

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council** held in the Community Room, Concordia Leisure Centre, Forum Way, Cramlington on Wednesday, 23 May 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor C Dunbar (Chair in the Chair)

MEMBERS

B Crosby
B M Flux
B Pidcock
M Swinburn

M Robinson
I C F Swithenbank
R Wallace

OFFICERS

D Lalley
T Gribbins
K Norris

Chief Executive
Neighbourhood Services Area
Manager
Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT

Press: 0
Public:2

01. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Membership and Terms of Reference for the Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council, as agreed by Council on 2 May 2018, were reported for information.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daley, Dungworth, Hepple and Richards.

03. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council held on Wednesday, 18 April 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Adam Hogg, Bedlington referred to the temporary 20 mph zones near schools and asked if that would be extended to include the B331, outside of St Benet Biscop school. As there was no representative of the Highways Section in attendance, it was agreed that a response would be sought and forwarded to Mr Hogg direct.

Christine Taylor, Bedlington said she had contacted the Highways Section last year about 20 mph zones outside of a school in Guide Post. She requested clarification as signs had been erected then taken down. It was agreed that a response would be requested and forwarded to Mrs Taylor.

The Chair referred to the report attached to the agenda as Appendix C and said the Council was currently in the process of renewing its policy regarding how 20 mph speed limits would be introduced. No schemes of that nature had yet been implemented in Northumberland, however, they were due to be implemented at a number of locations during 2018/19 and further information would be requested from the Highways Section in response to the queries raised.

The Local Member for Seaton Delaval said that flashing signs had been purchased in his area which flashed with a smiley face when the speed limit was complied with. This had worked very well and there had been a noticeable reduction in speed.

Adam Hogg, Bedlington raised concerns about the roundabout at the new Broadoaks development in Bedlington stating that it was not level and resembled a 'ski slope'. He said it was badly designed, the gritter had been unable to treat it in the winter and the kerbs were battered due to cars hitting them. He had contacted the Highways Section but the officer dealing with it had left and there had been no further response. The Local Member said several people had raised similar concerns with him and it was also unclear whether drivers were meant to drive around the red section in the middle of the roundabout. The Chief Executive said she would email Paul Johnston, Interim Executive Director of Place, for a response.

05. PETITIONS

- (a) No new petitions had been received.
- (b) There were no reports to consider.
- (c) There were no updates to report.

06. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

Tony Gribbin, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, updated members as follows:

(a) **Verge Litter Picking Programme/Plans**

Verge litter picking programme/plans had come about following correspondence received from Alnwick Friends of the Earth. A programme was in place to tidy verges on high speed roads/laybys, where possible, without compromising the safety of staff and a lot of work was being carried out at night. Reference was made to emerging new legislation that would empower local authorities to take action against people seen littering from cars and ways of gathering evidence to secure prosecutions.

It was queried if the Council looked at receipts in the bags from food takeaways which had been thrown away as some companies printed the car registration on the receipt of food purchased from drive throughs. It was understood that the branch of McDonalds in Alnwick did so. The Neighbourhood Services Area Manager said he had not heard of that and agreed to look into it and also to forward the information to Alnwick Friends of the Earth. In response to further queries, the Neighbourhood Services Area Manager agreed to investigate and report back with details about the enforcement service, cctv in Cramlington and if it was useable for prosecutions.

Other issues were discussed and information provided as follows:

- The in-house treatment of weeds had commenced, it was complete in Seaton Delaval and, by the end of the week, would be complete in Cramlington. Work would then be carried out in Bedlington and other areas in South East Northumberland.
- Grass cutting had been slow to start due to the long winter and wet conditions. Some areas had received 3 to 4 cuts and, if the weather remained favourable, it would be back on schedule.
- The Council was investing heavily in a new fleet of vehicles across the county and 50 new vehicles would be purchased over the next few years. A new fleet of 29 grass cutting machines would also be procured over the next few years. In response to a question it was stated that a planning exercise had been undertaken and 50 vehicles would be replaced. An additional two were being purchased as a solution to the increasing demand for housing developments across the county. It was noted that this would be subject to review.
- A review would take place in June/July regarding the performance of the Local Services Resilience Team. Feedback would be sort on several issues, for example, grits bins and if they were strategically placed.
- In response to concerns about Himalayan Balsam coming from Seghill Nature Reserve to Holywell Dene and problems with Japanese Knotweed in Seaton Sluice and Seaton Delaval, the Neighbourhood Services Area Manager agreed to meet the Local Member to discuss the problems further.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and information provided regarding the queries detailed above.

(b) Consultation on the Refreshed Functional Hierarchy and Resilient Road Network

The above report provided information about the consultation taking place with County Councillors, Town and Parish Councils and other key stakeholders on a periodic review of the Council's functional road hierarchy (a copy of the report is attached to the signed Minutes as Appendix A).

The Chair urged members to respond to the consultation and put their views forward.

In response to a query, the Chief Executive said that a few months ago Paul Johnston had been appointed as the Interim Executive Director of Place. Since then the Head of Planning Services had left but support was currently in place for the planning function.

The Neighbourhood Services Area Manager referred to micro surfacing works and stated that residents in the areas affected would be notified in advance and, hopefully, there would be as little inconvenience as possible.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - CORPORATE

07. AMBULANCE PERFORMANCE

A presentation was provided by Barry Dews of the North East Ambulance Service about ambulance performance standards. (A copy of the presentation is attached to the signed minutes.)

Key information included:

- Details of the 14 ambulance stations in Northumberland.
- The categorisation of response time standards up until 30 October 2018 (Red 1 - 2 and Green 1 - 4).
- The need to change the standards due to increased demand, time frames over-ruling patient care, the high volume of crews diverted between cases, and Rapid Response on the scene for longer periods for a conveying resource; a decade old system would be replaced to meet modern needs.
- Ambulance call volumes 2005/06 to 2016/17.
- Details of the new standards, Categories 1 - 4, and specialist responses.
- Ambulance response objectives: a timely response to patients with life-threatening conditions; having the right clinical resources to meet the needs of patients; reducing multiple dispatches; reducing the diversion of resources; increasing hear and treat and increasing see and treat.
- Details for the ambulance response benchmark with other areas for categories 1 - 4 as of April 2018.
- Details of Northumberland's performance on C1, C2, C3 and C4 categories and performance against the new Ambulance Response Programme standards.

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

- A number of hospitals did struggle with handover times, the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital (NSEC) had rebooted its system regarding how patients were received. The Ambulance Service was working with the hospital but there were issues which were system wide.
- NSEC had expressed frustration with the Ambulance Service for dropping off a number of patients at the same time but that could not be avoided at times of high demand.
- Crews did come off the road for meal breaks but if a high priority call came through, the meal break would be interrupted and the crew would respond.
- There was an apprenticeship scheme for paramedics and training took 3 years. There were also advanced paramedics who could prescribe and administer medicine.
- The Helicopter service was run by a charity, it was not used every day and major traumas went to the RVI or the James Cook hospital.
- Northumberland CCG patients were taken to NSEC. Patients in Hexham could be closer to the RVI but the ambulance service was contracted to take them to NSEC and did so on most occasions.
- If a patient had an excessive wait their condition would be continuously checked and regular contact would be made. There were times when a long wait could not be avoided due to other more urgent situations needing to be addressed first.
- In response to concerns that a person making a call may not be very articulate or literate, it was stated that the NHS pathway system had been developed to categorise calls and assess emergency and clinical needs. The system was quite complex and had been approved by doctors in London.

Members shared some personal experiences of emergency situations and praised the Ambulance Service for their quick and caring response. It was acknowledged that sometimes people could be critical of the service but members asked that their appreciation and admiration be expressed to the crews who did an excellent job.

The Chair thanked Mr Dews for attending and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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 B to the signed minutes).

It was noted that the following had been included in error and should be deleted from the form:

Children Centre's Board for Central Locality
Stakeford/Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre.

It was agreed to reappoint the following:

Astley Park Management Committee	B Pidcock
Beaconhill Community Association	B Flux
Cramlington Community Association	M Swinburn
East Hartford (and District) Community Association	B Flux
Industrial Communities Alliance	B Pidcock
New Hartley Community Association	S Dungworth
Northburn Sports & Com. Ass. Man. Cttee (part of Active Northumberland)	W Daley

The following changes were agreed:

Cramlington Learning Village - Sports Hall Mgt Cttee	M Swinburn
Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project	B Flux and A Hepple

RESOLVED that the list of appointments to outside bodies be agreed subject to the changes made.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

09. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

Timed temporary 20 mph zones near schools

The report attached to the signed Minutes as Appendix C was considered by the North Northumberland Local Area Council on 22 March 2018 and had been provided to the other Local Area Councils for information. Members were recommended to contact the report author if they had any further queries.

Clarification was sought as to whether signs would be enforceable or if they were advisory.

The Local Member for Seaton Valley said that signs recorded the speed of vehicles and since they had been erected in his area, the average speed had dropped by 5 to 6 mph.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10. LOCAL AREA WORK PROGRAMME

Members received the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (a copy of which is attached to the signed Minutes as Appendix D).

The Chair pointed out that the report on the Green Dog Walking Scheme had been scheduled for July but had been put back to September as it was going to Scrutiny.

Members should contact the Chair or Democratic Services should they have any suggestions for the Work Programme.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on **Wednesday, 20 June 2018**, venue and time to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 7:10 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____