

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **North Northumberland Local Area Council** held at St. James's Church Centre (upstairs hall), Pottergate, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1JW on Tuesday, 21 May 2019 at 2.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor T. Thorne
(Planning Vice-chair, in the Chair, items 1 - 7 and 9 - 13)

S. Bridgett
(Vice-chair, in the Chair, items 15 - 24)

Councillor R. Moore
(Temporary chair, in the Chair, item 8)

MEMBERS

G. Hill
R. Lawrie (part)
A. Murray
W. Pattison (part)

G. Renner-Thompson (part)
G. Roughead
C. Seymour
J. Watson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

R. Armstrong
J. Bellis
M. Bird
Dr J. Brown
G. Bucknall
M. Bulman
V. Cartmell
G. Gavin
B. Hodgson

L. Hindhaugh
R. Laughton
T. Lowe
J. Marley
J. Millard
I. Stanners
C. Thompson
E. Sinnamon

Locality Co-ordinator (North)
Senior Planning Officer
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Public Health Consultant
Highways Delivery Area Manager
Lawyer
Principal Planning Officer
Head of Neighbourhood Services
Area Manager (North),
Neighbourhood Services
Communications Officer
Planning Officer
Senior Planning Officer
Staff Development Officer
Communications Support Assistant
Housing Enabling Officer
Principal Highways Development
Management Officer
Senior Planning Manager

Ch.'s Initials.....

Seven members of the public and one member of the press were also in attendance at 3.00pm, and 52 members of the public were also in attendance at 6.00pm.

(Councillor Thorne in the chair)

01. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE - NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the membership and terms of reference for the North Northumberland Local Area Council agreed by Council on 1 May 2019 be noted.

02. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE - NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL AREA COUNCIL (RIGHTS OF WAY) SUBCOMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the membership and terms of reference for the North Northumberland Local Area Council (Rights of Way) Subcommittee be agreed as follows:

- (a) Membership: Councillors Thorne (Chair), Moore (Vice-chair), Castle, Murray, Renner-Thompson and Seymour
- (b) Terms of reference: To exercise functions in relation to the survey, definition, maintenance, diversion, stopping up and creation of public rights of way in the north Northumberland area, on behalf of the North Northumberland Local Area Council.

03. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Castle and Clark. Councillor Renner-Thompson had indicated that he would be late arriving at the meeting. Councillors Lawrie and Pattison gave apologies for needing to leave after the planning part of the meeting.

04. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of North Northumberland Local Area Council held on Thursday, 18 April 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

05. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Thorne indicated that he had an interest in application 18/01719/FUL and confirmed that he would leave the meeting whilst it was considered.

Ch.'s Initials.....

06. 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.

07. 19/00106/FUL

**Front ground floor extension (Retrospective)
48 James Street, Seahouses, Northumberland, NE68 7YE**

It was firstly noted that this application had been withdrawn from the agenda as it would now be determined under delegated powers following North Sunderland Parish Council withdrawing their objection.

08. ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIR

It was noted that as Councillor Castle was absent and Councillor Thorne needed to leave the meeting whilst the application was considered, a temporary chair was required. It was then:

RESOLVED that Councillor Moore chair the meeting for the consideration of application 18/01719/FUL only.

(Councillor Thorne then left the meeting, Councillor Moore in the chair.)

09. 18/01719/FUL

**Change of use of land at 'Back Croft' to site 60 static holiday caravans as an extension to existing holiday park and, provision of wardens lodge, reduction in size and relocation of maintenance yard and building
Caravan Park, Barmoor Castle Country Park, Barmoor Castle, Lowick, Northumberland, TD15 2TR**

Senior Planning Officer James Bellis introduced the application with the aid of a Slides presentation. He updated the committee initially by explaining that a coastal mitigation contribution of £16,800 was now required following the receipt of comments by the County Ecologist. Conditions 3 and 4 in the report could be deleted as their requirements were covered already by condition 5 should the members be considering approval of the application.

In the absence of any public speakers, members then asked questions of which the key responses from officers were:

- condition 8 required a full lighting plan which would be subject to the discharge of conditions. Solar powered lighting might be an option for the developer. The condition aimed to avoid any further light pollution of local dark skies
- some consultees had set text for responding to some applications, however they will still review the proposals. the lighting strategy would need to be

agreed by the Local Planning Authority, but not specifically by this Local Area Council

- if Lowick Parish Council or the local county councillor had any further concerns or queries about the application, they should contact Planning Services officers regarding any potential discharge of condition applications.

Councillor Lawrie then moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions, as amended, including the unilateral undertaking for the coastal mitigation contribution. This was seconded by Councillor Bridgett. The motion was then put to the vote, and agreed by eight votes in favour to one against, so it was thus:

RESOLVED that the application be GRANTED, subject to the conditions as amended (deletion of conditions 3 & 4) and a Unilateral Undertaking for the Coastal Mitigation Service contribution of £16,800.

(Councillor Thorne then returned to the meeting and resumed chairing the meeting.)

10. 18/03489/OUT

Outline permission for change of use from disused quarry to holiday park comprising 35 units of accommodation (luxury chalets, static caravans and camping pods)

Former Quarry Land East Of Framhill Farm, Longframlington, Morpeth, Northumberland

Senior Planning Officer Tony Lowe introduced the application with the aid of a Slides presentation.

Robert Preston then spoke in the objectors' public speaking slot of which his key points were:

- concern about the application having a loss of natural habitat and affecting local wildlife. A number of types of birds, many considered endangered by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) were seen locally and needed protection. Rather than considering what else the site could be developed for, it should instead be left as it was to protect wildlife
- many plants and flowers had bloomed in the quarry since it was abandoned
- the application would cause noise and light pollution in the Green Belt and open countryside
- the A697 through Longframlington was already a very busy and dangerous road. If people walked from the site to Longframlington village, it would have been unsafely along a grass verge, and they were more likely to use their cars, adding to more traffic
- Longframlington did not need another holiday park or more traffic.

Councillor Graham Fremlin then spoke on behalf of Longframlington Parish Council, of which his key points were:

- the proposal was not sustainable; there were already many other holiday facilities and self catering cottages locally, of which many struggled
- the site was served by only one public bus each way each day six days a week

- although there had been few road accidents in that area, local residents were familiar with the road but visitors were not likely to be
- it was unlikely that local businesses and shops would benefit from the development
- the new access proposed was still too close to the brow of the hill on the A697, and most traffic travelled at over 30mph.

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

- the development was expected to create two full time and five part time jobs
- details of policy considerations were addressed in pages 34 - 36 of the report
- it would also create supply chain jobs, and there would not be an increase footfall and/or visitor spend locally without a development of this type
- means of access were reserved for subsequent approval and subject to technical approval. The 30mph speed limit was due to be extended further out from Longframlington. The requirement for a right turn lane meant that the development would not impact on south bound traffic. All such highways requirements would be determined at the reserved matters stage
- the site was green field land, but not designated Green Belt.

Councillor Thorne then moved that the application be granted as per the recommendation and subject to the proposed conditions; he acknowledged concerns about wildlife but clarified that neither Natural England, the County Ecologist or the Environment Agency had objected. He added that as it was a low level site with vegetation, it would not cause an eyesore. It would hopefully also bring economic benefit to Longframlington. This motion was seconded by Councillor Bridgett.

Members then made the following key points:

- the various local shops and businesses would hope to benefit from such a development
- how could the impact from the numbers of cars generated and impact on habitats be outweighed by the small number of jobs created?
- two caravan sites nearby provided a huge economic benefit to Rothbury each summer
- concerns were expressed about local radon gas levels, although it was also suggested that the levels were not substantial
- the Highways Authority had given assurance about the condition to require safe entry to the site from the A697
- every development had some kind of impact on the surrounding area, but there were no planning reasons to oppose this development
- such applications could contribute to losing what was unique about parts of Northumberland. The impact on ecology and landscape did not justify the balance proposed by officers in favour of any economic benefits from the application.

The motion to grant was then put to the vote, and supported by seven votes in favour to three against, so it was thus:

RESOLVED that the application be GRANTED subject to the conditions in the report.

(Councillor Renner-Thompson then arrived at the meeting.)

11. 18/04099/FUL
Demolition of existing school building and erection of 30 no. 2, 3 and 4
bedroom two storey dwellings with associated works
Former Milfield County First School, Wheatriggs, Milfield, Wooler,
Northumberland, NE71 6HZ

Mr Lowe introduced the application with the aid of a Slides presentation. He updated the committee initially by reading out an email from the clerk of Milfield Parish Council sent on 20 May:

I would be grateful if the following could be passed to the Councillors when considering this application on 21 May 2019 please.

Milfield Parish Council further considered this at their meeting on Friday 17 May 2019.

The Parish Council agreed to withdraw their opposition to the amended application on condition that

- 1. The developer enters into an agreement with the Parish Council to provide £30k towards the cost of a MUGA within the village. The draft agreement proposed by the developer to the Parish Council is acceptable*
- 2. The developer assists the Parish Council with work-in-kind to level the ground for the MUGA*
- 3. The developer assist the local charity, The Milfield Reading Room, to upgrade the facilities in this community building.*

The Parish Council considers these to be appropriate conditions as they will assist in the replacement of the opportunity for community recreational facilities which would be lost by the development.

As the Parish Council understand that the Area Planning Committee is likely to agree a “minded to approve” resolution or a conditional approval, the Parish Councils asks that these conditions form part of either of those two approaches.

Mr Lowe confirmed that the requests by the Parish Council could not be incorporated in conditions or a s106 agreement, they were not material planning considerations and that the application had to be assessed against policies. Any agreement between the Parish Council and the developer would be a side agreement should not be taken into account.

Raymond Slaiter spoke in the objectors’ public speaking slot of which his key points were:

- he was not an objector; he fully supported the development and the benefits it would bring to Milfield, but had concerns about any health implications from dust generated from the build. He asked if some type of temporary barrier could be erected to prevent dust and any rubbish generated, to help protect his brother, who lived near the site and was just out of hospital after cancer treatment
- could clarification be provided about whether the MUGA (multi use games area) be exactly sited?

Ch.’s Initials.....

Chris Dodds then spoke in the supporters' slot, of which his key points were:

- the applicant had been proactive in working Milfield Parish Council and residents to address their concerns
- there were two key improvements; firstly the access provisions had been moved, which was supported by Milfield Parish Council, residents and had generated no objection from the Highways Authority
- the other key improvement was the agreement with Milfield Parish Council for the MUGA which would be an excellent new facility for the village. The school playing field had now been closed for 10 years, so the application was not losing any associated use. Gleeson had signed this agreement, and the chair of Milfield Parish Council would be signing it also. The funding would then be paid within 10 days of the development of the scheme commencing.

Councillor Bridgett indicated that as the agreement was still to be fully signed off, he wished move deferral of the application until it was. Councillor Hill said that she would second this. The Chair and Lawyer then clarified that procedurally, any questions to officers should be allowed to be asked first before any motion was proposed.

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

- Sport England objected to any developments proposing a loss of sports fields unless an alternative was provided. Sport England were aware of the MUGA proposals/discussions for this application
- regarding transparency of decision making, as Northumberland County Council still owned the application site; any transfer of land ownership was usually confirmed once planning permission had been granted
- regarding whether Milfield Parish Council might feel different to the application if they knew that the £30,000 MUGA contribution could not be confirmed within any granting of permission at this meeting, Milfield Parish Council had been advised, in response to their email, that their proposal could not be undertaken as a S106 agreement
- the position regarding the £30,000 MUGA contribution should not form part of this Local Area Council's consideration of the application as it was a separate agreement and business just between the applicant and Milfield Parish Council
- the application was compliant with both local and national planning policy. The one hurdle was Sport England's objection. However Sport England did not have to count as a statutory consultee in applications where playing fields proposed to be developed had been out of use for more than five years. Officers were acknowledging their concerns, but the case officer considered on balance that the development overcame the Sport England comments
- the application met all planning policy requirements
- a different case officer had assessed the previous application for the site
- if deferred, the applicant could appeal for non-determination of the application. The separate agreement with Milfield Parish Council was not relevant to this discussion, and this application complied with requirements
- there was an error in paragraph 7.19 of the report, but it was written in good faith that the requirements had expected to have been met.

Councillor Bridgett then moved that the application be deferred to seek clarification

as paragraph 7.19 included an erroneous statement about agreement having already been met. This was seconded by Councillor Hill.

Members then made the following key points:

- the decision should be taken on the basis of the benefits proposed by the application including education and health contributions. What Gleeson promised Milfield Parish Council should not be taken into account
- the application met planning policy grounds and the S106 was supported
- there remained a risk that after the application was agreed by this Local Area Council, the applicant might subsequently drop out of the MUGA agreement
- it was unlikely that a developer would renege on the MUGA commitment which had been publicly stated and debated at this meeting
- a deferral would not be desirable as what would be different next time?

The motion to defer was then put to the vote; this received five votes in support and five against. The Chair thus had a casting vote, and voted against the motion, so it fell.

Councillor Thorne then moved that the application be granted as per the officer recommendation subject to an additional condition requiring a temporary barrier to block dust, for the wording for which would be delegated to officers. This was seconded by Councillor Watson. This was then put to the vote, received six votes in support, three against and one abstention, so it was:

RESOLVED that the Director of Planning be authorised to GRANT permission subject to:

(a) a legal agreement pursuant to S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to secure the following obligations:

1. £52,800 health contribution;
2. £17,400 education contribution; and

(b) the conditions in the report and also an additional condition requiring a temporary barrier, for which the wording be delegated to the Director of Planning.

(Councillor Bridgett then left the meeting for the duration of application 19/00520/CCD being considered.)

12. 19/00520/CCD

Proposed construction of 20 stone surfaced camping pitches; 7 grass tent pitches; vehicle access tracks; waste water disposal facility; small modular building; electricity hook up points

Land South Of Ladyburn Lake, Druridge Bay Country Park, Hadston, Northumberland, NE61 5BX

Planning Officer Richard Laughton introduced the application with the aid of a Slides presentation. He updated the committee initially by providing a number of updates, as follows:

- in relation to ecology and paragraph 7.33, the applicant had agreed to the coastal contribution of £5,292 via a S106 agreement; however as this was an application submitted by the County Council, it could not set up a S106 with

itself, so the recommendation was therefore to grant permission subject to conditions and the payment of £5,292 to coastal mitigation scheme prior to the issue of the planning permission

- if approved, it was also recommended to impose the following condition to restrict the operating hours between April and the end of October for holiday makers only: *“The site shall only be used as a caravan and camping site for the purpose of human habitation between 1 April and 31 October in any year. The occupation of the camping pitches and touring van pitches shall be restricted to genuine holidaymakers for individual periods not exceeding four weeks in total within any consecutive period of 13 weeks. A register of holidaymakers shall be kept and made available for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council at all reasonable times. Reason: in order to retain the site as holiday accommodation in accordance with the provision and intentions of the NPPF and Policy E12 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan”*
- in order to protect the visual amenity of the rural location, the following condition was also recommended to ensure that no external lighting was installed unless approved by the Local Planning Authority: *“No external lighting shall be installed within the application site unless and until details regarding the siting and design of such lighting within and adjacent to the site have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter such external lighting shall be installed in full accordance with the approved details. Reason: in the interests of visual amenity and biodiversity in accordance with policies E12 and C11 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan and the NPPF”.*

In the absence of any public speakers, members then asked questions of which the key responses from officers were:

- the stone used was sympathetic to the local rural area
- the site was 1.7km to the east of the nearest urban area, Hadston
- it would have very little impact on the landscape; the County Ecologist had no objection to the small amount of shrubs needing to be removed to implement the proposal.

Councillor Watson then moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions in the report, the two additional conditions read out by Mr Laughton, the payment of the Coastal Mitigation Service Contribution adding that the site visit undertaken on 20 May 2019 had assisted members’ understanding of how the application would formalise the use of the location. This was seconded by Councillor Pattison. The motion to grant was then put to the vote, supported by eight votes in support and two against, so it was thus:

RESOLVED that the application be GRANTED subject to the conditions in the report, payment of the Coastal Mitigation Service Contribution and two further additional conditions:

(1) No external lighting shall be installed within the application site unless and until details regarding the siting and design of such lighting within and adjacent to the site have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter such external lighting shall be installed in full accordance with those approved details.

Reason: in the interests of visual amenity and biodiversity in accordance with policies E12 and C11 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan and the NPPF.

(2) The site shall only be used as a caravan and camping site for the purpose of human habitation between 1 April and 31 October in any year. The occupation of the camping pitches and touring van pitches shall be restricted to genuine holidaymakers for individual periods not exceeding four weeks in total within any consecutive period of 13 weeks. A register of holidaymakers shall be kept and made available for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council at all reasonable times.

Reason: in order to retain the site as holiday accommodation in accordance with the provision and intentions of the NPPF and Policy E12 of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan.

13. 19/00669/CCD

Proposed new build timber frame classroom block to east of existing car park Warkworth Church of England First School, Guilden Road, Warkworth, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 0TJ

Principal Planning Officer Vivienne Cartmell introduced the application with the aid of a Slides presentation. It was a County Council application and Warkworth Parish Council had not objected.

Councillor Watson then moved that the application be granted subject to the conditions in the report; he added that it was important as the school was oversubscribed, it would not be visible from the road, and no objections had been received. This was seconded by Councillor Bridgett.

The motion to grant was then put to the vote, and agreed unanimously so it was thus:

RESOLVED that the application be GRANTED subject to the conditions in the report.

14. Planning Appeals

Members received information about the progress of planning appeals.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(Councillor Bridgett in the chair from 6.00pm.)

OTHER LOCAL AREA COUNCIL BUSINESS

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

Ch.'s Initials.....

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.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would now take place on Thursday, 20 June 2019 at St. James' Church Centre, Alnwick.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....