

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Friday, 17 September 2021 at 10.30 am at Community Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

Mrs A Burns
Mr F Cassidy
Mr D English
Mr D Gawne

Mr W McEwan (Vice-Chair)
Mr B Shirley
Mr MH Worth

Also in Attendance:-

Ms A Fitzsimmons	-	Project and Programme Officer
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Ms A Jones	-	Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure
Mrs A Meadows	-	Community Development Officer
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Mr N Vass-Bowen	-	Lead Officer – Infrastructure Planning
Ms M Pearce	-	Library Customer Manager (Barrow)
Ms S Tiribocchi	-	Community Development Officer

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

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms H Wall and Mr R Worthington.

14 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

17 MINUTES

The local Member for Walney North asked for an update on Hollywood Park and it was agreed a report would be considered at a future meeting of the Barrow Highways Sub-Group.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18 BAE PLANNING PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

The Committee received a presentation from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which outlined the development of a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

Members were informed they were voluntary agreements between the County Council and the applicants, highlighting that they did not impact on the Authority's decision-making, but helped to:

- bring together the developer, the Local Planning Authority and key stakeholders to work in partnership throughout the planning process;
- ensure complex proposals progress through the process to mutually agreed timescales;
- ensure appropriate resources and expertise were provided to advise on complex proposals;
- provide greater opportunity for dialogue through the planning process and help deliver high quality development

The Committee received examples of a number of major projects across the county where the County Council had used them noting that they supported the development of effective relationships, offered an enhanced framework to support the project; provided management of complex proposals; provided greater resource to respond effectively to major proposals; reduced complexity of communication between the organisations and wider partners and helped to add value to development proposals and deliver stronger aligned outcomes.

Members were informed that the benefits of a PPA with BAE included Barrow Borough Council and Cumbria County Council being resourced to respond fully to planning applications, closer working relationship with BAE and opportunity to achieve better outcomes, integration of new development with plans for Barrow town centre, economy and transport and support achievement of shared solutions to challenges.

During the course of discussion officers confirmed the PPA had focused on the submarine site; there was no mention of anything specifically regarding the airfield but it was suggested this may form part of wider plans.

The Committee was informed of the structure and principles of Barrow Borough Council, Cumbria County Council and BAE within a single agreement and noted that the next steps were to finalise the content of the PPA document, formally decide to enter into the PPA a Key Decision for the Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure with the decision to enter into the PPA with the signing of the legal document being expected in November 2021.

A discussion took place regarding any potential effects of the Local Government Reform and members were informed that all activities would continue with collaborative working where necessary to ensure projects were delivered.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

19 LOCAL COMMITTEE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Local Committee received a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which advised members of the revised Terms of Reference for local committees which had been agreed at Council on 7 September 2021.

RESOLVED, that the revised Terms of Reference be noted.

20 SCHOOL STREETS INITIATIVE - ASKAM VILLAGE SCHOOL - PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER IN SUPPORT OF A SCHOOL STREET BEING ESTABLISHED AT ASKAM VILLAGE SCHOOL, ASKAM-IN-FURNESS

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which introduced the School Streets initiative which was aimed at reducing traffic levels outside of schools during the arrival and departure times. The report sought approval from Barrow Local Committee to proceed to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (“the Experimental Order”) in support of a school street being established at Askam Village School, Askam in Furness.

The local Member for Dalton North informed members that works were currently being undertaken on Alexander Place, which was part of the scheme, and asked that officers co-ordinate this for the launch of the Initiative to avoid any problems.

The local Member for Ormsgill welcomed Askam Village School as the pilot for the initiative and explained he had withdrawn the original suggestion of Ormsgill Nursery and Primary School to allow this to go ahead.

During the course of discussion members highlighted that Carlisle Local Committee had been given approval to introduce two Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders for the initiative and asked that the Traffic Management Team Leader investigate this matter and report back to the Chair direct.

RESOLVED, that having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (more specifically referred to a paragraph 7.2 of the report), approve the introduction of an Experimental School Street Order, the effect of which will prohibit vehicular access outside of Askam Village School on Lots Road, Askam-in-Furness, for a period of 1 hour at either end of the school day, with permitted exemptions (as shown on the plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report).

21 BARROW ACTIVE TRAVEL CYCLE SCHEME TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2021

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which sought approval from the Local Committee to progress to statutory advertising and consultation of a Traffic Regulation Order which would prohibit vehicles parking on Michaelson Road and Bridge Road, Barrow-in-Furness by the removal of existing parking spaces and the allocation of an area of carriageway as a mandatory cycle lane protecting cyclists from traffic.

During the course of discussion the local Member for Walney North asked for an update on any progress regarding the proposed implementation of a pilot scheme to separate pedestrians and cyclists on Jubilee Bridge, highlighting concerns at the junction of Jubilee Bridge, Bridge Road and North Road. The Local Area Highways Network Manager agreed to raise this matter with the appropriate officer and report back direct.

The local members for both Walney North and Walney South whilst initially sceptical about the removal of the roundabout and installation of traffic lights at North Road welcomed how they had improved the flow of traffic at the junction.

RESOLVED, that the Local Committee agrees the progression to statutory consultation and advertising of The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) (Order 2001) Variation Order (No. 43) 20>< (“the Order”) to introduce: -

- (i) “No Waiting at Any Time” (double yellow line) restrictions on Michaelson Road and Bridge Road, Barrow-in-Furness, thereby effecting the removal of all the existing parking spaces, and
- (ii) lengths of mandatory cycle lane dedicated solely to cycling along lengths of Bridge Road and Michaelson Road, Barrow-in-Furness (as shown on the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

22 DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS CAPITAL AND REVENUE UPDATE 2021/22

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the Highways Revenue and Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports and updated members as to current progress on those budget lines.

Members were informed that following the decision at the full County Council meeting in June 2021 to carry forward the under or accelerated spending during 2020/21 the Barrow Local Committee Highways Budget lines were now as follows:-

- Devolved Highways Revenue Budget was now £883,064;
- Devolved Highways Non Principal Road Network Capital budget was £1,158,000;
- Devolved Highways Additional Pothole Repairs Capital budget was £802,000.

The local Member for Dalton North asked whether the funding allocation from the Highways Revenue budget for 2021/22 covered the function of the Better Highways Team and if this service still existed. The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed that the allocation did cover this function but confirmed the service had been separated into two and now included condition inspectors and reactive operatives who undertook the same duties as the previously known Better Highways Team.

The local Member for Roosecote expressed his concerns regarding the lack of progress on Manor Road. The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed there was ongoing dialogue between the County Council and Historic England regarding this matter and he would keep the local Member updated.

The local Member for Hindpool raised concerns regarding the ongoing problems on the highway in her Division due to works being undertaken by internet providers, highlighting the vast number of pavements being excavated at the same time.

The Committee raised their concerns regarding works undertaken by internet providers in the Barrow area; whilst these were acknowledged it was confirmed that this was a statutory right and the County Council had no authority to refuse a permit but highlighted there were restrictions which had to be adhered to.

During the course of discussion the local Member for Hindpool also raised concerns regarding a sink hole in Hartington Street. The Local Area Highways Manager confirmed that United Utilities had been informed and would undertake an inspection of the site imminently. It was explained that if this issue was not the responsibility of United Utilities the County Council would investigate the matter further.

It was agreed that United Utilities would be invited to a future meeting of the Highways Sub-Group.

The Chair of the Local Committee raised his concerns regarding the classification of roads in the Barrow area, highlighting, as an example, that Abbey Road was a 'C' road. Members agreed that roads should be re-classified and the Local Area Highways Network Manager would provide information on the classification of the roads in the area.

RESOLVED, that the revenue and capital budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to the end of July 2021 (as detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report) be noted.

23 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

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

The Committee received an update on the COVID response noting that the COVID Recovery Group continued to meet and still included Community Resource Distribution Points and the wider partners such as Integrated Care Community, Age UK, Barrow Foodbank, Family Action and the Barrow Advice Hub as well as the Health and Wellbeing Coaches.

Members were informed that the Tree/Environment Working Group had both supported the bid into the Local Authority Treescape fund as well as the Council's Environment Fund. It was explained that it had also begun to consider possible sites across the borough for planting trees, wildflowers and hedgerows, as well as considering locations to allow natural rewilding to take place.

The local Member for Dalton North welcomed the successful bid into the Local Authority's Treescape fund and asked for further information regarding the location of the trees and confirmation that the Local Area Highways Network Manager had the capacity to undertake this additional work without this compromising his current workload. The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed that additional resources had been requested to manage this project and an agreement, in

principle, had been made regarding the location of the trees which included Abbey Road, Hartington Street and Risedale Road. The Committee was informed the scheme would be provided through a contractor via a procurement exercise and the funding would include future maintenance of the trees.

The Committee received an update on the Barrow Town Deal noting that the final business case for the Hubs programme had been submitted to the Barrow Borough Council's formal assurance process following which the final overall Town Deal submission would be made to Government at the end of the year. It was explained that subject to a successful outcome a detailed delivery plan would be further developed for the Hubs with delivery starting in 2022. The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Adele Fitzsimmons, Programme and Project Officer, for her support in this matter.

Members were informed that the Dalton Borderlands Town Team as well as the Dalton Community Partnership continued to meet regularly. The Committee noted that the Town Team had considered the feedback from the consultation and the proposed format and content of the Place Plan. It was explained the consultants were currently working on the Plan and a draft would be shared with the Town Team in autumn for their feedback and consideration before being brought to Local Committee for formal consideration.

The local Member for Walney North welcomed the Earnse Bay project and commented on the excellent work which had been undertaken. During the course of discussion he raised his concerns regarding safety at the entrance to West Shore Park due to the lack of a pedestrian crossing or safety railing and asked if this matter could be looked at further as soon as possible. The Area Manager acknowledged this was integral to the project and would be investigated further.

The local Member for Ormsgill highlighted the success of the Ormsgill Community Centre and drew attention to the programme of events over the summer provided through the Ormsgill Stronger Together. The Community Development Team, in particular Sim Tiribocchi, were thanked and congratulated for their support in this project.

The Committee was informed that the funding for Local Committee's Community Grants Fund was now fully committed and as more organisations began to resume activities members were asked to consider whether they wished to vire an additional £10,000 from General Provisions into the Community Grants pot to support groups going forward.

The local Member for Dalton North, whilst agreeing in principle to a grant of £10,000 to Barrow Borough Council did not fully support this due to the lack of information regarding the proposed projects. The Area Manager, whilst acknowledging the concerns raised, assured members the budget would be used appropriately.

The Library Customer Manager gave a positive update regarding Barrow Library and Archive Services highlighting the success of the summer reading challenge which had started with 199 young people and finished with 104 completing this. Members welcomed the information on the Barrow Library Building Project, Home

Delivery Service, Ormsgill Services Day, Liz Million, Reading Agency and Sarah and Duck as well as the Heritage Street Zone on Duke Street and the additional funding awarded by Historic England to fund a 4 year programme of cultural events as part of the Lost Shops of Duke Street project.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Library Customer Manager and Team for their excellent work.

The Committee received an update on the Barrow Children and Families Partnership and welcomed the holiday, activities and food programme continuing over the Christmas holidays in 2021.

Members were informed that the Children's Trust Partnership Board was focussing on early help and preventative services. It was explained there was a pilot scheme being undertaken in the Barrow area involving a number of agencies to provide wraparound services to try and keep families safely together. The Local Committee welcomed this and the positive progress which was being made.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Community Team for the significant work which they had undertaken during the pandemic.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the following outstanding grants (as outlined in paragraph 4.58 of the report) be approved:-
 - (i) £40,000 to the COVID Community Recovery Group via Spring Mount to pilot a co-ordinated approach to providing essential items and support;
 - (ii) up to £30,000 to Health and Partners to use the Harri Bus and partner activity to engage with communities across the borough providing a range of COVID and other support and advice to communities;
 - (iii) £10,000 to Barrow and District Disability Association to re-establish and deliver activities to support people following the pandemic in a COVID safe manner;
 - (iv) £10,000 to Barrow Borough Council to support a range of events and activities within the borough;
 - (v) £10,000 to Barrow Borough Council for community engagement and a programme of events and activity around the development of the Town Deal Town Centre Hub at the Forum working with the Forum and Cando FM;

- (3) £10,000 be vired from General Provisions to Community Grants.

24 HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

The Committee received a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which gave an update on the work of the Public Health Locality Manager to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities.

Members welcomed the detailed update which included information regarding COVID 19, Barrow Health and Wellbeing Partnerships, Morecambe Bay Population Health Strategic Board, Regional Health Inequalities Commission and Barrow Community Alcohol Partnership,

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

25 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 5 July 2021 be noted.

26 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from members serving on outside bodies on this occasion.

27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Monday 15 November 2021 at 10.30 am in Ormsgill Community Centre if this venue was available.

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm