

## **OUTER NORTH EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

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

Councillors D Cohen, S Firth, A Lamb,  
L Richards, M Robinson and  
R. Stephenson

### **1 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair introduced and welcomed Councillor Linda Richards to her first meeting of the Outer North East Community Committee

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors; N Buckley and P Harrand.

### **3 Thanks to the Voluntary Community Hubs - WISE and MaeCare**

Referring to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, the Chair expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Voluntary Community Hubs – WISE and MaeCare for the work they'd carried within the Outer North East Area since the Pandemic began in Leeds in March 2020.

Committee Members joined the Chair in expressing their own thanks and appreciation for the work undertaken suggesting it was really gratifying to see so many groups come together to assist some of the most vulnerable individuals and groups in the area.

It was the general view of Members that this was a great Community effort and was well appreciated by everyone.

The Chair introduced and welcomed Mark Dobson, Operations Manager, Wetherby in Support of the Elderly.

Mr Dobson said there had been great support from the Community Hubs, MaeCare had done an "amazing job" in problem solving. This was a real team effort and we look forward to working with the same organisations again if further work is required.

### **4 Voice and Influence Team - Update**

The Committee received a verbal update from Liz Jarmin, Head of Stronger Communities (Communities & Environment) on behalf of the Voice and Influence Team.

Members were informed that currently there were two vacancies within the team which were not being filled due to the freeze on recruitment. It was reported that discussions were ongoing to incorporate the work of the Voice and Influence Team into the work of the Localities Team. In terms of school summits, Members were informed that it was unlikely that any summits would be run prior to January 2021, however, this would be the subject to further discussion at the next Community Chair's meeting, when it was envisaged that options would come forward as to how the Service would engage with young people.

On the issue of the vacant posts, Members sought clarification that city wide, there were only two post for voice and influence supporting Community Committees.

The Head of Stronger Communities confirmed that there were only two posts from the voice and influence team supporting Community Committees. Members were informed that some capacity had been created because officers were no longer traveling to engagements, all engagement with young people would be virtually.

The Chair sought suggestions from Members on ways to engage with young people.

Councillor Cohen put forward the idea of a virtual student Council Meeting.

The Chair thanked Councillor Cohen for his suggestion and said any further ideas from Members would be welcome.

## **5 Parks and Countryside Service - Update**

The Commercial Manager, Communities & Environment submitted a report which provided an update on the Parks and Countryside Service.

The report provided brief commentary on the following issues:

- In Bloom and Floral Initiative
  - Due to essential spend restrictions In Bloom activities had been limited with very little support available to new groups.
  - Arium Horticultural Grants had been suspended until the next financial year, again due to spending restrictions
- Park Maintenance
  - The service had tried to maintain Parks due to their importance particularly for exercise and mental wellbeing. It was suggested this had been a challenge as the service lost many manual front line staff due to 'shielding' and public

transport restrictions. In the last month this had improved greatly and park maintenance was returning to more normal working.

- Grass Verge Maintenance
  - Grass cutting contractor faced similar restrictions due to Covid. Their focus had been on dealing with highways and sheltered housing. They reduced strimming, though this would be picked up at the end of the season to ensure a cut takes place.
  - Weed spraying of paths was ongoing and would take place in the ONE very shortly.
  - Curb weeds had never been treated because it would not meet the councils environmental policy
  
- Prow Maintenance
  - There had been a rise in walker numbers and DEFRA had advised that the paths should be kept open to facilitate this.
  - Land searches were still taking place.
  
- Wildflower – There had been some enquiries regarding wildflower, the Arium was trialling methods to grow wildflower plugs which was showing signs of success. (Contact Sam Ouassine if you would like more information and wildflower options)
  
- Response to Eccup Reservoir – Maintained by Yorkshire Water.

Reference was made to curb weeds, which were not treated because it did not meet the Councils environmental policy. Members requested if further clarification could be provided on this issue.

Members expressed disappointment that there was no officer in attendance to respond to Members questions and queries.

The Localities Officer said that any questions/ feedback received from Members would be reported back to the Service and a written response would be provided at the next meeting.

Members were of the view that any substantial items included on the agenda must have an officer in attendance from the service.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted

- (ii) That a written response be provided on the issue of curb weeds
- (iii) That substantial items included on the agenda must have an officer in attendance from the service

## **6 Waste Management Update**

The Deputy Chief Officer, Waste Management provided an update on the Waste Management Service including the implications arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were informed that throughout March, April and May the Waste Management Service continued to operate with reductions in some services: black bag collection down by 20%, the green bin collection down by 10% and all the household waste sites in the city had been closed, this was largely due to government messaging for staff to work from home, others were not in work because they were self-isolating.

In mid-May collection levels began to increase as more staff returned to normal working, with some staff been brought in on a temporary basis from other directorates.

A booking system was introduced for Household Waste Sites with the service re-opening in late May.

Members accepted/recognised the need for a booking system in the main urban areas but queried the need for such a system in the outer areas where there was far less usage.

Members were informed that since re-opening the household waste sites, the site at Wetherby had seen 15,000 visits and, had a booking system not been in place, it was likely that the vast majority of visits would have taken place on a weekend and the service may have struggled to cope.

It was also reported that users to household waste sites had been invited to participate in a "Users survey". Of the 10,000 users invited to participate, 3,000 users responded, 98% of which said they were satisfied with the service.

A number of Members remained of the view that a booking system in the outer areas was unnecessary, suggesting there were no facilities for same day booking, it could lead to increased rates of fly tipping and the results of the survey were questionable.

In responding the Deputy Chief Officer, Waste Management said that as more people return to normal working patterns, the Waste Management Service would return to its normal operating practices.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Chief Officer, Waste Management for his attendance and contribution

The Deputy Chief Officer, Waste Management thanked Members for their help support suggesting that their local knowledge and involvement had been invaluable in planning the Service's response to the Covid-19 crisis.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report by noted

**7 Outer North East Community Committee - Finance Report for the Consultative Forum as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic**

The Head of Stronger Communities submitted a report which provided an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund, Youth Activity Fund, Capital Budget, as well as the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget for 2020/21. The report also included an update on organisations funded by the Community Committee and how their project delivery would be affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Members were provided with an update on projects that had been funded through the £10,000 set aside by this Committee from their available Wellbeing Budget 2020/21 (across all wards) to tackle the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Members were also informed of the work that had been taking place through their local Volunteer Hubs, together with an update on the work of the wider Communities Team and what they had been doing to support some of the newer communities and communities of interest in the area.

The Localities Officer, presented the report and responded to Members comments and queries.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report together with the appendices which included:

- Available funding for the current financial year.
- Clarification around some of the projects seeking financial assistance.

**RESOLVED** –

- (i) To note the details Wellbeing Budget Position (Table No.1 referred)
- (ii) That the following Wellbeing Projects be determined as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Granted (£)</b>
Litter Bins in Wetherby Ward	Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team / Communities Team	£420 (Wetherby Ward)

Litter Bins in Harewood Ward	Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team/Communities Team	£225 (Harewood Ward)
Recycling Bin for Collingham Memorial Hall	Communities Team	£273 (Harewood Ward)

(iii) To note that since the last Consultative Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the following project had been considered and approved by DDN:

- a) Speeding Alwoodley
- b) Burglary and Speeding Harewood & Wetherby
- c) Police Bike Harewood & Wetherby

It was reported that no projects had been declined

- (iv) To note details of COVID 19 position (Table 2)
- (v) To note the details of the Youth Activities Fund (YAF) position (Table 3)
- (vi) That the following Youth Activity Projects be determined as follows:

Project	Organisation	Amount Granted (£)
Moortown Monday Night Youth Project	Breeze Team & Moortown West Residents Association	£6,040 (Alwoodley Ward)

- (vii) To note the activity within the Community Skips Budget (Table No.4 referred)
- (viii) To note the details of the Capital Budget (Table No.5 referred)
- (ix) To note the details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (Paragraph 35 referred)

## 8 Area Update Report

The Head of Stronger Communities submitted a report which provided an update of the work the Communities Team are engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee.

The report invited Members to seek clarification on a variety of issues, or to request a more detailed report on other particular matters.

The report provided updates on some of the key activities between Community Committee meetings and functions delegated to Community Committees, Community Champions roles, community engagement, partnership and locality working.

Members were informed that broken benches along Deighton Road had now been replaced with 3 new benches, one with a commemorate plaque.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted

## **9 Future Meetings**

Members noted that future meetings of the Outer North East Community Committee had been arranged as follows:

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

All meetings to take place at 5.30pm, venues to be notified at a later date.