

## **CABINET 9 JULY 2019**

### **FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL AREA COUNCIL MEETINGS 13 - 22 MAY 2019 - EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES**

*(Details of planning and rights of way applications are not included.)*

#### **Castle Morpeth LAC, 13 May 2019**

#### **11. COMMUNITY CHEST PRESENTATIONS**

The Chair welcomed the contribution of local groups and small charities to the daily lives of residents and, in formal recognition of this, a certificate was presented to each representative.

The organisations represented were as follows:-

- Mitford Cricket Club
- Morpeth Group Riding for the Disabled
- Barnesbury Cycling Club
- Northumberland Pride
- Ponteland Community Partnership
- Collingwood School and Media Arts College
- Morpeth Amateur Runners Association
- Coquet Shorebase Trust
- The Morpeth Antiquarian Society
- Pegswood Community Beekeeping Club
- Red Row Kickstart

#### **12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

#### **13. PETITIONS**

Members were informed that, since the previous meeting, no new petitions had been received, there were no reports due on petitions previously received, nor any updates due on petitions previously considered.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **14. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

Members received a verbal update from the Area Manager as follows:-

- Garden waste collection was underway. Some slight changes had been made to the scheme since last year but everything seemed to be going well. There had been an increase in numbers taking up the service this year.
- The grass cutting season had commenced with four or five cuts having already been made.
- Seasonal staff were in position and were now working seasonal hours (44 hours instead of 37)
- Preparations for weed killing had been made and a start would soon be made.
- Grass verge cutting would commence in mid June using the same contractors as in 2018.
- A new sweeper would arrive soon and it was anticipated that this would be more efficient leading to improvements across the board.

#### **15. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members were asked to make appointments to outside body organisations within the Local Area Council's remit. A list of outside bodies is attached to the agenda for consideration. (Report attached to the signed minutes as **Appendix D**).

Councillor R.R. Dodd reported that further consideration was being given to the appointments to the Industrial Communities Alliance.

**RESOLVED** that the appointments as outlined in the report be noted.

#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **16. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

Members received the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings. (Attached as **Appendix E**).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **Tynedale LAC, 14 May 2019**

### **8. COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS**

Councillor Cessford, Chair of the Tynedale Community Chest Panel welcomed recipients of Community Chest awards to the meeting. He commented that the Community Chest was a valuable initiative giving grants to local groups and small charities throughout Northumberland and the evening provided an opportunity to recognise and thank organisations for their contributions to improve the lives of residents. Certificates were presented to representatives from:

- Jessica's Sarcoma Awareness
- Wylam Institute Community Association
- Hexham Football Club
- Allendale Cricket Club
- Hexham Community Church
- Hexham Community Centre
- Dragon Tale Theatre Group
- Happy Faces Prudhoe

The recipients provided a brief summary of the work of their organisation and outlined what the funding was to be used for.

Grants had also been given to the following organisations not present at the meeting:

- Young and Sweet
- Prudhoe & District Local History Society
- Friends of Prudhoe Woods
- Haydon Bridge United Football Club

**RESOLVED** that the report and presentation be received.

### **9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

### **10. PETITIONS**

This item was to:

**a) Receive any new petitions:**

Councillor Kennedy presented a petition with 1522 signatures following concerns he had received from residents and businesses regarding Highways England's proposals for the A69 roundabout at Hexham.

The Chair accepted the petition which would be forwarded to Highways England by the Petition Officer.

**b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:**

**i. Hexham, Community Centre Crossing**

The Senior Programme Officer (Highways Improvements) provided a brief summary of the report following the receipt of the petition organised by Hexham Community Centre. The petition requested the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Gilesgate, one of the main streets in Hexham town centre which also provided access to the nearby Sele First School.

It was recommended that PV<sup>2</sup> survey be carried out to ascertain whether a pedestrian crossing was justified. In answer to a question, the Senior Programme Officer explained that the Council had adopted more generous criteria and a lower PV<sup>2</sup> figure than recommended by national guidance as otherwise fewer crossings would be constructed.

Whilst Members were in favour of improving the safety of pedestrians crossing Gilesgate, they were aware that a certain amount of space would be required to install a pedestrian crossing and did not want the number of disabled parking bays to be reduced; a pinch point was therefore suggested as a possible alternative to be explored.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted and that a PV<sup>2</sup> survey be undertaken in the vicinity of Hexham Community Centre to determine whether a pedestrian crossing is justified.

**ii) Removal of double yellow lines from Beech Grove, Prudhoe**

Sam Cosgrove, lead petitioner, had been a resident in Beech Grove, Prudhoe for 7 years. She explained that the majority of residents only had room to park one vehicle on their driveways and that most families now had 2 or 3 cars. It was also really difficult for friends and families to visit as there was nowhere for them to park and many had received parking tickets. The following options had been suggested by a Council officer:

- Beech Grove South - this was now a private lane and 'notes' were left on windscreens of non-resident vehicles.
- Car park at nearby public house - this was a private car park and the landlord had threatened to lock vehicles in.
- Field adjacent to Prudhoe West Road - vehicles had become stuck when the field was waterlogged.

- Western Avenue - access was via a dark lane and unfortunately there was no funding to install LED lighting. There was also limited space for additional vehicles as most of the properties also had more than one vehicle.
- Prudhoe Front Street - was located 0.5 miles away from Beech Grove.

She commented that Beech Grove was the same width as Beaumont Terrace and Woodburn Terrace which did not have double yellow lines and that two vehicles could pass in Beaumont Terrace. Residents in those streets were also able to park at the rear of their premises in addition to parking at the front. She was of the opinion that the B6395 was not a particularly busy road as the majority of heavy goods vehicles used the by-pass and suggested that if vehicles were allowed to park on the road, it would slow traffic down.

Ms Cosgrove requested the double yellow lines be removed from Beech Grove and that it be treated the same as other streets along the same route that were the same width.

The following information was provided by Ms Cosgrove in answer to questions from Members:

- The parking problems were worse at night and weekends. Visitors vehicles sometimes had to be left at the properties of nearby family.
- The double yellow lines had been at Beech Grove since the 1970's prior to the construction of the Prudhoe by-pass. Delivery vehicles accessed the shops using the by-pass and Station Road.

One of Ms Cosgrove's neighbours commented that it would be easier for vehicles to reverse off driveways if parking was allowed on the road as there was a steady stream of traffic which might be slowed by parked vehicles. Some Members thought that parked vehicles could make reversing more difficult as drivers could have blind spots with vehicles having to reverse further into the road.

Members of the committee suggested that the following options options be explored:

- A more up to date traffic survey be obtained as the last survey was undertaken in 2015.
- The relaxation of 24 hour restrictions, for example, to allow parking between the hours of 18:00 and 08:00.
- The grassed area in figure one be converted and utilised for residents parking.
- Removal of the yellow lines from one side of the road.

The Senior Programme Officer agreed to investigate the proposals.

The Chair thanked the lead petitioner for attending the meeting to explain the reasons for their request.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted and that the double yellow lines remain in place whilst the following options are undertaken or investigated:

- A traffic survey be carried out on the B6395 / Beech Grove.
- Implementation of relaxed parking restrictions to allow residents to park in the evening and overnight.
- Use of the nearby grassed area for parking.
- Removal of the double yellow lines from one side of the road.

**c) To consider updates on petitions previously considered:**

There were none to consider.

Councillor Gibson requested an update on schemes following petitions on a number of schemes which had been considered some time ago. He commented that it would be useful to receive an appraisal as to whether the scoring of schemes would likely make them a priority for funding in the Local Transport Plan Programme.

**RESOLVED** that an update be obtained on the following petitions:

- Bollards at Hardhaugh Cottages Warden
- Barrasford

## **11. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

Members received the following updates from the Area Managers from Neighbourhood Services and Technical Services:

**Neighbourhood Services:**

- The general waste and recycling routes were working well.
- There had been a vehicle breakdown in the week commencing 29 April 2019 of which Councillors had been notified by email. Information had been shared with residents via the Northumberland Alert service on social media. The bins of affected properties had been emptied the following day.
- A new refuse vehicle had been delivered. The vehicle which was to have been replaced was to be retained to mitigate the effect of any delays caused by the road works on the A69 which were close to the depot.
- The garden waste routes had been modified to even out the number of properties and time taken. Peaks in waste collected following the good weather following Easter had been managed.

- Grass cutting was being undertaken on a three week cycle and the third cut.
- Weed control had commenced and was carried out in-house. There needed to be some active growth for the chemicals to take effect.
- Verge cutting works would commence in June and be carried out over 4-6 weeks.
- Good progress was being made by the new refuse sweeper and driver.
- The team supported the In Bloom competitions in Hexham, Haltwhistle and Corbridge, provided equipment and collected refuse following community litter picks; they also assisted Election Services with the delivery of polling booths.
- A remote control cutter had been successfully trialled in the South East which meant that steep slopes could be cut more safely and would be used in the Tynedale area in the next few weeks.

The Area Manager agreed to speak to members or staff regarding the following:

- Grass cutting of the verge along the A68 Scales Cross.
- Grass cutting be delayed in areas such as Bellingham where growth was delayed compared to localities at lower levels.
- The emptying of recycling bins at The Sele.
- Trimming of trees adjacent to Prudhoe Waterworld.
- Compliment received regarding a courteous the Civil Enforcement Officers when issuing a parking ticket.

#### **Technical Services:**

- Feedback from the Highways Inspectors that the road network was in a much better condition than 12 months previously.
- The gulley wagon was continuing with its programme of routine maintenance and had just completed work in Haltwhistle and Haydon Bridge. The programme was currently being concentrated in areas at higher elevations. They continued to give advance notification of visits via letter drops which was extremely beneficial to ensure access.
- Network Rail were contributing to road improvements at Warden which would involve overnight road closures.
- The LTP Programme was going well and completed projects had received positive feedback.
- Notification would be given to Ward Councillors when work on the A68 was scheduled to commence.
- 500m<sup>2</sup> of road surface dressing was to commence in the next few weeks including micro surface dressing.

Several members complimented officers on the quality of work undertaken and limited disruption in their wards. They also appreciated an honest appraisal of the likelihood of requests for work and the willingness of officers

to visit areas within their wards and/or attend meetings of the Town and Parish Councils.

It was suggested that additional publicity be given to completed schemes and Members were encouraged to take photographs of work being carried out in their areas.

The following requests were made:

- The local councillor be consulted / involved prior to the finalisation of the design at Garden House Bank, Hexham.
- The design of the of the Halton Lea Gate bridge be reviewed following a serious accident.

**RESOLVED** that the updates be noted.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **12. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered a list of appointments to outside bodies for 2019/20.

Councillor Cessford reported that he was unable to attend the meetings of the Queens Hall Arts Trust due to clashes with other meetings.

Councillor Riddle reported that he had not received invitations to attend meetings of the Rede Tyne and Coquet Sports Centre for a number of years. The Democratic Services Officer agreed to investigate.

**RESOLVED** that the following list of appointments be confirmed:

- Groundwork North East - Land of Oak and Iron Project Board - HGH Sanderson
- Haltwhistle Partnership Limited - I Hutchinson
- Haltwhistle Swimming & Leisure Centre Man. Cttee - A Sharp
- Hexham Community Partnership - C Homer
- Hexham TORCH Centre Management Committee - T Cessford
- Prudhoe Community Partnership - K Stow
- Queens Hall Arts Trust - D Kennedy
- Rede Tyne & Coquet Sports Centre - JR Riddle
- Sport Tynedale - T Cessford
- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership Board - A Sharp



**13. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2018/19**

The Local Area Council received a progress update on Members' Local Improvement Schemes as at 1 May 2019. (A copy is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix F.)

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**14. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

A list of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings was circulated. (A copy is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix G.)

It was noted that an update on Hexham Hospital had been considered by the Health and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting at County Hall in April following the request made at the last meeting of the Tynedale Local Area Council.

**RESOLVED** that the work programme be noted.

## **Ashington/Blyth LAC, 15 May 2019**

### **04. COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS**

The Chair welcomed recipients of Community Chest funding to the meeting and said the awards were in recognition of the valuable contribution that local groups and small charities made to the lives of residents in the county. The Grant Panel Chair presented a certificate to representatives of the following local organisations and photographs were taken. It was noted that a group photograph would be taken following individual presentations.

- Newbiggin Heritage Partnership
- Watbus
- Beach Access North East
- Ashington Sea Cadets Corps
- Newbiggin Traders Association
- YMCA Northumberland
- Friends of LV50
- Headway Arts
- 1st Woodhorn Rainbows
- Blyth Battery Volunteers Ltd
- Ashington Panto Group
- Blyth Star Enterprises

On behalf of the committee, the Chair thanked the representatives for their contributions, hard work and commitment.

### **05. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were put forward.

### **06. PETITIONS**

- (a) No new petitions were received;
- (b) There were no reports to consider;
- (c) There were no updates to report on petitions previously considered.

### **07. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

In the absence of the Area Managers of Technical Services and Neighbourhood Services, who were unable to attend the meeting, the Head of Technical Services provided an update on their behalf as follows:

## Neighbourhood Services

- Partnership agreements between NCC and Ashington, Blyth and Newbiggin Town Councils had again been signed and would provide a robust and beneficial service to all residents.
- The new larger replacement vehicles would help with efficient route planning for the waste service.
- The garden waste service had commenced and there were over 8050 customers across the county so far.
- Grass cutting had started in March and was on schedule to give all required cuts, weather permitting.
- Grounds maintenance staff were now working the longer seasonal hours.
- Weed spraying was underway (this only worked when weeds were visible and starting to grow).
- Blue dye would be used again this year as it had worked well last year. The dye was only visible for a short period of time and would show that spraying had started.
- New cleansing routes in Ashington and Blyth were progressing well.
- The new rapid response team within the Ashington area was going well and over 4 tonnes of fly tipped rubbish had been collected in the first four weeks.
- Work was being carried out with Environmental Enforcement teams to try and prevent fly tipping.
- One pedestrian sweeper had been replaced in Ashington with two more to be replaced in 2020 in Blyth and Ashington.

## Technical Services

- The new Local Transport Plan was now in place and officers were currently programming work whilst continuing with maintenance.
- There were no new initiatives to report at the current time.

Questions and comments were invited.

- Concerns were expressed about the cost of waste collection and it was queried if costs could be reduced. In response the Head of Technical Services said it was a difficult balance to achieve in times of such austerity. Most people were prepared to pay the costs involved but he understood that many people were unable to do so.
- It was suggested that the cost of the picking up of fly tipped rubbish had increased because of what people were paying for waste collection. It was stated that, overall, the costs for waste collection were appropriately balanced but the point would be taken back to the Service Director, Local Services and the Head of Neighbourhood Services.
- The Head of Technical Services agreed to provide Councillor Gobin with a written update on the proposed works regarding the road into Cambois.

- The Head of Technical Services agreed to pass on a member's concerns about what she felt was the disgraceful state of the Home Zone area in Cowpen Quay to the Area Manager of Technical Services.
- With regard to the Local Transport Plan, work was currently being programmed and members could soon be informed of when work in particular areas would commence.
- It was highlighted there were some substantial defects in roads in the west end of Ashington which needed urgent attention.
- Councillor Grimshaw asked that her thanks be passed on to teams who were working in partnership with Ashington Town Council.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and the issues raised be followed up.

## **08. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members were asked to make appointments to outside body organisations within the Local Area Council's remit. A list of outside bodies was attached to the agenda for consideration (attached as Appendix A to the signed minutes).

It was noted that Bliss Mediation Service was no longer in existence. Discussion ensued and it was:

**RESOLVED** that

(1) Bliss Mediation Service be deleted from the list.

(2) the following be reappointed:

Blyth Valley Disabled Forum - K Nisbet  
 Briardale Community & Training Centre - D Campbell  
 Buffalo Community Centre - K Nisbet  
 Northumberland Community Voluntary Action - L Grimshaw  
 Industrial Communities Alliance - S Davey

(3) The following changes be made:

Community and Voluntary Action Blyth Valley - K Nisbet  
 Industrial Communities Alliance - G Davey

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **09. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - PROGRESS REPORT**

Members received an update report on Members' Local Improvement Schemes as of 1 May 2019 (attached to the official minutes as Appendix B).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **10. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

Members received the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (attached to the official minutes as Appendix C).

## **Cramlington/Bedlington/Seaton Valley LAC, 22 May 2019**

### **04. COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS**

The Chair welcomed recipients of Community Chest funding to the meeting and said the awards were in recognition of the valuable contribution that local groups made in enriching the lives of residents in the community. The Grant Panel Chair presented a certificate to representatives of the following local organisations and photographs were taken. It was noted that a group photograph would be taken following individual presentations.

- Darcey's Dream - My Family and Siblings Matter
- Seghill Colliery Institute
- Bedlington Terriers Football Club
- The Marshall Academy of Irish Dance Support Group

The recipients provided a brief summary of the work of their organisation and outlined what the funding was to be used for.

Grants had also been given to the following organisations not present at the meeting:

- Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project
- SMILE Through Sport CIC
- Whitley Bay Barbarians

On behalf of the committee, the Chair thanked the representatives for their contributions, hard work and commitment.

**RESOLVED** that the report and presentation be received.

### **05. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Paul Hedley, Bedlington Residents Association referred to fence damage at Attlee Park and Plessey Woods where people were parking on the roadside and gaining access through the fence. The Neighbourhood Area Service Manager advised that this would be reported to colleagues in Parks and Green Spaces for a response.

Adam Hogg, West Bedlington Town Council queried the status of the Council's housing programme. The Chair advised that this had been very well advertised and details could be found on the Council's website. David Laux, Head of Technical Services added that a lot of work was being carried out on the strategy and the consultation could be found on the website.

Mr Hogg referred to two prime sites which could be used in Bedlington for housing. It was advised that the housing allocation would be incorporated within other private estates and the Council had a target of 17% affordable housing which was the average.

Christine Taylor, Bedlington resident referred to the application for primary school status by Meadowdale Academy in Bedlington. She explained that there were already 3 primary schools and believed that Trinity Nursery would be moving to the Meadowdale site. She queried if permission had come from the Council for the nursery to move into the Academy building. Councillor Robinson, Ward Councillor understood that the Academy would change to primary status and had not been aware that Trinity Nursery would be transferred to the Academy site. However, local members would be meeting with their MP later that week.

## **06. PETITIONS**

- (a) No new petitions were received;
- (b) There were no reports to consider;
- (c) There were no updates to report on petitions previously considered.

## **07. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

An update was provided as follows:

### Neighbourhood Services

- There had been some minor changes to garden waste services to cope with additional customers
- Grass cutting had started end of March/beginning of April and was on schedule
- Grounds maintenance staff were now working the longer seasonal hours
- Weed spraying was under way and done in house
- Blue dye would be used again this year as it had worked well last year. The dye was only visible for a short period of time and would show that spraying had started. Members would be kept updated
- Flowers for floral displays were being grown in polytunnels and moved outside to harden off

### Highways Maintenance

Maintenance work continued to be carried out at the following locations:

#### **Tarmac patching**

- Scott Avenue - Cramlington
- Whitsun Gardens - Bedlington
- Double Row - Seaton Delaval

- Hallwood Close - Nedderton
- Hartford Crescent - Bedlington
- Highburn - Cramlington

### **Drainage improvements**

- Melling Road - Cramlington
- Valley Road - Holywell
- Stead Lane - Bedlington
- Klondyke - Cramlington
- St Ronans Drive - Seaton Sluice

### **Micro surfacing preparation**

- Huntington Drive - Cramlington
- The Wynding - Bedlington
- Doddington Drive - Cramlington

### **Signage**

- Dunsdale Drive, Cramlington - 20 mph scheme

### **Upcoming work**

A new roundabout at Westmorland Way would start in early June and expected to take up to 25 weeks.

Large tarmac resurfacing schemes were taking place at the following locations:

- Barrass Avenue - Seghill
- North Ridge - Bedlington
- Fisher Lane - Cramlington
- A1068 - Cramlington
- B1326 East Cramlington
- Nelson Industrial Estate - Cramlington
- Stead Lane - Bedlington

### **Micro surfacing**

- Huntington Drive - Cramlington
- Totnes Drive - Cramlington
- Doddington Drive - Cramlington
- The Wynding - Bedlington

### **Tarmac patching**

- Atley Way - Cramlington
- Choppington Lane - Bedlington



- Vulcan Place - Cramlington
- Tillmouth Avenue - Seaton Delaval
- Dudley Lane - Cramlington

Questions and comments were invited.

A query was raised regarding the blue dye. In response the Neighbourhood Area Services Manager explained that some of the dyes were white but predominantly Blue.

A Member asked for his thanks to be conveyed for the speediness in which rubbish had been collected around the Three Horseshoes public house which had made a significant improvement to the area. The Neighbourhood Services Manager commented that he would pass the thanks on to his colleagues in the Blyth area.

An update was requested on improvements in the new estate at Crow Hall Lane, Cramlington. The Highways Delivery Manager stated that would be looked at and a response sought.

In response to a query regarding micro surfacing at The Wynding, Bedlington, it was advised that the contractor would carry out a letter drop and advance notice 7 days before the work would be carried out.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and the issues raised be followed up.

## **08. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members were asked to make appointments to outside body organisations within the Local Area Council's remit. A list of outside bodies was attached to the agenda for consideration. (Attached as Appendix A to the signed minutes).

A Member was required for the Industrial Communities Alliance. Members agreed that as this was currently being reviewed, an appointment should be made at the next meeting of Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Council.

The Chair stated that an appointment was required for the Community Chest Panel. She had spoken to Councillor Bowman previous to the meeting who had agreed to be appointed to the panel.

A query was raised in relation to the Mayfield Community Centre and it was advised that this would be looked into.

**RESOLVED** that the list of appointments be agreed

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **09. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - PROGRESS REPORT**

Members received an update report on Members' Local Improvement Schemes as of 1 May 2019. (Attached to the official minutes as Appendix B).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **10. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

Members received the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings. (Attached to the official minutes as Appendix C).

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **North Northumberland LAC, 21 May 2019**

### **15. COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS**

Councillor Bridgett, Chair of the North Northumberland Community Chest Panel welcomed and thanked recipients of Community Chest awards for attending the meeting. He explained that the funding was hugely important; it available for local community groups to apply for, and there were five Community Chest grants panels in the county. Certificates were presented to representatives from:

- Lionheart Radio
- Amble Christmas Lights
- Alnmouth Community Rowing
- Berwick Arts Choir
- Loving Alnwick
- Bailiffgate Singers
- Amble Sword
- Amble Youth Project
- Alnwick Dolphins
- Tillside Cricket Club
- Glendale Free Music Festival
- SpLinter Group
- Wooler Netball Club - Back to Netball -
- Wooler Bowling Club
- Swarland Indoor Bowls Club
- Alnwick Lions
- Bell View (Belford)
- The Coquetdale Lunch Club
- Glendale Amateur Boxing & Fitness Club
- Local Living.

A number of the recipients of funding in attendance provided a brief verbal overview of the work of their organisation and outlined what the funding was to be used for.

Grants had also been given to the following organisations not present at the meeting:

- Norham Arts Group
- Northumbria Basketry Group
- Amble Photographic Group.

## 16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

This item was to reply to any questions received from members of the public, which could either be received in writing in advance of the meeting or asked at the meeting. Questions could be asked about issues for which the Council had a responsibility.

**Councillor Pat Tatters of Doddington Parish Council** asked why the car parking time limit in the long stay car park at Castlegate had been reduced down to one overnight stay only. Also the Berwick Railway Station car park, for which they paid, had been reduced down to a maximum of just three consecutive nights. She travelled up and down the country quite often for work and often needed five days parking to use the train. As people were now constantly being encouraged to use public transport instead of their cars, the parking time limits did not motivate people to leave their cars at home.

A response had been provided by the Head of Technical Services, which was read out as follows:

*Introducing a maximum stay into all long stay car parks was one of the recommendations made following parking studies carried out in 2017. The study report for Berwick set out details of the existing town centre car park provision, usage and issues and went on to forecast how this is likely to change in the future and what measures could be adopted to tackle existing and future parking issues. New data was collected and consultation was undertaken with local stakeholders to gain an understanding of issues, future changes and potential solutions. The action plan developed from the parking study was agreed with the Town Council and implementation is on-going. The parking study and action plan can be found on our website at the following link:*

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Parking.aspx#parkingstudies>

*Overall following the parking studies it was agreed that town centre long stay car parks in Alnwick, Berwick, Hexham and Morpeth would be subject to a 24 hour maximum stay whilst other long stay car parks across the County (including railway station car parks) would have a new limit of 72 hours introduced. The purpose of these time limits is to reduce the practice of cars being 'garaged' in public car parks for longer periods of time, which unfortunately was becoming a regular occurrence, and also prioritising the availability of spaces for use by daily commuters. It was felt that 72 hours at railway stations was appropriate as this allowed extended overnight stays but limited long term use. Where commuters need to park for longer, say a week or more, we want to encourage them to make alternative arrangements rather than parking a vehicle in a space that will prevent use by daily commuters. The time restrictions are intended to ensure the turnover of parking places, ensuring a fair approach to parking for employees, residents, and visitors alike who wish to use the car parks.*

*We will take into consideration the issues you have raised when we review the impact of the restrictions, which will be later this year.*

Councillor Tatters added that she would like further details about what other parking alternatives/arrangements were possible, particularly for people going on holiday, especially given concerns that the new arrangements could lead to people parking their cars outside of other people's houses whilst they went on holiday.

The Chair confirmed that these further queries would be forwarded to the Head of Technical Services for his attention and response, and Councillor Tatters' concerns would be recorded and considered as a consultation response.

The local member added that this a concern, particularly for people travelling in from outside Berwick. There was a real shortage of parking in Berwick, more was being sought as there was currently a struggle for the demand. This would be looked at further; hopefully more long stay parking for seven days or more could be organised. Park and ride options were also being considered, and discussions taking place with Network Rail.

It was also noted that if residents had any examples of problems arising from this issue, they should record and submit as evidence supporting their request. Further points were raised about similar concerns at Alnmouth railway station and the importance of referring any such issues to the local county councillor/s for any such matters. Following this it was:

**RESOLVED** that a written response be sent to Councillor Tatters and the Head of Technical Services be asked to respond to the further queries raised at the meeting, and copies of any responses sent be circulated to all members of this Local Area Council.

## 17. PETITIONS

Members noted that no updates were available for this meeting.

## 18. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

Members received a verbal update about any key recent, ongoing and/or future planned Local Services work for Local Area Council members' attention, as follows:

- Grass cutting: all routes were on target, and currently in the third and fourth cuts. All seasonal staff were in place to help delivering the services. All grounds maintenance staff were on the longer seasonal hours - it had increased from 37 hours to 44 hours between 7.00am to

4.15pm. This meant less staff were required to do the same work, and there was one less seasonal officer in Alnwick and Berwick. Bedding plots were being cleared ready for summer planting. Hanging baskets were all made and waiting to be sited

- Weed control: footway and kerb weed spraying had commenced and was progressing well. Obstacle spraying was nearing completion
- Verge cutting: verge sightlines had commenced and strategic routes would commence in mid June
- In Bloom: spring judging took place in April 2019 and seemed to go well. More judging would take place later in the year
- Cleansing: further areas of the A1 had been litter picked during the weekend of 27 April; all routes were going well
- Waste services: the service continued to cope well with increasing house numbers. Larger vehicles were helping with the growing demand along with efficient route planning. Some minor changes had been made with garden waste arrangements to help the service cope with extra customers. It was running well, not at its peak yet but officers were confident they could deliver the service. The service had 55 new customers in the year so far for the Alnwick/Berwick area, but this was still early in the season
- Projects in progress: green flag judging had taken place in the parks; both green flags in Berwick, Coronation and Castle Vale, had been retained. Officers were busy scheduling work programmes in open cemeteries to allow better productivity and monitoring officers hoped to have this added to their total mobile software.

Key points then raised by members, with key responses provided by officers, were as follows:

- problems with littering in Berwick during the early May bank holiday - *it had been the hottest Easter on record and the demand had been unprecedented; consideration was given to the resource needed and splitting the routes to make required work easier*
- complaints received about the condition of grass and littering at Tweedmouth and Berwick cemeteries - *a schedule of work for cemeteries was being put together, as per the officer update, and strimming work was planned for later in the afternoons*
- the condition of the pathways on the network in Spittal around Highcliffe/Eastcliffe estate, particularly Spider Alley, needed inspecting and had been put forward as a priority LTP project - *the Area Manager advised Councillor Hill to speak further to the Principal Programme Officer and Senior Programmes Officer in Technical Services for an update and any information about the possible cost for this work*
- although in private ownership, trees along the Newton on the Moor to Longframlington road needed trimming back, especially as it was a school bus route - *notice had been sent to the land owner asking this be done*
- further grass cutting was needed in entrance points to Alnwick, including on roundabouts, and it was important to receive clarification

about which areas were the County Council's responsibility and which were Highways England's - *work on verges outside of the 30mph zone were due in June*

- an update on when microsurfacing on Belford High Street would be done - *this work was due in June 2019*
- an update on when drains on Northumberland Avenue in Berwick would be cleaned - *these had now been jetted out up to the property boundaries*
- work to Whitton Bank Road was superb
- it was important to coordinate differing projects for clarity, with reference to some confusion about work at Hepple and Elsdon - *10 schemes were currently ongoing in the Rothbury to Otterburn area*
- concern about the deterioration of the road from Whitton Bank through Tosson Farm - *this work was due to begin on 22 May 2019.*

Members asked officers to follow up on the following issues:

- more environmental work needed for the cemetery near the village green in Longframlington
- trees needed trimming at the Weldon Bridge to Crag End strait and from Alnwick Road to Cragside
- the fence around Cow Haugh car park at Rothbury was collapsing
- there was a hole in the footpath near the fire station on the bank leading to Rothbury Middle School
- a request had been sent to Northumberland Estates about clearing in front of the road sign and mirror to the recreation club in Rothbury.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and issues raised by members be followed up by Local Services officers.

***At this point, as the meeting was approaching three hours in length it was RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue beyond three hours in duration.***

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS - CORPORATE**

### **19. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

#### **Empowering Communities Project**

The report (enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix B) described a project led by Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust that aims to use asset-based, community centred approaches to improve wellbeing and health. It initially sees five locality coordinators embedded within voluntary and community sector or not-for-profit organisations, one in each of the five localities (local area councils) in Northumberland.

Dr Jim Brown, Public Health Consultant, provided a presentation (copy attached to the official minutes of the meeting) of which the key headlines included:

- the need for a cultural shift and a focus on what makes people well
- National and local drivers for change
- the family of community-centred approaches: strengthening communities, volunteer and peer roles, collaborations and partnerships, and access to community resources
- details of the benefits and risks of the work
- an overview and objectives of the 30 month Empowering Communities project
- the work of locality coordinators in the first six months of the project to date
- work of the locality coordinators from six months in onwards
- the roles of host organisations
- current updates: the new locality coordinator for north Northumberland; the host organisation in north Northumberland was Bell View in Belford
- details of the micro-grants process and the asset mapping tool used.

Julia Marley introduced herself to members, she managed the locality coordinators team. Ruth Armstrong was the locality coordinator for north Northumberland and she provided an overview of her work to date and asked members to contact her if they had any queries or had any links to organisations that she could add to her records.

Discussion followed of which the key points were:

A member asked what accountability arrangements were in place, for example if somebody was not getting referred through the Northumberland Recovery Partnership, would Northumbria, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust be advised of any negative feedback? Members were advised that such issues would be passed to Ms Marley. The role of the locality coordinator was to meet with local groups and map connections.

In response to a question, members were advised that a healthcare needs assessment was currently being undertaken between Public Health and Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group.

A member stressed the challenges inherent in the large rural area of north Northumberland - many people lived in isolated areas, and how could they make contact? Members were advised that locality coordinators could not get involved in every individual case, but could meet with groups and see if there are any gaps in service provision plus but also link with other organisations could help.

Dr Brown, Ms Marley and Ms Armstrong were thanked for their attendance and It was:



**RESOLVED** that the information be noted, and the contact details for the north area locality coordinator be provided for members of the Local Area Council.

## 20. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were asked to make appointments to outside body organisations within the Local Area Council's remit. A list was presented (enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix C) for consideration.

It was agreed to reappoint the following:

- Alnwick Playhouse Trust - G Castle
- Alnwick Sporting Club - R Moore
- Amble Development Trust - T Clark, JG Watson
- Butler Ember Charity - JG Watson
- Eastern Borders Development Association - R Lawrie, C Seymour
- Glendale Gateway Trust - AH Murray
- Lindisfarne Nature Reserve - C Seymour
- Northumberland National Park Joint Local Access Forum - C Seymour
- River Tweed Commission - G Hill, A Murray, G Renner-Thompson, G Roughead, *all for a two term until May 2021*
- Seahouses Development Trust - G Renner-Thompson
- Tweed Forum - C Seymour.

One change was agreed:

- Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust - G Renner-Thompson.

Members were also advised that, following the issue previously being raised by a member of the North Area Committee, Democratic Services were making arrangements to advise the angling club vacancies for the River Tweed Commission in the eligible local parish council areas.

**RESOLVED** that the list of appointments to outside bodies be agreed.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 21. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2017/19

Members received a progress update on Members' Local Improvement Schemes during 2018/19 as at 1 May 2019 (enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix D).

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **22. BERWICK REGENERATION COMMISSION**

Members noted that the next meeting would include a showcase about the proposed new Berwick leisure centre.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **23. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

Members received the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings. (Work programme enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix E.)

Members were reminded of the previous request in May 2018 to receive a progress update from the North East Ambulance Service about ambulance performance targets. Following consultation with the Chair, as an update was being presented to the Health and Wellbeing OSC meeting on 4 June, a copy of the presentation given there would be circulated to members of this Local Area Council in due course.

A member asked if consideration could be given to granting additional delegated powers to Local Area Councils. This would be raised at the Local Area Chairs' Briefing meeting on 28 May.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.