 3 of the meeting held on 11 June 2021 – Update from Cumbria Police Authority members were informed that the meeting to discuss the traffic congestion concerns at Hollywood Park had taken place. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that following correspondence with the Land Agent for the Park they had informed him that ‘the landlords were currently looking at solutions and options’. It was agreed that designs which had been drafted for the area by the Authority would be made available to the Land Agent and that a further meeting would be convened when further information had been received.

During the course of discussion the local Member for Walney North informed members that a notice had recently been erected at the entrance to Hollywood Park directing vehicles to an alternative access point. It was agreed the Local Area Highways Network Manager would investigate this matter further.

With reference to Minute 4 of the Meeting held on 11 June 2021 – Update from Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service the local Member for Hindpool confirmed that a site visit had been undertaken to the area at the rear of the Cross Keys Public House and emphasised the concerns raised at the Sub-Group meeting highlighting the need for investment. During the course of discussion it was suggested that consideration be given to the introduction of a restriction to allow 15 minutes waiting for vehicles in the area.

Members asked that this matter be considered in consultation with representatives from Barrow Borough Council and that the Traffic Manager Team Leader (Barrow) bring a report for consideration to the next meeting of Barrow Highways Sub-Group on 12 October 2021.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings held on 9 April and 11 June 2021 be noted.

(2) Safer Schools – School Streets Initiative

The Chair of the Local Committee informed members that due to the timescale for the submission of information to be included in the School Streets Initiative pilot he had been asked to agree a school in the Barrow area. He explained that, taking into consideration the criteria, he had recommended Ormsgill Nursery and Primary School as first choice with Askam Village School as the reserved option.

A discussion took place regarding this matter and members raised their concerns and disappointment at the way in which this matter had been dealt with by officers. The local members for Dalton North and Hindpool, whilst acknowledging the situation in which the Chair had been placed, expressed their disagreement with the proposed schools.

The local Member for Dalton North explained to the Committee that he had previously been informed that Askam Village School had been identified as the pilot school and that a significant amount of consultation had taken place with a number of people to prepare resources for the scheme. During the course of discussion he highlighted that Askam Village School was the only school in the area where a major incident had taken place, emphasising that the safety of children was paramount.

The Committee, therefore, agreed that the Chair would inform the Officer concerned that Askam Village School would be named as the one to take place in the pilot and Ormsgill Nursery and Primary would be the reserved option.

A discussion took place regarding the potential use of funding from other budgets to fund two pilots. The Committee agreed that one pilot should take place initially before being rolled out to other schools in the area. Members raised general concerns regarding safety issues at a number of schools and suggested that this matter be discussed further at the next meeting of Barrow Highways Sub-Group in October.

RESOLVED, to proceed to statutory consultation on the proposal to introduce an Experimental Traffic Order to introduce a “School Street” in the Barrow area outside Askam Village School with Ormsgill Nursery and Primary School being the reserve school, the effect of which will be to reduce traffic levels outside of the School during school arrival and departure times.

(3) **Barrow Local Committee Provisional Devolved Highways Capital Programme 2021/22**

RESOLVED, that the revised Devolved Capital budget and the reallocation of schemes detailed in the DfT pothole funding allocation for 2021/22 (as detailed below) be agreed:-

- (i) the revised Devolved Highways Non Principal Road Network Capital Programme for 2021/22 (as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report);
- (ii) the inclusion of the schemes (outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report) within the Pothole Capital Funding for 2021/22.

Members noted there were no recommendations arising from the meeting on the 11 June.

The local Member for Dalton North asked for an update on the arrival of the JCB pothole machine and the Local Highways Network Manager confirmed the procurement exercise had been completed but a date for delivery of the equipment had not been received.

A discussion took place regarding the availability of materials for highways schemes and the Highways Network Manager confirmed that there were delays in receiving certain goods.

9 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

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

The Library Customer Manager gave a positive verbal update to members informing them of the progress with regards to refurbishment of the Library which included a sensory room, children’s area, IT area and local studies space. It was explained that staff were working differently in supporting customers, highlighting that through recent funding a number of colleagues had received training which had provided them with the skills to undertake one to one IT training.

The Committee was informed that work was also being undertaken with the Health and Wellbeing Coaches who had provided training to enable staff to be able to identify customers who required additional support and signpost them to appropriate services.

The local Member for Ormsgill congratulated the work which had been undertaken to provide the new successful Library in his Division.

Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Area Manager (Barrow), Library Customer Manager and all Library colleagues for the work and support which they had provided to make the Library a fantastic venue.

The Committee received an update from the Children's Trust Board who continued to meet regularly and had recently established working groups to specifically consider vulnerable children, early help and prevention, universal services and neighbourhood approach. During the course of discussion the importance of early help and prevention was emphasised.

Members received an update on the Dalton Borderlands Place Programme and noted that the community consultation had been very positive. It was explained that further information would be available at the next meeting of Barrow Local Committee.

Members noted that in relation to the £200,000 funding stream relating to outdoor spaces two separate workshops had been held to consider potential schemes. It was explained that a number of proposals had been put forward and were considered at an Informal Local Committee meeting of 18 June. The Committee was informed that the proposed shortlist of schemes which they wished to see progressed using the funding were Westfield Trail, Biggar Bank, Old Monks Trail, Mill Brow – Abbey Road to Park Road Roundabout, installation/replacement benches and Heritage and Cultural Information (detailed further in the report).

The Committee was informed that Barrow Borough Council had confirmed they wished to establish a process, such as a Poverty Truth Commission, to identify and remediate financial inequalities with particular reference to the existing vulnerable residents and the potential for a large cohort of newly vulnerable residents, due to secondary impacts of the outbreak. It was explained the Borough Council had already identified much of the funding for this work and Local Committee was asked to consider funding £10,000 towards the Scheme over two years.

Members had agreed that as this aligned directly with Local Committees priorities, in particular the priority of "improving health and wellbeing and tackling poverty," they supported £5,000 towards this from the 2020/21 budget and agreed to consider funding the additional £5,000 from the 2021/22 budget if possible.

The Committee had received information regarding 'Active Start', an early year's programme for children between the ages of 2 and 7 with the prime focus of using physical activity and active play to support a child to be healthy, to learn and be active for life. Members noted that an approach had been made by Active Cumbria to consider a grant of £10,000 to support this pilot project.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the budget allocations (outlined in Appendix 3 of the report) be agreed;
- (3) the six schemes (as detailed above and in paragraph 4.42 of the report) to be funded and delivered from the Contain Outbreak Mitigation Fund Improving Outdoor Spaces (Area Based Events and Activities) workstream be agreed;
- (4) £5,000 be allocated to the Borough Council to support a Poverty Truth Commission from General Provisions (as outlined in Paragraph 4.47i of the report);
- (5) a grant of £10,000 from the 0-19 Services budget to Active Cumbria to support pilot a project for Active Start (referred to above and in paragraph 4.47ii of the report) be agreed.

10 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meetings held on 29 January 2021 and 27 April 2021 be noted.

11 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from members serving on Outside Bodies on this occasion.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Friday 17 September 2021 at 10.30 am at a venue to be agreed.

Members suggested that the Library be used as a venue for future meetings.

The meeting ended at 11.35 am