

OUTER NORTH EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor N Harrington in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, D Cohen,
P Harrand, A Lamb, M Robinson and
R. Stephenson

31 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

There were no appeals against the refusal of the inspection of Documents.

32 EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items identified where it was considered necessary to exclude the press or public from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered.

33 LATE ITEMS

Although there were no late items of business, Members did agree to the submission of supplementary information in respect of Agenda Item No. 11 (Outer North East Community Committee – Finance Report) and the inclusion of an additional Wellbeing application (Minute No. 41 referred)

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: S Firth and L Richards

35 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of any interests made at the meeting.

36 OPEN FORUM

It was reported that two submissions had been received in respect of the Open Forum, both submissions related to the Climate Emergency Update report (Agenda Item No. 9) – Both submissions were in the form of a question.

Members were agreeable to dealing with these questions during discussion of the item.

37 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th September 2021 were considered for comment and approval.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th September 2021 were confirmed as a true and correct record

38 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

With reference to Minute No. 26 – Libraries Services Update – Members sought an update on the proposal to run a pilot programme for digital skills in the Scholes Library to raise awareness of the Library Service. Noting that if the pilot was successful the scheme could be tried in other areas, creating digital health clubs.

The Chair said the necessary inquiries to the Library Service would be made and reported back to Members.

39 Climate Emergency Update 2021

The Chief Officer Sustainable Energy & Air Quality submitted a report which provided an update on the Council's climate emergency strategy and progress.

Addressing the report together with an on-screen presentation, Mr C Newton, Policy Officer, Sustainable Energy & Air Quality Team spoke about the introduction of climate change measures across the city but, in particular in the Outer North East Area, which included;

- Air source heat pumps, solar panel and LED lighting at Bardsey Primary School, Wetherby St James Primary School and at Wetherby Leisure Centre
- Improving the Energy Efficiency of Housing – Eligible homeowners to receive free solar panels/ insulation if they live in an inefficient home
- Electric Vehicle Trials – Multiple businesses/ charities having trialled an electric van, two rapid charging points to be installed in Wetherby and Boston Spa car parks and a residential charging site to be installed at Crosslet Street car park (6 bays)

The presentation included a map of the city “Carbon Emissions for your Area”, the map was colour coded to show low emission areas (Blue) to high emission areas (Red) based on the estimated average annual carbon footprint per person for each Lower Layer Super Output area (LSOA)

The presentation also included further details about air quality in the Outer North East area and how Members could assist in promoting the various schemes.

Commenting on the carbon emissions map, Members were concerned that the Wetherby area was not included on the map, suggesting that adequate preparation had not been carried out in preparing for this meeting.

Members were also concerned about the data provided in the map which appeared to demonstrate that the outer rural areas were identified as high emissions areas while the inner-city areas had the lowest emission areas. Members questioned the accuracy of information provided and asked how it was calculated.

Members were informed that the carbon emissions figure for the city was divided by the population of a particular LSOA to provide a figure/ grading for that area. However, this was only one source for gathering such data.

Members made reference to public transport, suggesting, if it was to be assumed the information was accurate, it was a significant argument for seeking better public transport in the outer areas.

Members sought further details about the scheme for free solar panels/ insulation and requested to know how many applications had been received and were there any from the Outer North East area.

Members were informed that the LAD scheme was based on energy efficiency of the home and the income of the resident. Funding was available for 150 homes, to date 500 applications had been received. In terms of the number of applications for the ONE area, that was currently not known but would be provided to Members once it became available.

The Chair referred to the 2 questions which had been raised as part of the Open Forum

The first question had been submitted by Mr Graham Slater from Barwick in Elmete & Scholes Parish Council who asks:

What are the City Council's views on the placing of recycled plastic benches instead of hardwood public benches, this was the subject of much discussion within our Parish Council, because the parish Council are seeking to get 5 or 7 memorial benches sponsored and located at new sites within the village.

In responding the project Officer said a key consideration was the whole life cost of the bench (the energy generated in making it). It was suggested recycled plastic was a sustainable option with near zero carbon emissions. It was also suggested that wooden benches would be good in the long term, wood was durable and again was a sustainable option.

The second question had been submitted by Penny Staples, Founder and Chair of Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group who asks:

How are the City Council planning to assist those living in houses with no off-street parking to charge their electric vehicles.

The Project Officer said the City Council were investigating options for on-street charging. New technologies such as wireless charging were currently been tested. A review of policy was required given the rapid growth in electric vehicle usage.

Members expressed disappointment with the overall presentation, the omission of Wetherby of the map demonstrated a lack of preparation, a more detailed explanation of the carbon footprint methodology map was required and further details about the LAD applications, in particular applications from the ONE area

RESOLVED –

- (i) To agree the report/ presentation was not acceptable
- (ii) That the Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality be requested to attend the next meeting with an updated report/ presentation, including a more detailed explanation of the carbon footprint methodology map, further details about the LAD applications, in particular applications from the ONE area and to address the issues raised around public transport (Transport strategy) in the outer areas.

40 Highways - Winter Services - Update Report

The Chief Officer Highways and Transportation submitted a report which provided an update on the work of Highways Services.

Addressing the report, the Group Operations Manager (Highways and Transportation) spoke in detail about the report, specifically focussing on the winter service fulfilled by Highways which included:

- Leeds City Council's Duty (The Highways Act 1980)
- Gritting of Roads
- Refilling of Salt Bins
- Snow Ploughing and Clearing
- The introduction of a Gritter Tracking system (and how it would be promoted)

Members welcomed the introduction of the new technology noting that the locations of salt bins was also included within tracker, but queried if all salt bins appeared on the tracker.

In responding, the Group Operations Manager, said the yellow salt bins (the Councils owned bins) were on the tracker, the blue bins (often funded by Ward Councillors or Town and Parish Councils) were not.

On the issue of gritting in rural areas Members recalled that in the past local farmers had been supplied with gritting salt to assist in the gritting of rural road in the winter months, but that appeared to be no longer happening.

The Group Operations Manager said he had no knowledge of providing gritting salt to farmers, it was a really useful suggestion and would be discussed further within the Team

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted

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

The Head of Locality Partnerships 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.

Included within the report were:

- Details of the Wellbeing Budget position 2021/22
- Wellbeing proposals for consideration and approval
- Details of projects approved via Delegated Decision
- You Activities Fund proposals for consideration and approval
- Details of the Capital Budget
- Details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (CIL)

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 Wellbeing Budget Position 2021/22.
- (ii) That the following Wellbeing Projects be determined as follows:

| Project | Organisation | Amount Granted (£) |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Various Community Projects | Moortown West Residents Association | £3,960 (Alwoodley Ward) |
| Thorner Pollinators & Information Board | Communities Team Arium | £1,715 (Harewood Ward) |

(iii) To note that since the last meeting on 13th September 2021, the following project had been considered and approved by DDN:

- Wetherby Town Council Bonfire
- Walton Community Bonfire Event
- Thorp Arch Christmas Lights
- Christmas Trees and Lights – Boston Spa
- Scholes Lodge Field Bulb and Wildflower Meadow
- Crime Reduction Roadshows
- Community Noticeboard
- Santa's Visits
- Boston Spa Village Hall Renovations

(iv) That the following Youth Activity Projects be determined as follows:

| Project | Organisation | Amount Granted (£) |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bouldering Wall | Bardsey First Scout Club | £800 (Harewood Ward) |

(v) To note the details of the Capital Budget as set out in table 3 of the submitted report

(vi) To note the details of the Community Infrastructure Levy, as referred to in paragraph 28 of the submitted report

42 Outer North East Community Committee - Update Report

The Head of Locality Partnerships submitted a report which provided an update on the work of the Communities Team and the work it was engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. The report provided Members with an opportunity to ask questions, or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

Members noted the report provided regular 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.

Addressing the report the Localities Officer provided an update on the following activities:

- Wike Ridge in Bloom
- Pollinators Project in Thorner
- Recycling on the Go – Bins in Wetherby
- Leeds Festival Working Group
- Local Centre Programme

- Town and Parish Council Forum
- Collingham Local Centres Programme
- Libraries Services

Referring to the Local Centre Programme, Members were informed that the matters would be considered further with a report being brought back at the Community Committee in March

Commenting on the last meeting of the Town and Parish Council Forum, Members requested if Town and Parish Council's could be consulted on business for future meetings.

The Localities Officer confirmed that Town and Parish Council's would be consulted.

With reference to the Library Service Members noted the Digital Drop Ins started on 8th November and was hosted by the Community Librarian team. It was reported that Advice on all manner of digital queries could be provided by staff, Customers would also be able to bring in their own devices and get help on digital queries specific to these.

Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Baz Ali, Team Leader for the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team for the work undertaken in the Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby Wards and in particular the team's involvement with the Leeds Orbital Road (ELOR).

It was agreed that the Chair, on behalf of Members, would write to the Team Leader for the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team, to express the Committees thanks and appreciation on a job well done.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted

43 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Working Group

Councillor R Stephenson requested Members consideration to the establishment of a Working Group to co-ordinate local celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Members were supportive of the proposal, one Member highlighting that Wetherby had already had in place advanced plans.

Councillor Stephenson suggested the ideas, knowledge and experience of Wetherby would be welcomed by other villages.

It was agreed that the Working Group be made up by one Member from each ward: Councillor P Harrand (Alwoodley), Councillor R Stephenson(Harewood) the representative of the Wetherby Ward to be confirmed at a later date.

44 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting to be determined following further consultation with Councillors.