

## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the **Tynedale Local Area Council** held at Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NH on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 at 4.00 p.m.

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor G Stewart

(Chair, in the Chair for agenda items 67 - 69 and 77 - 85)

(Planning Vice-Chair Councillor R Gibson in the chair for items 70 - 76)

#### **MEMBERS**

T Cessford  
A Dale (no.s 67 - 79)  
CR Homer  
CW Horncastle  
I Hutchinson

N Oliver (no.s 72 - 85)  
JR Riddle (no.s 67 - 76)  
A Sharp  
KG Stow

#### **OFFICERS**

N Armstrong  
K Blyth  
R Campbell  
M Haworth  
D Hunt

P Jones  
D Lally  
H Lancaster  
N Masson  
T Miller-Fay  
A Olive  
T Palmer

M Patrick

A Peaden  
Elizabeth Sinnamon  
N Turnbull  
N Walsh

Senior Planning Officer  
Principal Planning Officer  
Planning Officer  
Planning Officer  
Area Manager (West),  
Neighbourhood Services  
Service Director - Local Services  
Chief Executive  
Principal Solicitor  
Principal Solicitor  
Project Officer - Energy  
Highways Delivery Area Manager  
Head of Procurement Shared  
Services  
Principal Highways Development  
Management Officer  
Library Service Manager  
Senior Planning Manager  
Democratic Services Officer  
Head of Cultural Services

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Glen Sanderson - Portfolio Holder for Environment & Local Services

14 members of the public  
1 member of the press

#### **67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Kennedy and K Quinn.

#### **68. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Tynedale Local Area Council held on 10 September 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### **69. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Stow declared an interest in planning application 19/03636/FUL as the applicant was one of his clients and would leave the meeting whilst the item was considered.

Councillor Oliver declared an interest in the Corbridge Market Place – Proposed Scheme of Management item and would leave the meeting whilst the item was considered.

#### **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL**

***Councillor Stewart then vacated the Chair, for Planning Vice-Chair Councillor Gibson to chair the development control section of the agenda, as was the arrangement for all Local Area Councils.***

#### **70. DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The report requested the Local Area Council to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications. The procedure at Planning Committees was appended for information. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix A.)

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**71. 19/01401/FUL**

**Construction of 2 bedroom single storey holiday let accommodation, separate boiler house and construction of footpaths (amended description)**

**Land North Of Braeside Cottage, The Peth, Allendale, Northumberland**

The Principal Planning Officer introduced the report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. The application had been deferred at the meeting on 13 August 2019 in order that a site visit be held and for detailed plans and visuals to be submitted by the applicant.

Councillor Homer commented on the quality of some of the photographs which had been very dark and difficult to make out the details being highlighted by the officer.

Parish Councillor David Crellin, spoke on behalf of Allendale Parish Council in support of the application. He highlighted the following points:-

- He had read the source documents including the Allendale Neighbourhood Plan and was concerned that none of the policies had been read in context which had led to the recommendation to refuse the application.
- The Allendale Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) should be given more weight than the Tynedale Local Plan. The ANP contained details of development that residents in Allendale wished to encourage.
- Policy ANDP7 'Conversion of buildings in the open countryside' was not relevant to this application.
- Policy ANDP1 provided a framework for sustainable development as established in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It provided a general development management policy which the other policies should be applied in conjunction with.
- The tourism industry and provision of holiday accommodation was vital to the area and therefore this type of development was permitted within or adjoining settlements, with appropriate screening.
- Documentation for the North Pennines AONB included photos similar to the proposed building ie on stilts and located on a slope.
- The proposal had been developed in line with the North Pennines AONB principles for building design and planning guidance.
- The proposed development was not isolated in open countryside, however, it would comply with the requirement to be of exceptional quality and outstanding or innovative design leading to significant environmental enhancement.
- Allendale Parish Council supported the application and had drawn a different conclusion than the Planning Officer.
- Members were requested to approve the application.

Andrew Docchar, the applicant, spoke in support of the application and made the following comments:-

- He proposed to build a bespoke oak framed holiday lodge constructed using solid oak timbers and traditional joinery techniques. Low impact ground screws would be used to root the lodge to the ground on a floating steel frame to minimise disturbance to the land and also allowed the option of easy removal at the end of the lodge's life compared to use of concrete.
- The design used largely natural materials and additional tree and shrub planting would screen the lodge minimising the visual impact. The bespoke design and sensitive planting would mean that the lodge would sit in sympathy and enhance the site.
- Largely natural materials were to be used which combined with sensitive mixed tree and shrub planting would provide a natural screening to the lodge and minimise the visual impact.
- The bespoke design and planting would enable the lodge to sit in sympathy with or enhance the site. Wildflower meadows and flowering shrubs will encourage more birds and insects on the site.
- The spruce trees mentioned in the officers report had been felled a year before the application had been submitted. They had been planted by his father 30 years ago and had reached their maturity. The decision had been taken to remove them as they were smothering nearby oak trees. The ecologist who had assessed the site was of the opinion that the removal of the trees was an improvement.
- He had liaised with the North Pennines AONB regarding the design of the lodge and had implemented their suggestions which included: a slate pitched roof which would be more in keeping with surrounding buildings than a grass roof, a roof overhang to reduce the glare off the glazing, and the ground screws. As there were nearby properties emitting light at night, the light from the glazing of the lodge was not thought to be an issue.
- The North Pennines AONB had no objection to the proposal and was supported by the Chair. The reference to further detail included the colour of the cladded timber, type of trees to be planted which could be conditioned and agreed after liaising with the planning officer.
- Whilst the officer's report stated that the lodge would be out of character with the site, the North Pennines AONB had no objection.
- Emails had been sent to provide confirmation that the size of the lodge had not been increased since the original plans had been submitted in April.
- Local residents supported the proposal as demonstrated by the positive comments submitted on the planning portal. There had been no public objections received. He read out one of the comments from the planning portal which commented on the interesting plan which would enhance the area, the need for holiday accommodation to meet demand in the town, the applicants track record and the work that had been undertaken which meant that the river path was no longer waterlogged.
- He asked members to consider the points that he had raised in the time allowed.

In response to questions from Members the following information was provided:-

- The Ecologist had no objection to the application subject to the inclusion of a condition. As the application was recommended for refusal, no conditions had been included within the report.
- The Conservation Officer had concluded that the development would harm the setting of the Allendale Conservation Area. The harm had been assessed as less than substantial and should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. Members needed to consider whether more weight should be given to the economic benefits of additional holiday accommodation in the area.
- There were different parking requirements for Hexham town centre, which required no parking provision, as opposed to this application, which was located outside the town centre and parking on site would normally be expected to be provided. Whilst public spaces were available within the Market Place, this could not be allocated specifically for this site and there were concerns that visitors would end up parking on the road where it could be dangerous to park.
- Whilst the principle of development for tourist accommodation in Allendale was acceptable, the impact of material considerations needed to be assessed to ascertain whether they outweighed principle of development. This included the setting of the Allendale Conservation Area with less than substantial harm and whether it was outweighed by the public benefit of holiday accommodation.
- If permission was granted by Members, a condition could be included to agree the colour of the stilts before construction of the development commenced.
- Local Plan Policies GD4, GD6 and the NPPF included requirement for parking to be provided and therefore as this could not be provided on site, this formed one of the reasons for refusal.
- The site was not easily accessible and parking on The Peth on a bend would be dangerous.
- Comparison could not be made with a caravan site consisting of 5 pitches which also did not have dedicated parking as that development did not require planning permission. If planning permission was required, parking provision would need to be provided.
- It was expected that visitors booking the lodge would need to walk from the village centre with their luggage. Double yellow lines could potentially be used to prevent parking on the road if it became problematic though this could not form part of this decision.
- The lower part of the site was protected open space however this did not include the area where the lodge was proposed to be built. Protection of designated open space had been included as one of the reasons for refusal.

Councillor Hutchinson moved that the application be granted. This was against the officer recommendation for refusal and was seconded by Councillor Stewart. The reasons for approving the application were that the public benefit to the economy through tourism outweighed the harm to the conservation area and other material planning considerations

Upon being put to the vote the proposal was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (1) the application be **GRANTED** permission for the following reasons:
  - (a) the public benefit to the local economy from tourism accommodation outweighed the harm to the Allendale Conservation Area;
  - (b) the North pennines AONB was in favour of the development.
- (2) delegated permission be granted to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Vice-Chair (Planning) to approve the conditions.

**72. 19/01484/REM**

**Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to planning permission 15/02292/OUT for the construction of 6 dwellings and associated parking.  
Land South Of East Melkridge Farm, Greengate Lane, Melkridge,  
Northumberland**

The Planning Officer introduced the report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation.

Kevan Stronach spoke on behalf of all of the individuals who had objected to the application. He raised the following points:-

- The numerous objections be considered by the committee.
- Despite the recommendation that the application be granted, there were a number of issues which should be carefully considered and needed to be addressed.
- Outline permission was granted in 2015 when the developer proposed that 4 of the 6 properties be accessed from the North. The Highways report at that time highlighted that no more than 4 properties should be accessed by a private road. Currently all 6 were proposed to be accessed from the North including the 4 existing properties. No explanation has been received as to why the policy should be disregarded. It was suggested that the application should be deferred until a substantive and valid reason was provided.
- Potentially 12 additional vehicles could make use of the access and farmyard in addition to increased visitor usage. The double garage and visitor parking for unit 1 was not likely to be used as all of the properties faced North and therefore the obvious point of entry was from the North.
- The village did not have mains gas and there did not appear to have been any thought given to the practicalities of oil or LPC deliveries or its storage.
- Bins were unlikely to be stored neatly against the fencing of existing properties and would require council staff to enter the farmyard to collect

and return them. They would be an obstacle and eyesore within the farmyard.

- There appeared to be a reduction in the amount of the farmyard to be improved from the outline application. The surface was in a poor state of repair with many potholes and additional levels of traffic would worsen this.
- The owner of the land should have a duty of care to lawful visitors. There appeared to be no plan for future maintenance or evidence of adequate insurance cover. It was suggested that permission should not be granted unless the committee were satisfied that there would be adequate provision.
- Existing residents privacy would be affected with parking adjacent to Morning View which would affect light and higher noise levels. Space restrictions within the farmyard would likely lead to an increase of on street parking within the village.
- Widening the pavement to improve visibility would further narrow the road and its narrowest point in the village. Larger vehicles already found difficult to negotiate the multi directional junction. A recent collision had involved a bus.
- The current proposal for the development was a series of compromises in relation to the size of gardens, number of properties and access. Residents were not opposed to development in the village. There was no need to compromise if other options were considered such as the relocation and orientation of the dwellings and the alternative access which would be more sympathetic to the local character and existing historic buildings.
- Decisions by a Local Area Committee enabled decisions based on local knowledge and experience. The Committee were encouraged to visit the site to satisfy themselves that the development was appropriate for the location and the village.

Parish Councillor Tony Lewis, spoke on behalf of the parish council. He stated that:

- Melkridge Parish Council were not opposed in principle to the development; recognising that appropriate extra housing would add to the vibrancy and sustainability of the village.
- Paragraph 7.5 of the officer's report was read out which referred to good design being a key aspect of sustainable development and referred to paragraph 127 of the NPPF and the requirements and criteria for developments.
- Reference was made to the Tynedale Core Strategy policies highlighted in paragraph 7.6 and that significant weight should be given to these policies.
- The Local Area Council were requested to give to give these policies significant weight. Attention to detail by experienced local councillors provided the difference between good, acceptable development and the contrary and was preferred rather than delegation to officers, which happened when outline permission was granted.

- They welcomed planning decisions by Local Area Councils. Decisions were taken by local members who live and represent communities like Melkridge and therefore appreciated and understood their needs.
- Planning officers had constraints on their time and could not give the same attention to detail as they were unlikely to live in the area and lacked the local knowledge referred to in paragraph 127 of the NPPF.
- The committee were requested to defer making a decision until a site visit had been held so they could assess the validity of concerns raised. These included:
  - The development would detrimentally affect the historic setting of the village, particularly with regard to the proximity of Listed Buildings.
  - Road safety outside and inside the site.
  - Use of a private driveway by more than 4 current dwellings and should not include an additional 6.
  - The development would be safer if served by access from Greengate Lane. The outline application proposed use by 2 of the properties and it was queried whether this could be increased to all 6?
  - Site lines were inadequate and were further compromised by the proximity of the bus stop. Parking around the junction was of great concern. Mitigation measures such as widening the pathway would narrow the road on an already problematic and dangerous junction. Buses struggled at the junction which was also used by articulated wagons from the coal yard.

Nick Sayer, the applicant spoke in support of the application and made the following points:

- The application was for approval of reserved matters following approval of the outline application.
- Detailed discussions had been held with officers from planning and highways which had resulted in altered layout plans for access, parking arrangements, refuse storage, bike storage, landscaping and the effect on Listed Buildings. The scheme now had approval from planning and highways and was recommended that permission be granted.
- He had been amenable to amending the scheme to obtain planning permission.
- Reference was made to the following paragraphs within the planning officer's report:
  - Paragraph 7.11 - the Building Conservation Officer had no objections subject to the imposition of planning conditions regarding materials and finishes.
  - Paragraph 7.13 - the Highways Authority had no objections.
  - Paragraph 7.19 - issues raised by neighbours including loss of view and impact upon property values were not material considerations and had not been taken into account.
- The Planning Officer had recommended that the application be granted and the authority would wish to avoid the cost of an appeal when approval had been recommended.



The Vice-Chair (Planning) provided clarification at this point that Members questions would be taken before any motion was considered.

In response to questions from Members the following information was provided:-

- Residents could choose which entrance they wished to use however the double garage at the back was attached to plot 1 and there was no vehicular or pedestrian access from the rear to the front of the properties.
- Greengate Lane was a bridleway open to all traffic with upgrades proposed including widening it in certain areas and construction of a passing place. The lane was adopted and consisted of a track surface.
- Each property incorporated a bin storage area. There was to be a defined area, close to the access, for bins to be placed on bin collection day and removed and returned to the individual bin storage areas when emptied. The refuse wagon was to remain on the A7070, as per current arrangements.
- The Council had no jurisdiction in relation to private driveways and their condition. This was a civil matter for the applicant to resolve.
- Reference to a maximum of 4 dwellings being served by a private driveway had been contained within design guidance for utilities issued in 1986. It was not a Council policy. This had been replaced by subsequent guidance. Many private driveways served more than 4 properties.
- Queries regarding use of the access from Greengate Lane for all 6 proposed dwellings were to be disregarded as a decision had to be made on the scheme put before Members. The Highways Authority had no objections to the application subject to conditions and had concluded that the development would not have a severe impact on the road network.
- The application was for reserved matters and proposals for parking at the rear of all of the properties lay outside the red line boundary of the application area and could not be considered as part of this application. A variation could not be proposed. A separate application would need to be made in respect of this additional area or a new application for a revised site area including the additional land. A new application would also need to be made if the dwellings were rotated 180 degrees or the orientation changed.

Councillor Sharp proposed that a site visit be held in view of the discussions as concern expressed regarding the condition of the road surface and use of the existing access by vehicles for 10 properties and emergency and construction vehicles. This was seconded by Councillor Stewart.

A vote was taken as follows:- **FOR: 6; AGAINST: 5.**

**RESOLVED** that the application be **DEFERRED** in order that a site visit be held.

In answer to a question, it was noted that site visits were normally held the day before or on the day of the scheduled LAC meeting.

**73. 19/02277/ADE**

**Advertisement Consent for V-angle marketing board for the permitted retail park (ref. no. 16/02082/OUT and ref. no. 18/03945/REM)  
Land South West Of Regents Drive Roundabout, Princess Way, Prudhoe, Northumberland**

The Senior Planning Officer introduced the report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation.

Councillor Homer proposed acceptance of the officer recommendation to approve the application for the reasons set out in the officers report which was seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

Upon being put to a vote the proposal was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **GRANTED** consent for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

*(5.30 pm Councillor Stow left the meeting whilst the following item was considered.)*

**74. 19/03636/FUL**

**Change of use - tourist information to legal practice (office use)  
Hexham Tourist Information Centre, Wentworth Car Park, Alemouth Road, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1QE**

The Planning Officer introduced the report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation.

Councillor Homer proposed acceptance of the officer recommendation to approve the application for the reasons set out in the officers report which was seconded by Councillor Cessford.

Upon being put to a vote the proposal was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **GRANTED** consent for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

*(5.39 pm Councillor Stow returned to the meeting.)*

**75. PLANNING APPEALS UPDATE**

A report was received which provided an update on the progress of planning appeals received. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix B).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

At 5.40 pm a short break was held. The meeting resumed at 5.45 pm.

## **RIGHTS OF WAY**

*(5.45 pm Councillor Oliver left the meeting whilst the following item was considered.)*

### **76. Corbridge Market Place – Proposed Scheme of Management**

The Local Area Council considered a report on the proposed Commons Act Scheme in relation to Corbridge Market Street ('the Market Square/Place') and whether to enter an agreement for its management with Corbridge Parish Council. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix C.)

The Principal Solicitor (Corporate and Governance) outlined the report and gave a brief summary of the background following the designation of village green status on 10 June 1971 and the ongoing and historic issues with parking and management of the Market Place.

She explained the process that had been followed to date which had included approval of the statutory process by the Rights of Way Committee on 14 November 2017, notices on site and publication within the Hexham Courant in accordance with the Regulations.

Two responses to the consultation were outlined, neither of which made reference to an interest in the Common and therefore Members were recommended to proceed upon the basis that no notice of dissent had been received. As the representations focussed on improving the Green, it was considered that an Inquiry was not necessary.

The Scheme of Management enabled more to be done with the Green and enabled certain works, which would otherwise be restricted.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The proposed Commons Scheme at Market Street ('the Market Square/Place'), Corbridge (VG 35), be approved; and
2. An agreement for the management of the Commons Scheme at Market Street ('the Market Square/Place'), Corbridge (VG 35) be entered into with Corbridge Parish Council.

*(5.55 pm Councillor Oliver returned to the meeting.)*

***On the conclusion of the development control business at 5.55 pm, Councillor Gibson vacated the Chair and the meeting adjourned as the remainder of the agenda consisted of other Local Area Council business scheduled to begin at 6.00 pm. Councillor Stewart returned to the Chair and continued the meeting at 6.05 pm.***

## OTHER LOCAL AREA COUNCIL BUSINESS

### 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 m<sup>2</sup> renewal of roads across the County.
  - 500,000 m<sup>2</sup> of surface dressing of principal and non-principal roads.
  - Over 96,000 m<sup>2</sup> of micro surfacing repairs.
  - Over 200,000 m<sup>2</sup> 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 (Metegroup) 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](mailto: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.

**85. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 December 2019 at Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham at 4.00 p.m.

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_