

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Friday, 20 September 2019 at 10.30 am at Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance:-

Mr K Cosgrove	-	Highways Network Manager (Copeland)
Ms L Graham	-	Public Health Locality Manager
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mr T Murphy	-	Parking Team Leader
Ms V Percival	-	Senior Highways Network Technician
Dr M Saunders	-	Public Health Consultant
Mr A Shields	-	Parking Manager
Mr K Tetchner	-	Highways Network Manager

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

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D English and Mr R Worthington.

29 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

With reference to agenda item 6 – Working Together Service (minute 33 refers) Mr W McEwan declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a member of the ZEST Board.

30 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

31 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

32 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33 WORKING TOGETHER SERVICE

Members considered a report from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which provided an understanding of the next proposed steps for the Working Together Service. The update highlighted the development of a number of draft trial agreements with a number of third parties to establish the suitability of the agreement document and support in determining the resources required to roll out the service countywide. I was explained that since the report had been written the Contract Agreements had been agreed and would be circulated separately to members following the meeting.

The Committee was informed that a start-up provision of funds totalling £150k was allocated to allow the Authority to develop an efficient and well managed framework to enable third parties, namely town and parish councils, to have access to a service that would formalise and streamline existing Lengthsman and volunteer activities, encapsulate safety and structure around those activities and enhance the current provision of highways services.

Members noted that the service would provide two clearly defined partnership agreements. The first would allow town and parish councils to employ an authorised 'person' to undertake agreed work on the highway which was categorised as low to medium risk activities. The second would enable communities to undertake low risk volunteer activities, with support and supervision from Cumbria County Council. It was highlighted that only groups who were constituted would be considered.

The Committee drew attention to the fact that it was not mandatory for town and parish councils to work with the service but if they did not then they were open to any liabilities if an incident or accident occurred on the highway on which they had authorised activity without County Council knowledge and consent. Members asked whether this included 'litter picks' and other community work which was carried out by school children, highlighting that individual groups should be encouraged to

undertake such activities. Officers emphasised that the intention was to encourage participation and that liaison would be undertaken with schools to investigate initiatives which were already being undertaken and encouraged members to cascade this information in the first instance.

Members were informed that on-going support and input had been sought from Cumbria Association of Local Councils throughout the development of the service and would continue to play an integral part in the future. It was explained that in order to reach as many groups as possible area managers were also being consulted.

The Committee drew attention to a number of activities already being undertaken by individual groups including ZEST and Askam and Ireleth Parish Council and it was agreed that information regarding them and other activities which members were aware of should be passed to the Highways Network Manager.

The Committee welcomed the report but felt that better communication was required to encourage participations. Officers explained that a dedicated web page would soon be available.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

34 PARKING SERVICES UPDATE

Members considered a report from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which provided an update on the enforcement of on and selected off-street parking in the Barrow Local Committee area. It was explained that following a recent recruitment process the Parking Services Team would soon have the equivalent of five full time Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to cover the Barrow locality.

The Committee was informed that at total of 3,642 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued for on street parking contraventions in the Barrow locality during 2018/19. It was explained that in the first five months of 2019/20 to date a total of 1,419 PCNs had been issued for on street parking contraventions in the Barrow locality.

The Committee noted that the Team regularly received reports regarding inconsiderate parking outside schools. It was explained that CEOs had visited a number of areas across the locality to carry out enforcement and educational patrols as well as working in partnership with Orian, the school crossing provider, to address parking issues in proximity to schools.

Members were informed that the Team continued to issue PCNs relating to the misuse of Blue Badges.

The Committee was given positive feedback regarding the new arrangements for on-street visitor parking permits which had been introduced in May 2018 in the Barrow locality.

The local Member for Walney North raised a concern regarding a caravan and boat parked on double-yellow lines on The Promenade, Walney. It was agreed the Team would investigate this matter and report back direct to the Member.

The local Member for Roosecote thanked the Team for issuing Penalty Charge Notices on vehicles obstructing dropped kerbs. He informed officers that he was in the process of drawing up a plan of all dropped kerbs and welcomed any information on their locations from the CEOs.

Members were reminded that a small budget was available for the installation of additional dropped kerbs and that the Highways Network Manager should be informed of any locations where it was envisaged one would be beneficial.

A discussion took place regarding accessibility and attention was drawn to work which had been undertaken with the Disability Association. It was suggested that further liaison should take place with them regarding this matter. Members were informed that the local Member for Ormsgill was accompanying the Royal National Institute for the Blind to undertake a walk in the Barrow area to demonstrate how unsafe local neighbourhoods and the street environment could be for those with sight loss and he would report back.

The Committee drew attention to the surplus income from on-street parking enforcement which had been allocated for signs and lines to enable them to be brought up to an enforceable standard and, therefore, maximise enforcement activity. Members were informed that the CEOs were working with the Highways Network Manager to identify where replacements were required.

A discussion took place regarding vehicles parking on pavements and a number of members raised their concerns. The erection of bollards was suggested as a possible solution to the problems. The Committee agreed that pavement parking should be investigated and dealt with on a common sense approach.

The Committee welcomed liaison between the Team and local communities to address parking concerns. The local Member for Ormsgill requested that a CEO attend a future meeting in his Division.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Team for their work in the Barrow area.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Parking Services Annual Report 2018/19 be noted.

35 2019/20 HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED REVENUE AND CAPITAL UPDATE

Members received a report from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which presented the Highways Revenue and Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports and updated the Committee as to current progress on those budget lines.

A discussion took place regarding the unallocated additional pothole budget which had to be allocated during the current financial year. Members were informed that a schedule of proposed schemes would be considered at the next meeting of the Barrow Highways Sub-Group. The Committee raised their concerns regarding deterioration of the back streets in Barrow and welcomed the report.

During the course of discussion members emphasised the importance of the back streets to the community. Attention was drawn to a scheme which had been undertaken in another Authority where back streets had been made into play streets. It was agreed that a member of the Community Development Team would investigate this further.

The local Member for Hindpool raised her concerns regarding speeding vehicles on Greengate Street raising issues regarding the health and safety of pupils at the nearby Greengate Junior School. A suggestion was made for speed awareness signs to be erected in the area. It was agreed the Highways Network Manager would obtain data regarding speed and volume of traffic in the area and investigate this matter further.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

36 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

The Committee 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 report included a positive update on Establish a Love Barrow Running Festival, the Redevelopment of Barrow Central Library, Supporting Children and Families and Community Development on Barrow Island, Supporting Children and Families in the Greengate Area of the Town, Ormsgill Community Hub and events which had taken place through the Barrow Libraries and Archives service.

Members were informed that a request had been received to fund the provision of a “Tiny Tablet” for Parkview Gardens Care Home. It was explained that this piece of equipment was a large table style interactive tablet with a range of apps including dementia friendly focussed. The Committee was informed the cost of the equipment was up to £6,500 plus VAT, depending upon the number purchased. Members were, therefore, asked to consider whether they wished to agree up to a maximum of £6,500 from General Provisions to fund a tablet.

The Committee agreed to the allocation of £6,500 and requested that, if possible, the device be relocated and made available at other locations.

The Area Manager agreed to provide a written update to the local Member for Dalton North regarding the Dalton Community Centre.

The Chair drew attention to a successful awards ceremony he had recently attended at Dane Ghyll School and it was agreed that a visit be organised for members to attend the School.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Community Development Team for all the positive work they had undertaken.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a grant of £6,500 be allocated to Parkview Gardens for the provision of a 'Tiny Tablet'.

37 BARROW HEALTH, WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dr Matthew Saunders, Public Health Consultant for South Cumbria introduced himself and was welcomed to his first meeting.

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which updated members on the work of the Public Health Locality Manager and the Community Development Team to improve health and wellbeing outcomes in Barrow.

Members welcomed the positive report which included information on the Joint Public Health Strategy, Barrow Health and Wellbeing Forum, Suicide Safer Barrow, Love Barrow Running Festival and #BeWellFest and #BePartOfIt.

The Committee received an update from the local Members for Ormsgill and Dalton North regarding Suicide Safer Barrow. Members were informed that they had jointly contacted Colin Cox, Director of Public Health (Cumbria County Council) requesting his support with a Strategy for Barrow. They had requested support to enable a publicity strategy to be rolled out which would include advertising materials such as beer mats, posters etc to promote the support and advice services which were available in the community.

Members were also informed of the need and wish to build a mental health first responder network. It was anticipated this would include expertise with the ability to recognise early suicidal thoughts and obtain help as soon as possible.

The Committee noted that a motion would be put to Barrow Borough Council to become a suicidal alert community; remove the matter being a taboo subject and encourage people to speak out about any concerns. It was felt this was an invaluable opportunity for Elected Members and officers of both the County and District Councils to work collaboratively to make a positive difference.

During the course of discussion attention was drawn to the 'Campaign Against Living Miserably' and it was suggested that their contact details, together with those of the Samaritans, be also included on the advertising materials.

Members welcomed all the suggestions but emphasised that there needed to be a guarantee that all contact details made available were answered immediately.

A discussion took place with regards to seeking funding and support from major employers in the Barrow area. The Public Health Locality Manager confirmed that she was in discussion with BAE to be part of their health and wellbeing programme for apprentices.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the local Members for the work they had undertaken to date.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

38 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 8 July 2019 be noted.

39 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- (1) Mr B Shirley informed members that Active Barrow, which comprised a number of organisations, was now holding positive monthly meetings and an update would be made to the Committee in future.
- (2) Mrs A Burns conveyed her congratulations to the County Council's Apprenticeship Team for their recent regional award.

The Chair echoed those sentiments and it was agreed a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to the Team on behalf of the Committee.

40 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Monday 18 November 2019 at 10.30 am in the Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm