

## OUTER NORTH EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**MONDAY, 13TH MARCH, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor N Harrington in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, D Cohen, S Firth,  
L Richards, M Robinson and  
R. Stephenson

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair noted that the meeting was inquorate (Council Procedure Rules 28.3 refer) and Members were advised that no formal decision could be made until the meeting became quorate. As a way forward, the Chair amended the running order of the agenda so that any agenda items requiring decision were considered when the meeting became quorate.

**43 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS**

There were no appeals.

**44 EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no exempt information.

**45 LATE ITEMS**

Late Item of Business - Gullies Update

With the agreement of the Chair, a late item of business was admitted to the agenda entitled, 'Gullies Update'. This item was not available when the agenda was published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 and it was deemed that it was appropriate for the matters detailed in the report to be brought to the Committee's attention at the earliest opportunity. (Minute No. 49 refers).

Late Item of Business - Outer North East Community Committee - Finance Report

With the agreement of the Chair, a late item of business was admitted to the agenda entitled, 'Outer North East Community Committee - Finance Report'. This item was not available when the agenda was published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 and it was deemed that it was appropriate for the matters detailed in the report to be brought to the Committee's attention at the earliest opportunity. (Minute No. 54 refers).

**46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for the meeting had been received from Councillors P Harrand and A Lamb.

**47 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made during the meeting.

#### **48 OPEN FORUM**

The Governance Services Officer reported that no submissions had been received with respect to "Open Forum".

#### **49 GULLIES UPDATE**

The Community Committee were provided with an update on the work the Gullies Service provides in servicing the drainage across the three wards.

The Operational Supervisor and Highway Service Area Officer (Drainage) attended the meeting and provided Committee Members with information relating to processes within the Gullies Team and challenges faced by the service as an engagement opportunity for Members to outline issues noted in their wards and establish pathways for additional support or information that will help the Team with their daily operations, for both gullies and drainage.

The Community Committee were provided with the following points:

- The service consists of 20 people who primarily work outdoors in the community and, in line with Human Resources guidance, are still required to remain at home if they contract Covid-19. There was one vacancy noted with a driver on long term sick, with the position to likely remaining open for their return, so the service operates at 90% capacity.
- In 2016 the service was given a target of inspecting and cleaning all gullies in Leeds. The 4<sup>th</sup> stage of this process began in May 2022 and was about halfway through this cycle with the three Outer North East wards yet to have their 4<sup>th</sup> clean at the time of the Committee meeting. The figures referenced at the meeting was from data gathered during the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the clean.
- The service had been using electronic records since 2016, an ongoing IT project was underway to locate one software system to streamline data management, replacing four separate softwares that had been deemed non-compatible. The Asset Management eXpert (AMX) was expected to be adopted by Highways and Transportation by May 2023.
- The schedule for servicing gullies, as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle, in the Outer North East was outlined as May 2023 for Harewood and July or August 2023 for Alwoodley and Wetherby. During this period, it will be helpful for Ward Members to assist with contacting residents to limit obstructions to the tankers and cleaners conducting works.
- There are 4,737 gullies in Alwoodley of which 97.41% were operational, 53 gullies are non-runners and 1.5% were inaccessible. There are 4,382 gullies in Harewood of which 95.14% were operational, 173 were non-runners and 1.1% were inaccessible. There are 4,857 gullies in Wetherby, of which 96.54% were operational, 88 were non-runners and 1.21% were inaccessible.
- The difference between blinded and blocked gullies was outlined as, blinded will show water blockage over the grate with litter, leaves and silt deposits common; blocked will be from silt underneath the grate. For blinded grates, Environmental Services should be notified as a sweeping issue, for blocked, this is an issue for Highways

Maintenance. The majority of surcharging gullies or manholes will be the responsibility of Yorkshire Water.

- Making requests to the correct department will allow processes for maintenance work to be more efficient. It was noted the Council holds no jurisdiction for combined or foul sewers, these are maintained by Yorkshire Water who hold a statutory right to place and maintain apparatus.
- The Gullies Team do not hold necessary licences to carry sewage or deal with the waste. They also do not have a named contact within Yorkshire Water and will have to go through the call centre, the same procedure as the public.
- The severity and occurrence of under road drainage issues was noted to be increasing due to more extreme weather, drains being of the Victorian era which are no longer fit for purpose or population capacity and non-biodegradable items causing blockages.
- Updates on resolving ongoing drainage issues for each ward were outlined as:
  - The golf course development at King Lane, Alwoodley, with Planning and Mineral enforcement keeping pressure on developers to use wheel washing facilities for their heavy goods vehicles. The filter drain, installed in 2020, is to be restored in due course.
  - Further site survey requirements to resolve water surfacing issues at A58 Bardsey in Harewood.
  - A principal inspection to be conducted at Wetherby Bridge and resurfacing proposed for 2024/25. It was noted this is the responsibility of the Bridges Team.
  - Boston Road swale in Wetherby is a Council flood risk structure and required discussions between Flood Risk Management and Drainage officers before any remedial works.
  - A non-running gully identified by the York Road junction near Wetherby Morrison's is set to be replaced in the next financial year. There was discussion regarding the responsible department for resolving overarching flooding issues.
  - Deighton Road in Wetherby required further survey of gullies and connections.
  - The bottom of Spofforth Hill, Wetherby, required a site visit, preferably during rain, to develop a clearer understanding of drainage issues as a previous study noted no non-running gullies.

The Committee discussed the following:

- It was confirmed to Members that the intention to use a single software across the Highways and Transportation department was to eliminate time spent navigating between softwares and to reduce costs for the various licenses. Assurance was given that AMX will be tailored to be effective.
- Committee Members offered support in accessing a dedicated contact for Yorkshire Water, which was welcomed. Officers believed Yorkshire

Water required an audit trail to record all enquiries, however, an area manager covering East Leeds had been a point of contact recently.

- To conduct a connection excavation, generally between sewers and grates or ditches and soakaways in rural areas, requires a relevant permit and cross department involvement.
- Further to issues noted at A58 Bardsey, an interconnected drainage issue was noted at Keswick Lane/Rigton Bank with a request to hold a site meeting with relevant Parish Councillors to discuss and resolve issues.
- Although specifics for the schedule for the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle cleaning work is difficult to determine due to the vast nature of the works, Ward Members can provide information to residents of general timings to limit obstructions to the tankers.
- Planning and Mineral enforcement had perceived the developers to be appropriately cleaning the wheels of vehicles for the golf course development at King Lane, Alwoodley. However, the experience of residents was contrary to this with mud on roads and undesignated routes noted, further monitoring will be required.
- It was confirmed to Committee Members that gullies highlighted by the Environment Agency to be a flood risk, are serviced on average, every 6 months. This is data based on a historic map which is supplemented by more recent Council data, which helps identify gullies which may need attention sooner.
- As many gullies and drains were built at a time of lower population levels and new housing developments are expected in the area, consultation from planning to the drainage department will assist with installation of appropriate infrastructure in flood risk areas.
- As best practise to limit disruption to residents and maximise efficiency, strong collaboration between branches of the Highways department was noted to be generally positive during traffic management road closures to conduct maintenance work and should be encouraged. The Committee agreed to write to the Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation to advocate for this collaborative work in all cases for planned road closures.
- Officers were thanked for their diligence and commitment to providing a high-quality service level.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, noted.

(Councillors Cohen, Firth and Robinson joined the meeting during consideration of this item, as such, it was noted that the meeting had become quorate in line with the Council Procedure Rules 28.3, and therefore the Committee was able to take formal decisions from that point in the meeting)

## **50 HIGHWAYS - LEEDS SAFE ROADS VISION ZERO**

The Community Committee were provided with an overview of the adopted Vision Zero Strategy and its action plan and to gather input from elected members and residents.

The Team Leader Safe & Sustainable Travel and Transport Planner (Road Safety) introduced the report and provided Members with a presentation to highlight the current road safety situation within the three wards, the new approach to road safety, building on past offers by the service and to open a dialogue as to what the road safety team can do to mitigate road accidents.

The following information was highlighted:

- The Vision Zero strategy was adopted by the Council in October 2022, putting in place, measures to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, whilst increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all by 2040.
- Between 2017 and 2021 there were 7,106 traffic collisions, 93 fatalities, 2,017 serious injuries and 7,034 slight injuries recorded on highways in Leeds.
- Road traffic accident figures were decreasing until around 2013, however since then, and even more so during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, road incident figures had risen.
- The strategy and action plan were developed to stop the trend of increasing road traffic incidents and imbedding the notion that no loss of life on is acceptable.
- Figures specific to the Outer North East area from 2017 to 2021 were outlined as 500 collisions, 13 fatalities, 134 serious injuries and 572 slight injuries.
- The vision will reject traditional road safety data and targets and change the language surrounding the topic to understand difficulties in compelling people to behave properly when using roads to reduce harm and fatalities for vehicle passengers and pedestrians.
- The safe systems approach aims to prevent mistakes but also mitigate the potential for disastrous events when driver error occurs as reducing mistakes on the road to zero was noted to be unrealistic, so measures strive to improve overall road safety.
- Everyone can take responsibility in delivering the vision by following the Highway Code. The Council models for delivery were noted as, road design, traffic management and strategy, public health, education and leading by example through the fleet services and taxi and private hire licensing.
- The Council had engaged with West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services, National Highways, Ambulance Services, and road safety charities as Safe Road Partners.
- Council and Police operations working to deliver the strategy were noted as, SPARC (Supporting Partnership Action to Reduce Road Casualties), SNAP (Safer Roads Digital Submissions Portal) and Safety Camera Partnership. Behaviour change campaigns, targeted communications, education, funding bids and data reported were outlined as direct, positive, public facing activity.
- Safe system pillars of action were noted as, safe speeds, safe roads, safe vehicles, safe behaviours and people and post-collision learning and care, which feed into overarching strategic objectives and then a tangible delivery plan.

- The ‘fatal five’ are the leading causes for collisions on the road which are, speeding, distractions, the influence of drink or drugs, seatbelt non-compliance and careless driving.
- The changes in language surrounding collisions on highways, for example, reference to drivers not vehicles and focusing on victims, are to personalise the incident, not to allow it to become another statistic.
- The updates to the highway code in 2022 created a hierarchy of road users, in terms of vulnerability to injury, noting drivers are most likely to cause harm.
- In February 2023 West Yorkshire Police and West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership published a revision to speed camera criteria with greater flexibility for new camera provision with no new pre-warning signage of upcoming speed cameras to be installed.
- Infrastructure changes to mitigate road incident risk in Leeds will be revised speed limits, more designated cycle lanes and improved pedestrian crossings and safety measures.
- Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) will become more widely available with both mobile and fixed lamppost devices to target areas in need of monitoring. Road safety collision data will be analysed to identify current and emerging areas of concern.
- Cross Council department work will aim to influence road safety decisions where appropriate to adopt the vision.
- Ongoing awareness and education initiatives, delivered through or involving Highways and Transportation, were noted as Project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death), Tyre Safety Month, Brake Road Safety Week and travel planning support for important institutions and infrastructure around the City.
- School based road safety training includes, pedestrian, scooter and cycling courses. City wide, targeted communications and education are also being implemented.
- Members were advised how they can promote the vision and strategy through sharing information on the highway code, Operation SNAP and using their reach and social media platforms to communities.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Members outlined concerns regarding the robustness of the proposed measures to achieve zero deaths by 2040 if the strategy for intervention and installation of road safety infrastructure is to remain data driven. The aims of the strategy are ambitious and although 2040 may seem a long timeframe, immediate progress is needed.
- In response to a question, it was outlined that identifying areas for concern is largely conducted through the Traffic Management and Collision Studies team, where serious accidents are mapped which feed into traffic management plans.
- From experience, Members noted issues with real, practical influence for roads to be safer. A request was made for a review of safety measure mechanisms without the requirement of evidence of serious incidents. Officers encouraged the continued reporting of unsafe roads

and appropriate work will be conducted within budget constraints, such as the Pedestrian Crossing Review 2022/23.

- Residents regularly raise issues regarding e-bikes and e-scooters, which, although illegal to use on highways, pose anti-social behaviour and risk to other road users. Although this criminality may be targeted through Operation SPARK, robust Enforcement is needed to resolve this issue.
- It was noted that dangerous driving on the recently opened East Leeds Orbital Route had occurred, yet no accident had been deemed serious enough for speed cameras to be put in place, despite hospitalisations. The nearby country roads within the Outer North East area have been used to evade Police.
- Wellbeing Budget funds had been allocated to Operation SPARK by the Harewood Ward Members, so clarity was sought as to why other wards in the city benefit from the scheme through Leeds City Council direct funds.
- A lack of action was outlined despite funding allocation and SIDs data gathered as proof of risk to public safety; in response to a question regarding the threshold for intervention, Officers stated they will take this data back and query with Traffic Management.
- Collisions and dangerous driving were noted at the A58 at Scarcroft and, outside a primary school, at A659 at Collingham. It was stated at a consultative meeting for Ward Members that cameras in these locations will need to be funded by budgets afforded to the wards which casts doubt on delivery of road safety initiatives in every area of Leeds.
- Flexibility to identify appropriate locations for new cameras is open for consultation. A follow up conversation was proposed regarding appropriate funding and intervention, with a report to return to the Committee.
- Mitigation to improve safety outside of schools for pupils was queried as it is a priority for Members and measures should be in place to prevent danger as opposed to waiting until a collision has occurred; funding should be allocated as a priority.
- SIDs had been ordered by Wetherby Ward Members in February 2022 yet were still pending installation. Notification of this issue will be sent to Traffic Management.
- In response to a question regarding the influence the service has on the Policing of distractions, such as mobile phone use when driving, it was confirmed a Safe Roads Partnership meeting occurs every 6 weeks with the Vision Zero strategy discussed. It was noted that Operation SPARK had been less active in targeting phone use as it can be difficult to gather hard evidence.
- The data gathered on road safety will be better informed if near misses are recorded. Current models use Police attendance or injury has taken place however better measures for reporting were under review.
- It will be helpful for a Vision Zero item to be presented at Parish and Town Council forums in the area, especially to provide information on road safety reporting processes.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report and presentation, along with Members comments, be noted.

**51 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

**52 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no issues raised under Matters Arising.

**53 OUTER NORTH EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the key activities being undertaken by the Communities Team based upon the priorities identified by the Community Committee. In presenting the report, it provided the Committee with an opportunity to discuss or seek further information on the range of actions currently being undertaken.

The Localities Officer highlighted the following information:

- Positive and productive work from Environmental Sub-Group meetings was noted, with good meeting content and practise involving various officers and services.
- The benches, as part of the Millennium Green Wellbeing Project, funded by Harewood Wellbeing allocation money in 2021, are scheduled to be unveiled on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 at 12 noon.
- A meeting had been scheduled for the Leeds Festival Working Group to open conversations regarding arrangements for safety at Leeds Festival 2023, with further meetings scheduled prior the event.
- A Town and Parish Council Forum had been scheduled to discuss the Leeds Local Plan Update 2040 which covers proposals for changes to planning policy in Leeds.

The Committee discussed the following:

- The officers attending Environmental Sub-Group meetings had been helpful with Members outlining they felt listened to with services responding to meeting topics positively.
- A message of thanks was extended to Sam Ouassine, the Commercial & Arium Manager and all the accommodating staff at the Arium for their hospitality and providing an open and honest space for discussion that benefits the wider community.
- The Millennium Green benches will be accessible and are extendable to accommodate for wheelchairs and prams. The design had been well received by the public and may be a model for accessible seating in other wards.

**RESOLVED** - That the content of the report, along with Members comments be noted.

**54 OUTER NORTH EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - FINANCE REPORT**



The Head of Locality Partnerships submitted a report to update the Community Committee on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund, Youth Activity Fund (YAF), Capital Budget as well as the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (CIL) for 2022/23.

Projects set out in the report were discussed, and agreed as follows:

Project Title	Ward	Amount	Decision
Slaid Hill Additional Seat	Alwoodley	£1,000 (Wellbeing)	Approved
Leeds Rhinos Summer Camps – Wetherby	Wetherby	£8,225 (Wellbeing)	Approved
Scarcroft Junior Cricket Project	Harewood	£2,400 (YAF)	Approved
Shadwell Tee Time Tennis	Harewood	£2,000 (YAF)	Approved
Leeds Rhinos Summer Camps – Wetherby	Wetherby	£1,725 (YAF)	Approved
Mini Breeze – Wetherby	Wetherby	£3,800 (YAF)	Approved

**RESOLVED –**

- 1.) That the Wellbeing & Youth Activities Fund (YAF) applications be determined as set out above.
- 2.) To note;
  - a. Details of the Wellbeing Budget position (Table 1)
  - b. Wellbeing proposal for consideration and approval (paragraph 20)
  - c. Details of the Youth Activities Fund (YAF) position (Table 2)
  - d. Youth Activity Funding proposal for consideration and approval (paragraph 27)
  - e. Details of the Capital Budget (Table 3)
  - f. Details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (paragraph 32)

**55 DATES, TIMES AND VENUES OF COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2023/2024**

The report of the City Solicitor requested Members to consider agreeing the proposed Community Committee meeting schedule for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

The report seeks to schedule 4 Community Committee business meetings for 2023/24, in line with previous practice. The proposed meeting schedule for 2023/24 is as follows:

- Monday, 3rd July 2023 at 5:30pm
- Monday, 18th September 2023 at 5:30pm
- Monday, 11th December 2023 at 5:30pm
- Thursday, 21st March 2024 at 5:30pm

All Committee meetings were proposed to be held in meeting room 6 & 7 of the Civic Hall. The March 2024 meeting was proposed on a Thursday due to a venue clash.

The Community Committee discussed the following points:

- It was noted that the venue proposed holds the best technology and practises for live streaming the meeting for the public to view remotely while also with the option to physically attend available.
- The viewership engagement statistics for the Outer North East Community Committee would be of use for Members. It was agreed by the Governance Officer to compile this data and feed it back to the Committee.
- Various schools within the three wards may be appropriate venues if the Community Committee was to be held outside of the Civic Hall.
- The Civic Hall, room 6 & 7 was agreed in principle as the venue for the next municipal year, but Members will consider holding meetings out in the community and may alter venues in due course.

**RESOLVED** - To agree the dates and times, as listed above.