

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 Netherton Social Club, 1a Netherton Lane, Bedlington, NE22 6DP on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at 5:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor M Robinson, Vice Chair in the Chair

MEMBERS

L Bowman
W Crosby
S E Dungworth
B Flux

M D Swinburn
I C F Swithenbank
R J Wallace

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

H Bowers
J Blenkinsopp
M Carle
T Gribbin

P Jones
D Lally
J Murphy
A Peadon
N Walsh

Democratic Services Officer
Solicitor, Regulation
Highways Delivery Area Manager
Neighbourhood Services Area
Manager
Service Director - Local Services
Chief Executive
Principal Planning Officer
Library Services Manager
Head of Cultural Services

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

R Murphy - Ascent Homes
Press: 1
Public: 4

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daley and Dunbar.

43. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Council held on Wednesday, 16 October 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

44. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors Dungworth and Robinson declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 19/03637/FUL as they were Directors of Ascent Homes and would leave the meeting for the discussion of that item and take no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Swithenbank Vice Chair - Planning in the Chair.

45. DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The report explained how the Local Area Council was asked to decide the planning applications attached to the agenda using the powers delegated to it. (Report and applications enclosed with official minutes as **Appendix A.**)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Councillors Dungworth and Robinson withdrew from the meeting.

46. 19/03637/FUL - Siting of sales cabin. Site of former Cramlington library, Forum Way, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6QD

Judith Murphy, Principal Planning Officer introduced the above application and summarised the details set out in the report.

Rob Murphy, Senior Land Manager, Ascent Homes was in attendance and spoke in support of the application. His key comments were:-

- The sales cabin would be sited at Forum Way as it would take pressure off those residents at Doddington Drive;
- The cabin would be in a good location with sufficient parking;
- Highways were in agreement with the location;
- Condition 4 would allow for the removal and reinstatement of the land upon which the cabin was sited;
- Signage was required by separate advertisement consent which would come back to the committee in due course.

Members then asked questions of which the key responses from officers were:-

- It was unknown how long the site cabin would be in situ, but condition 4 dealt with the removal of the cabin;
- Members were advised that there were no conditions which restricted hours of the cabin but normally in practice cabin sales offices of this nature were usually open from 9/10 am, weekdays and weekends.

Councillor Swinburn then moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions in the report which was seconded by Councillor Flux.

The motion to grant was then put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED that the application be granted subject to the reasons/conditions in the report.

47. Planning Appeals Update

Members were updated on the progress of planning appeals. Members noted the number of appeals.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Councillors Dungworth and Robinson returned to the meeting.

On the conclusion of the development control business, the meeting adjourned for 40 minutes. The remainder of the agenda consisted of other Local Area Council business which commenced at 6:00 pm.

Councillor Robinson in the Chair.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Keith Dalton, Bedlington resident asked if the development site at Tesco's could be looked at 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.

Adam Hogg, Bedlington resident asked if discussion agenda items could be opened up to the public so that they could take part in that part of the meeting. The Chair advised that this would be raised at the next Local Area Committee Chairs Briefing.

Mr Hogg also raised a query to the process of sales of land owned by the Council. Daljit Lally, Chief Executive was not aware of any specific land sites but was happy to receive the information and look into that further.

49. PETITIONS

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

50. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

Members received updates from the Area Managers from Neighbourhood Services 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 on 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 (Metegroup) 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 (as circulated) 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 was standard for the whole county but have asked for postcode information to help better understand the information provided.

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.

The meeting closed at 7.26 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____