

CABINET 14 JANUARY 2020

FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL AREA COUNCIL MEETINGS 11 - 21 NOVEMBER 2019 - EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES

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

CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL- 11 NOVEMBER 2019

87. PETITIONS

Members were informed that, since the previous meeting, no new petitions had been received, there were no reports due on petitions previously received. A brief update was received on a petition for which a report had previously been considered

Speeding through Ellington Village from A1068 roundabout

Councillor L. Dunn expressed disappointment that it had taken so long for any progress to be made. She had been promised that a feasibility study would be available in the next few weeks.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

88. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

Members received a verbal update from the Area Managers with the opportunity for members to ask questions afterwards.

Neighbourhood Services

- Grass cutting had been challenging this year but 14 cuts had been completed.
- Street sweeping was concentrating on leaf hotspot areas and in an effort to prevent future flooding.
- The new street sweeper was able to travel greater distances and so had a more capacity to help.
- There had been a few minor breakdowns of waste collection vehicles.
- Garden waste collections would cease for most by the end of November.
- All war memorials had been brought up to a high standard prior to Armistice Day.
- There had been local success in the Britain in Bloom competition with Morpeth town centre and Carlisle park receiving gold awards.

Highways

- A short handout was circulated to members at the meeting. (A copy is filed with the signed minutes.)
- Grit bins were being filled up.
- The gully tanker was in full use and had been in operation recently to deal with major issues in the Stamfordham area.
- Any areas suffering from surface water ingress were being prioritised.
- Main strategic routes were also being prioritised rather than housing estates.
- Members expressed their thanks for the speedy road closure in Stamfordham recently and for the quality of the road repair near Whalton.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

89. NORTHUMBERLAND LOTTERY

Members received a presentation providing an overview and understanding of the operation of the Northumberland Lottery. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the signed minutes.)

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

90. RESPONSE TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Members received an update of the actions taken, progress made, the future measures and areas of focus in the Council's response to a climate emergency declaration. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the signed minutes.)

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

91. LIBRARY SERVICE CONSULTATION UPDATE

Members received information regarding the Library Services consultation that would commence during November. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the signed minutes.)

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

92. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES - PROGRESS REPORT

Members received the Members' Local Improvement Scheme Progress Report.
(A copy of the report is filed with the signed minutes as **Appendix D**)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Tynedale Local Area Council - 12 November 2019

77. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

78. PETITIONS

This item was to:

a) Receive any new petitions:

(i) Wylam - Road Safety

A petition has been received which requested that Northumberland County Council improve safety for pedestrians by reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph on Hexham Road/B6528 towards Holeyn Hall Crossroads and on Holeyn Hall Road leading into Wylam.

Fiona McKay, Lead Petitioner, attended the meeting with a neighbour to explain that the petition had now received over 400 signatures. They highlighted the following points:

- The road was a main commuter route from Hexham to Newcastle used by cars, lorries, cyclists, pedestrians, visitors to the Hadrian Wall trail and an alternative to Ovingham Bridge for large vehicles.
- It was a link road to the A69 and there was a tendency to speed up at the top of Holeyn Hall Road which appeared to be an open road.
- The speed limit had been reduced in nearby villages such as Horsely and Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- The Holeyn Hall crossroads were in a dip which restricted vision and increased the hazard and was a well known accident spot.
- There was poor visibility on Holeyn Hall Road with 2 blind bends, 1 blind summit and concealed exits.
- Pavements were narrow and poorly maintained and crossed from one side of the road to the other without warning signs to motorists about pedestrians crossing. The crossing was used by young families and school children. Pedestrians had very little time to get to the mid-point crossing the road.
- There were numerous potholes along the length of the road.
- There had been 6 significant road accidents which had involved the police over the previous 5 year period. There had been many others which had not been reported to the police.

The Service Director - Local Services confirmed that a speed survey would need to be undertaken and a review carried out of accident survey data to

gain an understanding of the difficulties at the junction. Any recommendations for work would need to be considered as part of the Local Transport Plan Programme for 2020/21.

Councillor Cessford, a former firefighter confirmed that he had attended numerous accidents on that road, as had his brother, a former paramedic.

RESOLVED that it be noted that a report would be produced for the next meeting to allow time for officers to investigate the request.

b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:

There were none to consider.

c) To consider updates on petitions previously considered:

There were none to consider.

79. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

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

Neighbourhood Services:

- Final collections for the garden waste service for 2019 would begin the fortnight beginning 25 November.
- There had been problems with residual waste in Haydon Bridge on Monday which had now been collected.
- Grounds maintenance staff had moved to reduced winter working hours on 28 October until March 2020.
- Grass cutting was now complete. Ground conditions had been very wet, making it difficult to remove bonfire debris from the top of the Sele.
- Priority was being given to leaf clearance although cutting back was also taking place. Teams were working through a list of leaf hot spots whilst doing also responding to reported areas of concern.
- Work had been undertaken around the war memorials to ensure they were clean and tidy prior to Remembrance Services.
- The number of fly tipping incidents within the Tynedale area remained steady (87 in the 6 months since April against a total of 187 for the previous financial year). 92% of these removed within the 3 working day target.
- Grounds and cleansing staff from Tyne Mills and Low Prudhoe depot were assisting with the Highways operated winter services rota.

Technical Services:

- Maintenance was ongoing as a result of Highways inspections. Actionable defects were being rectified within the specified time frame.
- The Hotbox was undertaking work in the area carrying out patching and providing more permanent repairs which would continue as long as the weather permitted.
- Gully operations were ongoing; to date just under 14,000 planned routine works had been completed with a further 1,500 reported by Councillors and members of the public.
- The drainage gang was still operational rectifying problems as well carrying out ditching works with a JCB. There had been no complaints regarding flooding as roads and gulleys were in a better condition.
- Construction works had slowed and completion of a number of LTP schemes would be dependent on the weather. Surface dressing and micro works were now complete with positive feedback from members of the public.
- LTP Schemes had delivered:
 - 250,000 m² renewal of roads across the County.
 - 500,000 m² of surface dressing of principal and non-principal roads.
 - Over 96,000 m² of micro surfacing repairs.
 - Over 200,000 m² of structural patching.

Winter Services Operations Across Northumberland

- Winter services activities were undertaken to ensure that as far as practical the highway was maintained in a safe condition in accordance with legal obligations under the Highways Act 1980. They planned to respond appropriately to forecast weather conditions and have sufficient manpower and resources available. For the 2019/20 season there were:
 - 28 serviced multi-purpose gritting vehicles with snow plough attachments. 5 new machines had been procured and there were 6 reserve vehicles
 - 4 gully tankers positioned across the county to deal with potential flooding caused by rapid snow melt.
 - 3 mechanical fitters on 24-hour emergency standby in the north, west and south-east of the county to deal with emergency repairs.
 - 43,500 tonnes of rock salt had been delivered in October to 11 depots.
 - 2 new salt barns had been constructed with a 6700 tonne strategic store at Powburn for winter resilience.
 - 1600 salt bins were located in areas which are steep, have steps or difficult junctions.
 - Over 200 grit heaps were located in rural areas.
- There were 28 primary routes covering around 37% of network (13 West - 13, SE - 8, & North - 7) and the A69 to the M6 in Cumbria.

- 106 staff were employed to deliver winter services including managers, supervisors, drivers and operatives. Staffing rotas were in place to ensure sufficient resource was available on a three shift rota.
- 3 Winter Services Delivery Managers operated on a three weekly rota (24/7) and considered the variable forecasting information to make decisions on the most appropriate course of action based on the forecast information provided by our forecaster (Meteogroup) and bureau provider (Vaisala). Weather forecasts were received 3 times per day. Members were requested to only contact these managers directly in an emergency situation. All non-emergency situations were to be reported through the Council's CRM and out of hours arrangements via Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.
- Winter services information on the NCC website was to be reviewed and updated accordingly to accurately reflect operations. Meetings were held between Technical Services and Customer Services to ensure call handling procedures and internal communications were in place.
- Customer information leaflet 'Highway Services in Winter' provides useful information about the service and would be available by the end of November from Council buildings. Copies would also be distributed to all County Councillors and Town and Parish Councils. Alerts were sent out daily during the winter using social media.
- Farmers and sub-contractors also assisted operations by removing snow from the more remote roads in rural Northumberland.

The following issues were raised by Members:

- Bywell Avenue and Beaufront Avenue to be included in the primary gritting due to being located on a school route.
- Arrangements and ability to respond to 'snap frosts' early in the morning.
- Reassurance regarding incomplete LTP schemes being carried forward to the next financial year.
- Location of road sensors. A detailed thermal mapping exercise had been undertaken in 2017/18 following a review.
- Clarification regarding utility rectification work to be checked with the Street Works team.
- Drainage works not yet complete following work in the vicinity of Fourstones Paper Mill and East Fourstones.
- Grit bins were normally replenished within 2-3 days.
- Update on LTP scheme for South Road, Prudhoe at design stage.
- Progress report requested on the implementation of 20 mph speed reduction adjacent to schools. Members were reminded that this was a 5 year programme.

Several of the members thanked the Local Services teams for their work and quick response to issues raised.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

80. Response to Climate Emergency Declaration

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services, the Service Director - Local Services and the Project Officer - Energy were in attendance to update Members of the actions taken, progress made, future measures and areas of focus in the Council's response to a climate emergency declaration. (A copy of the presentation and information leaflet is filed with the signed minutes.)

Questions regarding climate change could be emailed to the new mailbox 'climate@northumberland.gov.uk'. A dedicated web page was also in the process of being developed and would be live in the near future.

Councillor Oliver made reference to:

- The ongoing work on the Ashington to Newcastle train line which would help reduce the number of cars on the road.
- Approval of an additional part time dedicated climate change communications officer.
- Funding for Solar PV at an additional 5 Council premises.

The Chair thanked Councillor Sanderson and the officers for the information.

It was confirmed that the presentations would be circulated electronically after the meeting.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

81. Northumberland Lottery

Members received a presentation from Teresa Palmer, Head of Procurement Shared Services, which provided an overview and understanding of the operation of the Northumberland Lottery. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the signed minutes.)

The presentation also included a demonstration of the test Northumberland website and a live website for another local authority. A timetable was provided with the next steps which included raising awareness of the Lottery within the Voluntary and Community Sector and launch of tickets sales to members of the public in March 2020.

It was noted that concerns had been raised regarding gambling. Teresa Palmer made reference to the safeguards in place which included approval of a number of policies and compliance with the conditions of the Gambling Licence. Members were also informed that there was a limit on the number of

tickets that could be purchased by individuals and as there was a delay between purchasing tickets and the draw, it did not give immediate gratification of other types of gambling.

All Councillors were encouraged to promote the Northumberland Lottery and raise awareness with local community groups.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that tickets would not be available in local outlets and would need to be purchased online.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

At 7.15 pm it was agreed that standing orders be suspended to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit.

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, standing orders be suspended and the meeting continue over the 3 hour limit.

82. Library Service Redesign

The Library Services Manager gave a presentation which outlined the current library service, why the redesign was necessary and how it would be achieved. The consultation was due to commence during November. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the signed minutes.)

In answer to questions, it was confirmed that:

- The consultation period would last 12 weeks with proposals scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in Spring 2020.
- Reviews had already been undertaken at many other local authorities which would enable Northumberland to benefit from their experiences.

A member referred to the variety of services now available at Hexham library following the redevelopment of the building. Councillor Homer, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Arts, Leisure and Tourism commented that the service needed to be sustainable going forward.

The Library Services Manager encouraged Councillors to raise awareness of the consultation in order that as many views could be heard and taken into account when designing the new service.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

83. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2018/19

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

84. 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 F.)

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL - 13 NOVEMBER 2019

54. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised.

55. PETITIONS

(a) Receive any new petitions: Basketball Court at Ridley Park, Blyth

The Chair advised members that an e petition had been received on 19 September proposing the provision of a basketball court within Ridley Park. The petition was still live and currently had 7 signatures. Members were reminded that, in line with the petition protocol, 50 signatures were required before a report could be requested for a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(b) Consider reports on petitions previously received: E Petition - 'Please help us improve Seaton Vale Roundabout.'

The Chair referred to the above report which was enclosed with the agenda papers as Appendix C. The report was self explanatory and members confirmed that they did not have any questions.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.

56. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

The Neighbourhood Services Area Manager and Highways Delivery Area Manager were in attendance to provide verbal updates about any key recent, ongoing and/or future planned Local Services work and to respond to issues raised by members.

Neighbourhood Services

R Wealleans, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, provided the following information:

Grass cutting

- Grass cutting was now complete. It had been a challenging year due to good growing conditions.
- Finished on 13/14 cuts in the Ashington and Newbiggin area and 16/17 in Blyth with an early cut planned for March 2020.

- All core service grass cuts achieved (10 to 13) and enhanced service with Blyth (17/19)

Street Cleansing

- Work was taking place on leaf hotspot areas in an attempt to prevent localised flooding.
- Cleansing Teams were keeping to their set routes and hotspots with noticeable results in all areas.
- Fly tipping had been targeted within the identified problem areas in Ashington and Blyth, namely the Hirst and Cowpen Quay. Work was being carried out with Enforcement on this with all cleansing teams having been given training with regards to identifying and logging evidence.
- Weeds had been an issue again due to the ideal weather patterns and action was being taken to tidy up the problem areas.
- Sweeping routes were constantly reviewed in order to improve efficiency and record keeping.
- The winter works programme had started and new winter working hours had commenced. Members were invited to come forward with any requests at their earliest convenience.
- Edging and shrub pruning were scheduled on a programme of works for which consideration had been given to the historical dates from when the areas were last serviced.

Waste

- Other than a few minor vehicle breakdowns residual, recycling and garden waste collection services were operating well considering the growth in the housing market within the Ashington and Blyth area.
- Garden waste collections would come to an end soon with the last collections commencing week beginning 2 December.
- Income from commercial waste, garden waste and bulk collections was on target.
- With the continuing expansion to trade waste within the South East, the Council was looking to invest in an RCV and 2 crew to start in the New Year.

Other Information

- Neat Teams were deployed to War Memorials across the area to bring them up to the highest standard possible for the remembrance services. The Neighbourhood Services Area Manager added that the sites he had seen looked first class and compliments had been received.
- Northumbria In Bloom - Blyth had achieved a Silver Gilt award (Town Category) and Ridley Park had achieved gold award in the parks category.

In response to questions/comments the following information was provided:

- Officers were aware of the overgrown hedge affecting the footpath on the corner of Bebside Road to Horton Road and this would be looked at.
- With regard to the winter programme with Ashington Town Council, this year the enhanced service was only for Street Cleansing and core work on Grounds Maintenance.

- Concerns about the blue dye used for spraying weeds had been received, some stating that it was too dilute and could not be seen and others that it was too bright. These concerns were acknowledged and it was a case of trying to achieve a happy medium.
- Salt bins would need to be refreshed.
- There was a plan going forward to address overgrown trees and the problems with leave on the Haydon Road Estate.

Members thanked the Area Manager and his team for their excellent work

Technical Services

M Carle, Highways Delivery Area Manager, provided the following information:

- Tarmac patching had been carried out in Ashington at Haydon Road Estate and North Seaton Road Footpath and in Blyth at 12th Avenue, Briardale Road, Tynedale Drive and Druridge Drive.
- Drainage works had been completed at the following locations - Aldborough Street, Blyth, Morpeth Road, Ashington, A189 Spine Road (Three Horseshoes Northbound), Wensleydale Terrace, Blyth, Cowpen Road, Blyth and Broadway, Blyth.
- Tarmac resurfacing works had been completed at the Eve Black Way footpath and Bebside Road, Blyth. Colas were programmed to apply fiberdeck finish in April next year, weather permitting. Some positive feedback had been received.
- Verge hardening works had been carried out in the Haydon Road Estate, Ashington.
- Upcoming tarmac patching was scheduled for: Blyth - Devonworth Place, Ennerdale Road, Lonsdale Avenue; Ashington - Park Road, Castle Terrace, Black Close Bank.
- Resurfacing work at Cambois was progressing well and it was hoped that it would be complete by the end of the following week.

Councillor Gobin asked that his thanks to the Highways Delivery Team and to Councillor Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services be placed on record for the work they had done regarding the road into Cambois.

Winter Services Operations Across Northumberland

The Highways Delivery Area Manager provided members with a leaflet entitled 'Highway Services in Winter' for their information. (Copy filed with the signed Minutes of the meeting.)

The Council planned to be able to respond appropriately to forecast weather conditions and had sufficient manpower and resources available. Currently for the 2019/20 season there was:

- 28 serviced multi-purpose gritting vehicles with snow plough attachments with 5 new to the fleet this year.
- Two dedicated Snow Blowers.
- 6 reserve vehicles.
- 4 gully tankers positioned throughout the county to deal with potential flooding caused by rapid snow melt.
- 3 mechanical fitters on 24-hour emergency standby in the north, west and south-east of the county to deal with emergency repairs.
- 43,500 tonnes of rock salt from the beginning of October at 11 depots across the county, additional salt could be ordered throughout the season if necessary.
- Recently constructed 2 new salt barns and a 6700 tonne strategic store at Powburn for winter resilience. (Follow on from the Quarmby report).
- over 1600 salt bins in areas which were steep, had steps or difficult junctions
- over 200 grit heaps in rural areas.

The service had 28 primary routes covering around 37% of the network, 8 of which were in South East Northumberland.

There were 106 staff required to deliver winter services and rotas were in place to ensure sufficient staffing resources were available on a three shift rota. The majority of staff involved in winter services came from Technical Services.

The 3 Winter Services Delivery Managers operated on a three weekly rota (24/7) and it was their job to consider the variable forecasting information and make a decision on the most appropriate course of action based on the forecast information provided by the Council's forecaster and bureau provider. The role could be very stressful and hectic at times so members were, therefore, asked to only contact them directly in an emergency situation. All non-emergency situations should be reported through the Council's CRM and the out of hours arrangements via Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service in the usual way.

Customer Services

Winter services information contained on the NCC website would be reviewed and updated accordingly to accurately reflect operations. There would be ongoing meetings between Technical Services and Customer Services to ensure call handling procedures and internal communications were in place so that a joined up service was delivered to the customer with one point of contact.

As in previous years, a customer information leaflet had been produced (as circulated) and provided useful information to the public on all aspects of the service. Copies of the leaflet were available from various Council buildings including customer contact centres, libraries, depot reception areas and also online. The leaflet would be distributed to Town and Parish Councils as well as County Councillors. Updated and accurate information was now included on the website and included details of policies and maps of primary gritting routes, along with those showing the strategic footpath network which would be treated in severe conditions.

Alerts were sent out daily during the winter using social media. This would advise people on weather conditions and the Council's proposed response. This information would also be placed on the NCC website.

In response to comments/questions, the following information was provided:

- With regard to resurfacing works at Devonworth Place, it was noted that some blockages had occurred and these would be looked at.
- In response to a request that new grit be provided rather than topping bins up, it was stated that before a bin was restocked, any leftover grit should be loosened up and, if beyond repair, removed before the bin was restocked.
- Information would be provided to members regarding patrols for community activity via a direct link available through the Business and Customer Support Team Leader.
- Works on Malvins Road, Blyth were included on the LTP programme for this year, however, there were some issues to be sorted which should be done by the end of the financial year.
- The Chair requested an update on traffic calming proposals for Southend Avenue and the road alongside West Court.

Members thanked the Highways Delivery Area Manager for his update.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and issues raised by members needing resolution be followed up after the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

57. NORTHUMBERLAND LOTTERY

Teresa Palmer, Head of Procurement Shared Services, provided a presentation to give an overview and understanding on how the Northumberland Lottery would operate. The presentation included a demonstration of the test Northumberland website and a live website for another local authority. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the signed Minutes of the meeting.)

Following the presentation questions/comments and responses were as follows:

- It was essential for the Council to be inclusive regarding organisations which would benefit from the proceeds of the Northumberland Lottery, however, if concerns were raised about a particular organisation, mechanisms would be in place for that organisation to be looked at.
- Several members agreed that having a Northumberland Lottery was not a good idea and said the administration was encouraging poor and vulnerable people to gamble. They considered that this should have been discussed at full Council.
- Clarification was provided that no funding would be taken away from the community chest.
- In response to comments, the Chief Executive stated that the Northumberland Lottery had been brought to Cabinet after being put forward by officers in the

management team. This was a form of charitable giving and, from a service perspective, the Council had always supported the voluntary sector. She acknowledged concerns about gambling, particularly in relation to vulnerable people, but pointed out that safeguards were in place as approved policies.

- A member was concerned that money raised in South East Northumberland would not be used to the benefit of residents who lived there and would be spent in other parts of the county instead.

RESOLVED that the information and comments of members be noted.

58. RESPONSE TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Paul Jones, Service Director - Local Services provided an update of the actions taken, progress made, the future measures and areas of focus in the Council's response to a climate emergency declaration. (A copy of the presentation and information leaflet (Appendix D) are filed with the signed Minutes of the meeting.)

Following the presentation questions/comments and responses were as follows:

- With regard to tree planting, this would take place in South East Northumberland on public open space and would be fit for purpose.
- Reference was made to page 3 of the information leaflet and clarification was sought about the Ground Source Heat pumps at Bellingham Fire Station and Allendale Fire Station which had a completion date of November 2019. The Service Director - Local Services said he would follow this up and report back to members.
- In terms of electric vehicles, viable options were being explored. There was currently no viable electric HGV refuse collection vehicle on the market but these were in development. The Council was monitoring this and expected to trial a demonstration vehicle in the near future.
- A members said it was reassuring that the report acknowledged work on climate change had been on-going since 2010/11. He added that this should be in conjunction with Town and Parish Councils and the Council's partners, who had also recognised it must be tackled, but unfortunately that had not gained approval by full Council.
- Reference was made to planning application 19/02913/CCD heard earlier in the meeting which included an extension to the existing car park at Blyth Sports Centre. Approval had been granted subject to the provision of electric charging points which demonstrated that planning and climate change could work together. The Service Director - Local Services said he would look at this.
- Many new houses were being built in the area in line with outdated policies and new policies should be introduced as soon as possible. In response, reference was made to the Local Plan and the need for it to be approved. Once that happened, additional documentation could be considered.
- With regard to mine water, it was stated that the Council had submitted a business case for funding and once a response had been received from the Government, members would be advised.

- The Service Director - Local Services said that sustainability had been on the Council's agenda for a number of years but going forward climate emergency had seen a change of pace and if it was not acted upon quickly there would be serious consequences.
- In response to concerns about solar panels, it was pointed out that technology continued to advance and the cost of these had come down. There should be more incentives and returns going forward.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and issues raised by members needing further clarification be followed up after the meeting.

59. LIBRARY SERVICE CONSULTATION UPDATE

Alison Peaden, Library Services Manager, provided a presentation regarding the library service consultation which would commence this month (a copy of the presentation is filed with the signed Minutes of the meeting.)

The Library Services Manager said she would be very grateful for members' help in raising awareness of the consultation.

Following the presentation questions/comments and responses were as follows:

- It was confirmed that this would be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committees.
- A library was not just a place to go for a book, it was also a social meeting place.
- Town and Parish Councils would be consulted, the Library Services Manager had already attended the Town and Parish Council Conference and the Town and Parish Council Liaison Group. Communications would also be put in the Town and Parish Council newsletter.
- Work was being carried out with the communications team to enable information to be widespread.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

INFORMATION ITEMS

60. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2017/20 - PROGRESS REPORT

The report provided a progress update on Members' Local Improvement Schemes for 2017/19 as at 1 September 2019 (attached to the signed minutes as **Appendix D**).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

61. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

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

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

62. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 11 December 2019 at Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre - time to be confirmed.

A member raised concerns that the next meeting was scheduled to take place the evening before the General Election and said it should be moved.

RESOLVED that confirmation of the date be followed up by Democratic Services and members be informed accordingly.

The meeting closed at 7:25 pm

**CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON & SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COUNCIL -
20 NOVEMBER 2019**

48. Public Question Time

Keith Dalton, Bedlington resident asked if the development site at Tesco could be looked into as the road at the back of the Terrier pub had been closed for two months. The Chair responded that the query would be taken back to Advance Developments for an explanation.

49. Local Services Issues

Members received verbal updates from the Area Managers from Neighbourhood and Technical Services.

Technical Services Update

Resurfacing work had been carried out at Nelson Avenue, Cramlington; Cambois and Wheatfields Roundabout, Seaton Delaval.

Upcoming resurfacing work would take place in March next year at Stead Lane, Bedlington.

Tarmac patching work had been carried out at Whitsun Gardens, Bedlington; Dene View West, Bedlington; Melrose Villas, Bedlington; Klondyke, Cramlington and Avenue Road, Seaton Delaval.

Drainage was currently being upgraded on the A189 Spine Road between The Three Horse Shoes and Kitty Brewster.

Work at Westmorland Way was progressing well and on schedule. Surfacing would be completed this week and ground work would be carried out in the spring. Sainsbury's car park was now completed.

Winter Services Update

The Highways Delivery Area Manager provided members with a leaflet entitled 'Highway Services in Winter' for their information.

The Council planned to be able to respond appropriately to forecast weather conditions and had sufficient manpower and resources available. Currently for the 2019/20 season there was:

- 28 serviced multi-purpose gritting vehicles with snow plough attachments with 5 new to the fleet this year;
- Two dedicated snow blowers;
- Six reserve vehicles;

- Four gully tankers positioned throughout the country to deal with potential flooding caused by rapid snow melt;
- Three mechanical fitters on 24 hour emergency standby in the north, west and south east of the county to deal with emergency repairs;
- 43,5000 tonnes of rock salt which could be ordered from the beginning of October at 11 depots across the county, additional salt could be ordered throughout the season if necessary;
- Recently constructed 2 new salt barns and a 6700 tonne strategic store at Powburn for winter resilience. (Follow on from the Quarmby report);
- Over 1600 salt bins in areas which were steep, had steps or difficult junctions;
- Over 200 grit heaps in rural areas.

The service had 28 primary routes covering around 37% of network - 13 in the west, 8 in the south east, and 7 in the north and also the A69 from the Northumberland border to the M6.

106 staff were required to deliver winter services including managers, supervisors, drivers and operatives. Staffing rotas were in place to ensure sufficient staffing resources were available on a three shift rota. The majority of staff involved in winter services came from Technical Services.

Three Winter Service Delivery Managers operated on a three weekly rota 24/7 who monitored variable forecasting information and made decisions on the most appropriate course of action based on the forecast information provided by the Council's forecaster (Meteogroup) and bureau provider (Vaisala). Forecasts were received on three occasions over a 24 hour period. The role could be very stressful at times and Members were therefore asked to only contact them directly in an emergency situation. All non-emergency situations should be reported through the Council's CRM and out of hours arrangements via Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service in the usual way.

Customer Services

Winter Services information on the NCC website would be reviewed and updated accordingly to reflect operations. There would also be ongoing meetings between Technical Services and Customer Services to ensure call handling procedures and internal communications were in place to deliver a joined up service.

As in previous years, a customer information leaflet had been produced which provided useful information to the public on all aspects of the service. Copies of the leaflet were available from various council buildings including customer contact centres, libraries, depot reception areas and also online. The leaflet would be distributed to Town and Parish Councils as well as County Councillors. Updated and accurate information was now included on the website and included details of policies and maps of primary gritting routes,

along with those showing the strategic footpath network which would be treated in severe conditions.

Alerts were sent out daily during the winter using social media. This would advise people on weather conditions and the Council's proposed response. This information would also be placed on the NCC website.

In response to comments/queries, the following information was provided:-

- The leaflet was not available electronically but the Highways Delivery Area Manager would contact Nicola Wardle, Business and Customer Support Team Leader to see if it could be made available online;
- It was not anticipated that it would snow before Christmas;
- Gully cleaning was carried out in hotspot areas;
- Technical Services and Neighbourhood Services were working in partnership to deal with areas of concerns;
- The issue at Cramlington railway station and the sorting office should now be resolved;
- Some hoses on the cleaning wagons were not long enough to clear the underpass drains in Cramlington and the concern would be passed to Simon Main at Aqueous Workflow;
- Salt bins required to be dewatered, the salt broken up, litter removed and topped up;

Members thanked the Highways Delivery Area Manager for his update.

Neighbourhood Services Update

Tony Gribbon, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, provided the following information:

- Grass cutting was now complete. This had finished sooner due to challenging weather conditions;
- Work was taking place on leaf hotspot areas to prevent flooding;
- Capacity had been improved by using a large mechanical machine to remove leaf fall;
- The winter works programme had started. Members were invited to come forward with any requests which would be inputted into the work programme;
- There were no real issues with waste recycling. Garden waste collections had started to tail off and would come to an end at the end of the month;
- Teams had been deployed on Remembrance Sunday to ensure that memorials were up to the highest standard;

A Member conveyed his thanks the Neighbourhood Services for the fantastic work carried out on Bonfire night and the day after which was

endorsed by Members. He also referred to abuse received by staff on the night from the public which was unacceptable.

In response to questions/comments the following information was provided:

- There was no arrangement to clear footpaths that bounded onto farmers land. It was the landowner's responsibility to clear any obstructions;

Members thanked the Area Manager and his team for their excellent work.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - LOCAL

51. Northumberland Lottery

In the absence of Teresa Palmer, Head of Procurement Shared Services, Mrs Daljit Lally, Chief Executive explained that she would provide a brief update on the Northumberland Lottery and if Members wished the presentation could be brought back to a future meeting. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the signed Minutes of the meeting.)

Following the presentation questions/comments and responses were as follows:--

- An organisation would need to be constituted. Any queries would be passed forward to Teresa Palmer;
- The person who purchased the ticket could choose which organisation the money went to and mechanisms would be in place for monitoring. This would not be done by the Council or a Council Officer;
- A person would know a significant proportion would be going to a good cause. The top prize was £25,000 with other smaller prizes
- Clarification would be sought whether the prize of £25,000 was every month.

RESOLVED that the information and comments of Members be noted.

52. Response to Climate Emergency Declaration

Paul Jones, Service Director - Local Services provided an update of the actions taken, progress made, the future measures and areas of focus in the Council's response to a climate emergency declaration. (A copy of the presentation and information leaflet (Appendix D) is filed with the signed Minutes of the meeting.)

Following the presentation questions/comments and responses were as follows:

- With regard to temporary style accommodation, it was recognised that large scale areas needed to be tackled and this was actively being looked at. Some properties may not be suitable whilst others may be more economic to be made fit for purpose;
- It was up to the community to play their part, eg, by not parking outside of schools, cutting down on emissions and congestion;
- The type of cladding used for residential properties was not decorative cladding and more of an insulation;
- The proposed Northumberland passenger line needed to be viable and the use of diesel was more a more practical and less expensive solution than electrification. The existing East Coast main line solely relied on diesel;
- A Member commented on the improvements to prefab houses and the transformation it had made to residents' lives and the area itself;
- In response to a comment regarding possible joint working with the North of Tyne Authority in relation to glass recycling, it was advised that there had been a drive nationally to standardise recycling and minimise collections costs. At present, North Tyneside Council were in contract with Suez recycling for waste management and the Authority had been in dialogue with the North of Tyne Authority, particularly in relation to food waste;
- A Member referred to the issues of off-street parking in her area and would forward emails from residents to the Director of Local Services;
- The Director of Local Services was unaware of an Anaerobic Digester in Lynemouth but would make enquiries;
- In relation to charging the public for the use of charging points, proposals had been signed off in last years Medium Term Financial Plan regarding charging for electricity used to help offset costs and that was being looked at as a proposition;
- A Member referred to the production of lithium batteries which could cause a problem in the future;

53. Library Service Consultation Update

Alison Peaden, Library Services Manager, provided a presentation regarding the library service consultation which would commence this month (a copy of the presentation is filed with the signed Minutes of the meeting.)

The Library Services Manager said she would be very grateful for members' help in raising awareness of the consultation.

Following the presentation questions/comments and responses were as follows:

- A Member sought clarification whether the questionnaire was standard for the whole of the county or, if it would be more relevant for each area

as he was concerned that responses in some areas, ie, perhaps those that had different library offerings, might influence other areas with completely different library provision available. It was advised that the questionnaire would ask for a postcode.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

54. Members' Local Improvement Schemes

Members were provided with an update on Members' Local Area Schemes during 2017/20. (Report attached with the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

55. Local Area Work Programme

Members noted the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (any suggestions for new agenda items would require confirmation by the Business Chair after the meeting). (A copy of the Work Programme is enclosed with the official minutes.)

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

56. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18 December 2019 to be held in Concordia Leisure Centre.

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL AREA COUNCIL - Thursday, 21 November 2019

93. 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.

Gordon Mclean, Berwick resident asked if any information was available about the lights on the Royal Border Bridge. Out of the 28 lights, some had been on and off intermittently and were now completely off. Could anything be done to fix them, especially as these lights were a visitor attraction and this was the third consecutive Christmas that they were not working.

The local member responded that a report was awaited following an assessment organised by the Berwick Regeneration Commission, which should confirm what was needed and what the cost would be, and consideration was being given to how this would work in the long term. Back in 2011 the County Council had secured funding to install the lights but there had not been a maintenance programme put in place.

Members were then advised that some work had been undertaken to assess the possible costs of maintaining the lights, an update would be sought, but it could possibly require a significant investment. It was further agreed that the lights helped highlight an iconic part of Northumberland.

Some further discussion followed about the maintenance of the 1928 bridge and the use and cost of heritage lights in other areas, following which it was:

RESOLVED that a written response be organised for Mr Mclean.

Brian Darling, Berwick resident requested procedural clarification about the consideration at a recent Berwick Town Council planning meeting, when an application had been debated about the veterinary practice. It subsequently turned out that resurfacing work proposed had already been completed on the site. He expressed concern about why this happened and why the town council would be considering applications when it was too late to do so.

The Chair explained that this Local Area Council could not discuss any live planning applications. It was therefore instead agreed to:

RESOLVED that Democratic Services ask the case officer for the planning application in question to provide a response for Mr Darling.

It was further reported that a resident had asked in advance of the meeting what had the Council decided about the possible £78,000 / £83,000 funding for Steppey Lane Bridge and installing a ramp, and if so was this in the budget to go ahead during 2020/21?

Copies of the question and a response from the Technical Services department had been circulated at the meeting. The resident who also asked the question would be sent a copy of the response. The Chair explained that the proposal referred to would be considered as part of the Local Transport Plan programme for 2020/21, and that would not be decided until later in the current financial year.

RESOLVED that Democratic Services send a copy of the response in writing to the questioner.

94. 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:

Technical Services:

Work continued on the 23 Local Transport Plan (LTP) schemes, of which some key points included:

- a wall rebuild in Berwick, which required additional consents to be granted
- improvements to the Swan Centre junction were still in the design stage
- road safety work was being undertaken as part of traffic calming requirements at Christon Bank
- work was being finalised for Felton Bridge, and the parapets would be fixed in February 2020
- stabilisation work was being undertaken to the B6343 Rothbury to Thropton road, which had been delayed due to a buried BT box and culvert belonging to Northumbria Water
- work to Beach Street in Amble would be done in mid January
- four 20mph road safety schemes would be undertaken after Christmas
- remedial work undertaken to carriageway at Bamburgh
- traffic calming measures at Powburn were due for December.

An update was also provided about winter maintenance preparedness. There were 28 routes across the county and 43,500 tonnes of salt in stock. Further arrangements were being organised for access to dry salt. 106 staff worked on a rota basis. Members were asked to report issues through the main 0345 council telephone number rather than call individual officers, as all such calls were recorded and could be tracked more easily.

Details of members' questions and officers answers that followed included:

- clarification would be provided after the meeting about what length of the wall in Berwick was due to be rebuilt
- a leaflet had been produced about the winter services route map - this would be circulated to members
- in response to a question about the criteria for streets to qualify to be included on the routes and whether any could be extended, members were advised that all routes were available on the Council's webpages and a

comprehensive heat mapping exercise had been undertaken to formalise the routes. The routes needed to be undertaken within a set time and they covered 37% of the county's overall road network. People should only ever be one mile away from treated surfaces within an urban area, and five miles away in rural areas. Mr Jones would check on the criteria.

Neighbourhood Services:

- waste services were operating well; Garden Waste collections would finish at the end of November. The number of customers had increased again this year
- income from commercial waste, garden waste and bulk collections were all on target
- grass cutting had finished, it was a challenging year due to good growing conditions. All relevant areas had received the necessary number of grass cuts
- staff were now using the Total Mobile application to record play park inspections, this will go live soon, which means that the results could be immediately sent to the respective local town/parish council
- street cleansing routes were continuing to work reasonably well, winter schedules had started and information was being gathered about any areas of concern, operatives are logging any issues
- mechanical sweeper routes were achieving all schedules.

Details of members' questions and officers answers that followed included:

- regarding concerns about potential accident hazards created by a large build ups of leaves, work took place to clear highways and areas were identified if they could be problematic if they weren't cleared, using a red/amber/green categorisation basis
- officers were thanked for their good work cleaning war memorials in time for Remembrance Day
- the water bottle refilling station installed outside of Bamburgh's toilets was welcomed; it was hoped that such a service could be installed as widely as possible at other suitable locations where viable to do
- officers were asked to address a problem reported about a build up of plastic rubbish near the north pier at Warkworth
- in response to a question it was confirmed that one incident of antisocial behaviour had been reported at a park in Berwick, but there had been no spike in incidents/complaints.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted and any issues identified by members be followed up after the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

95. RESPONSE TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The Service Director - Local Services was in attendance to provide a presentation for members about the actions taken, progress made, future measures and areas of focus in the Council's response to a climate emergency declaration (copy of the presentation and information leaflet filed with the signed minutes.)

Following a further request for information, members welcomed the proposal for the solar car port over the back County Hall car park, which would generate 50% of the electricity demand for County Hall; the structures would have very little impact on local amenity as the site was well screened already.

Members welcomed the presentation and the Chair concluded that this was a very important subject. Mr Jones was thanked for his presentation and it was:

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

96. LIBRARY SERVICE CONSULTATION UPDATE

The Library Services Manager gave a presentation which outlined the current library service, why the redesign was necessary and how it would be achieved. The consultation was due to commence during November and officers were seeking member support to promote participation (copy of the presentation filed with the signed minutes.)

A member stated that this proposal demonstrated an evolution of the library service, and what other funding might be available to support this work? Members were advised that priorities arising during the consultation would be looked at, and consideration could also be given to any possible community support options.

In response to a question, members were advised that staff could advise on appropriate times for people to visit libraries for quiet study, given that a wider range of activities often now took place there and other users often wished to use library space for group work/discussions. The consultation sought to find out what people felt was important for the future of the library service so such actions could be implemented where possible.

Ms Peaden and Mr Walsh were thanked for their attendance and it was:

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

INFORMATION ITEMS

97. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2017/19 - PROGRESS REPORT

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

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

98. BERWICK REGENERATION COMMISSION

There were no further updates to be reported.

99. 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.)

RESOLVED that the information be noted.