

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council** held at Concordia Leisure Centre, Forum Way, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6YB on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 at 4:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor C Dunbar, Chair in the Chair

MEMBERS

L Bowman
W Crosby
W Daley
S E Dungworth
B Flux
A Hepple

M Richards
M Robinson
M Swinburn
I C F Swithenbank
R Wallace

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

H Bowers
D Rumney

R O'Farrell

Democratic Services Officer
Principal Programme Officer
(Highways Maintenance)
Interim Executive Director of
Regeneration, Commercial and
Economy

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Daley.

75. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council held on Wednesday, 22 January 2020, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair with the following amendment:-

Minute Number 66 - Public Question Time. Fourth paragraph should read Christine Taylor.

76. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2020-21

The Local Area Council received a report which set out details of the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) for consideration and comment by the Local Area Council prior to final approval of the programme. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix A).

The Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement) highlighted the following points:

- Funding available was expected to be just over £18¹/₂ million and confirmation of that figure from DfT was expected by the end of March.
- In order to reflect priorities of climate emergency the LTP had changed significantly with 4 key areas - Walking and Cycling; Safety; Roads and Bridges, Structures and Landslips.

Members raised the following comments/questions:-

- The road number A1172 was incorrect.
- What was the position with the 20 mph outside schools ? Confirmation would be sought from Neil Snowdon, Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement).
- Traffic jams, pollution and climate change. Mr Rumney explained that existing roads were being made as reliable as possible in the hope it would improve traffic flows.
- Traffic jams in Bedlington. Mr Rumney stated that there was an increase in demand on the highways countrywide which the government has been made aware of.
- Was the funding of footpaths part of the LTP? Mr Rumney referred to an email sent to Members from the Executive Member of Environment and Local Services. Responses from that email were being compiled. However, at this stage he could not say what was included in the programme. Rick O'Farrell, Interim Executive Director added that the finance for the footpaths was new funding and would be in addition to the LTP money.
- Improvements for walking and cycling were very few safe cycle lanes and a more strategic scheme needed to be considered for the longer term.
- The timescale for the response to the Executive Member's email was far too short.
- Of the £18¹/₂ million funding, only £140,000 had been allocated to Bedlington and was inadequate.
- It was requested if the £20,000 funding for Schalksmuhle Road be moved to the top of the list.
- Traffic jams on the A19 at Moor Farm roundabout and surrounding areas and vehicles using Holywell and Seaton Sluice instead. Cycle routes in south east Northumberland could be linked up with North Tyneside for work, shopping and leisure. Disappointment with the £7¹/₂ million spent on the C and U class roads and footpaths in the rural areas and not across the county. It was advised that Moor Farm roundabout was the responsibility of Highways England however, NCC had requested Highways England to address the problem. The Interim Executive Director added that Highways England did not see this as a priority

but officers were putting together a case to justify its inclusion in the Highways England programme. With regard to the cycle routes, Councillor Homer was looking at ways to acquire more funding from Central Government.

- Only 75% of the Sustrans cycle tracks in Bedlington had been completed.
- Concerns had been received from residents in Cramlington in relation to some cycle paths that no longer had barriers.
- The £268,000 funding for Seaton Delaval was not a large amount for the size of the population.
- The Seaton Burn roundabout on the A1 needed addressing as there were often near misses. It was advised that discussions were in place with Highways England but the area came under North Tyneside Council.
- The need for safe urban cycling.
- Signage and patching should be invested in on existing cycle routes.
- A Member referred to an ever sinking pothole in the Bedlington area on the A192 which was constantly being repaired. Mr Rumney would discuss this further after the meeting.
- The condition of the A190 between Seghill and Annitsford was deteriorating due to heavy vehicle usage in the past. Mr Rumney was aware of this and it was hoped that it would be in a forward programme.
- A proper joined up cycle network would attract further tourism in Northumberland
- A lot of complaints had been received about the cycle network in Cramlington and a lot of pathways needed to be upgraded.
- The use of alternative road surfaces was suggested and Mr Rumney advised that longevity had to be taken into consideration.

Mr Rumney was thanked for his presentation.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

77. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18 March at the Memorial Hall, New Hartley.

The meeting closed at 5.46 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____