

North Local Area Committee

Meeting held 27 June 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillors Alan Hooper (Chair), Lewis Chinchin, Craig Gamble Pugh, Julie Grocutt, Mike Levery, Janet Ridler, Ann Whitaker, Richard Williams and Alan Woodcock

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Penny Baker, Vickie Priestly and Robert Reiss.

**2. EXCLUSIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

- 2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 Councillor Julie Grocutt declared a personal interest in item 8 of the agenda 'Stocksbridge Towns Fund update' by virtue of her being a member of the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 February 2023, and 17 May 2023, were approved as a correct record.
- 4.2 The Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Fran Belbin) explained that she was the Chair of the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee, as part of their work this year, were looking at improving democratic engagement. Therefore, Councillor Belbin were attending Local Area Committees to speak with members of the public on how public engagement could be improved.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

- 5.1 The Committee received the following questions, from a members of the public, prior to the meeting: -

(a) Dennis Patton

1. Why are SCC painting white lines on potholes in Chapeltown? Fix the holes and ruts please.

2. Blackburn Valley Trail. When will it be finished? 13 years has passed and still not completed. Smithy Wood Business Park is the main problem.

Duke of Norfolk is making a lot from us. Make him pay.

The Chair (Councillor Alan Hooper) explained that a written response will be provided after the meeting.

Councillor Craig Gamble Pugh thanked the questioner for submitting his questions. He explained that this was so a common topic that he was asked about by members of the public. He stated that the standard of work that Amey was doing and the responses they were giving was a disgrace. He added that he would take this up with the Waste & Streetscene Policy Committee.

(b) Bill Darton

As my local councillor for Grenoside can I ask that you make representation regarding the road that leads from Grenoside up to the crematorium.

The speed limit past the crematorium is 60 miles an hour and for a narrow road it adds danger to anyone who has to walk to the crematorium as there is no pavement from outside the cow and calf up to the crematorium.

There are traffic calming initiatives on Norfolk hill and Stephen Lane in the village, is it possible if a pavement cannot be provided that traffic calming initiatives be introduced and a speed limit reduction to 30 mph?

I have put an online enquiry regarding this twice in the last couple of years after witnessing a couple of near misses and indeed there was an accident last Saturday which required the air ambulance.

Beleie other action could be undertaken – writing back to see what else can be put in place such as road signage.

The Chair mentioned that Amey had provided the following response to Mr Darton's question.

*'We have had similar request in the past, and unfortunat we would not be able to reduce the speed limit here.*

*As I am sure you will appreciate the Council receives numerous requests for road safety measures from local residents and ideally we would like to be able to respond to most of them. However, the limitations on our resources mean that we have to assess and prioritise locations for measures according to certain criteria.*

*The most important one of these relates to the prevention of accidents, particularly those recorded as serious or fatal. Although we cannot know where the next accident may occur, it is more likely to happen at a location having a history of previous*

*accidents than one with few or none. In this way we can focus our attention effectively on locations where measures are most urgently needed.*

*Unfortunately, there are many other areas in the City with higher accident records that must be treated as a priority with the limited funding that is available*

*The police understandably target the vast majority of their enforcement efforts on major roads as those are the roads where most accidents, and the most severe accidents, occur. Community concerns about speeding issues and requests for short-term enforcement at a particular location (for instance outside a school) should be reported to South Yorkshire Police's Local Policing Teams (formally the Safer Neighbourhoods teams) by ringing their non-emergency 101 number or online at <https://www.reportingcrime.uk/SYPincidentreport/>*

*You can contact your local policing team via [www.southyorkshire.police.uk/contact-us/your-neighbourhood-policing-team/](http://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/contact-us/your-neighbourhood-policing-team/)*

*You will need to contact the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership to request a safety(speed) camera, as they assess locations of community concern for mobile camera enforcement.*

*They can be contacted by post at: South Yorkshire Safety Cameras, PO Box 767, Maltby, Rotherham, S66 6BD. The South Yorkshire Safety Camera partnership is contactable by telephone on (01709) 832 456 from Monday - Friday between the hours of 10am and 12pm. The Partnership can be contacted by email at [admin@safetycamera.org](mailto:admin@safetycamera.org) They also have a website with information on at [www.safetycamera.org](http://www.safetycamera.org)*

*Thank you for contacting us with your concerns and I am sorry we cannot be more helpful at this current time.'*

The Chair added that he was unhappy with the response provided and that he would follow this up to see if there were any other measures that could be put in place.

Councillor Mike Levery explained that there were no pavements when the crematorium was built although it does need pavements now as members of the public who do walk to the crematorium and were having to use the road which is extremely busy and therefore unsafe.

Councillor Richard Williams also raised his frustration on this as he mentioned that it was a clear accident hotspot. He stated that the Council needed to put pressure on Amey to look at putting

measures in place in this area and encouraged members of the public to report any accidents or near misses.

(c) Lee Revill

I have received an email from a representative for Miriam Cates following my query about the roundabouts in Chapeltown. She has been informed by Streets Ahead that they will be addressed in August this year. I received an email from the LAC that said they weren't scheduled for this year. Could you confirm if they are referring to the remedial work on the juncture of Station Rd Chapeltown and the roundabout or are they now saying both the roundabouts themselves will be addressed?

Other Roads that I'm aware of by travelling along them regularly that are also in a state of disrepair and would like to know when they will be repaired.

Lound Side from the top of the hill and down through to Market Place Chapeltown where the first roundabout is.

Blackburn Drive leading to the Burncross Rd end.

Hole House Lane leading to junction of Manchester Rd.

Is it Sheffield City Council (SCC) that is responsible for carrying out the repair work on the roads, or is it the contractor Amey who did the resurfacing a few years ago. If the latter, don't SCC have any powers to enforce that the work is carried out in a timely fashion as we are talking 12 months or more that they have been in such a state?

The Chair mentioned that Amey had provided the following response to Mr Revill's questions.

*'Thank you for your enquiry which we received on 15 June 2023, regarding the condition of the roads in Chapeltown.*

*Please note that the correspondence sent to Miriam Cates MP on 17 May 2023, refers to the outstanding repairs to roads in Chapeltown, including the two roundabouts, which we expect to be completed by the end of August 2023.*

*We can confirm that the roundabouts and Lound Side are not going to be resurfaced during 2023, however, we will be resurfacing a section of Station Road, at the junction with the roundabout this year.*

*In addition, we can confirm that resurfacing of Blackburn Drive, at the junction with Burncross Road, will be completed during June 2023.*

*With regards to other roads in Chapeltown, we can advise that all roads in Sheffield are subject to regular condition surveys, which are undertaken every two years, and in addition regular routine safety inspections also take place.*

*During the condition surveys, issues identified are added to our bespoke software system which creates a condition score.*

*Under the Streets Ahead contract the condition scores mean that*

*when the average condition of a given road or section of road falls below these pre-set condition scores, any failures must be addressed, however, as the data is only run once a year and the condition survey interval is every two years, there is often a delay before roads or sections of roads are eligible for works to be undertaken.*

*This is often why interim repairs are carried out to ensure that the road remains in a safe condition for all road users.*

*With regard to the condition of the carriageway on Hole House Lane, please be advised that a defect to a Yorkshire Water asset is believed to be the cause of this deterioration.*

*We are liaising with Yorkshire water to resolve this issue by resurfacing the road, however, this work will not be completed until payment is received from Yorkshire Water.*

*Amey are responsible for carrying out repair works to the network. We are a self-monitoring contract and work against tight deadlines to ensure actionable defects are remedied within the set time frame.*

*Due to an increase in workload, together with the inclement weather we experienced in March this year, unfortunately, all our highway works have been significantly delayed.*

*We hope this information helps clarify our position, however, if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact Customer Services at [streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk), via the website [www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead) or by telephone on (0114) 273 4567'*

The Chair mentioned that he was not happy with the response provided by Amey.

Councillor Mike Levery mentioned that Amey was looking at re-modelling those roundabouts for a longer-term solution. The winter conditions and frost damage had caused the roads to rise in areas. He explained that the 25-year contract with Amey was a Private Finance Initiative which were half funded by the Government and half funded by the private sector.

The Chair explained that these issues need to be taken forward and that the members of public needed to be kept updated.

Councillor Julie Grocutt mentioned how she, as a resident in Stocksbridge, had walked, cycled and driven over these roads and agreed that they were in a terrible condition. She mentioned that she and Councillor Ridler had invited the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee to look at the road surfaces mentioned. She added that the condition surveys, carried out by Amey, were unacceptable and deemed some parts of the road ok which meant they did not to get repaired.

Councillor Lewis Chinchen agreed with Councillors comments and frustration on this matter. He explained that Amey would not

schedule in the work to repair these roads until they received payment from Yorkshire Water. He explained that he had contacted Yorkshire Water and the reason for the delay in making a payment to Amey was due to them looking into their liability split and making sure that was cleared from an auditory point of view.

Lee Revill stated how he could not believe how someone had not been injured already, with the current conditions of these roads. He explained that he had received a response also from Amey, and that they said that work would begin sometime in 2024 although gave no specific dates.

The Chair explained that the North LAC would respond to Amey, explaining their dissatisfaction with their current response and ask for further details. He also stated that this question would be fed into the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee.

5.2 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public, in attendance at the meeting: -

(d) Public Questioner

A member of public referred to the contract with Amey and asked whether they were in breach of that contract by not carrying out these repairs within a substantial amount of time.

The Chair explained that the LAC (Local Area Committee) would look into the contract with Amey.

(e) Adam Hurst

Explained that following a previous council meeting, a promise was made to re-surface part of Mortomley Close. He added that he had chased this up again with Officers but had yet to receive a response therefore he asked if LAC could inform members of the public of when this work was due to begin.

Councillor Richard Williams explained that he knew that the work was imminent although was unable to provide Mr Hurst with an exact date at this time. He mentioned that he would follow up on this query and respond to Mr Hurst.

(f) Dorothy Whitaker

Explained that local community, Town Council, Ward Councillors and Officers had been working hard to get the funding to refurbish Fox Glen Park in Deepcar. She mentioned that they had received twenty thousand pounds from Stocksbridge Town Council and that some work in the park had been carried out which everyone was very pleased about. She asked if the LAC could give an update on when the climbing frame was due to be installed.

Councillor Janet Ridler mentioned how the 'Friends of Fox Glen Park' group had done great work to get the funding for this park and its new equipment. She explained how the park had undergone some flooding which led to the climbing frame not being installed on the promised date. Although, she had been given confirmation that the work would recommence on Monday 3 July 2023. Any work on the park in the future, which would lead to any of the park needing to be closed, would be done with plenty of notice given to stakeholders and members of the community in that area.

Dorothy Whitaker stated how ward councillors Councillor Janet Ridler, Councillor Julie Grocutt and Councillor Lewis Chinchin along with David Luck had given the Friends of Fox Glen Park huge amounts of support and that they were grateful for it.

## **6. NORTH LAC BUDGET 2023-24**

6.1 David Luck, North Local Area Committee Manager, gave a report to the Committee. He mentioned that the LAC had recently funded 8 coronation events.

6.2 It was reported that ward pots were open for local groups to apply for and the breakdown of the amounts available for each ward were as follows: -

- East Ecclesfield: £6766
- Stannington: £5583
- Stocksbridge & Upper Don: £6297
- West Ecclesfield: £6492

6.3 In addition to in-person consultation, It was stated that a LAC Survey had recently launched, asking members of the public what one big difference they would like to see in the North area. The results of that will be reviewed and fed back into the next meeting of the North Local Area Committee in September.

6.4 David Luck explained that he, as North Local Area Committee Manager, had delegated authority to spend up to £5000 in-between formal meetings of the LAC so that projects could be carried out. The following expenditure to note since the previous meeting of the LAC were as follows: -

- 2022/23 budget – Stannington Crossing Ahead Sign - £569
- 2023/24 budget – Haggstones Road 'Slow' marking - £697
- 2023/24 budget – Wharncliffe Side site visit - £183
- 2023/24 budget – Loxley tapping rail repairs - £700

6.5 David Luck highlighted the budget proposals for 2023/24.

6.6 **RESOLVED:** That the North Local Area Committee:-

(1) notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North LAC in 2022/23, as detailed in the report;

(2) agrees the use of the 2023/24 £100,000 LAC budget as described in the report;

(3) approves the establishment of two new grant funds of £25,000 each from 2023/24 funds, one to address work with those in greatest need and one to encourage innovative ways of working, as described in the report; and

(4) authorises the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair, to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions, following engagement with the relevant Ward Members, on the award of grants of up to £5,000 from the two funds,

6.7 **Reasons For Decision**

The North LAC is asked to note the use of funding as per the previous decision of September 30th 2021 and agree further expenditure to address the identified local priorities. The approach to the 23/24 budget and new funds proposed provides a strategic and flexible approach to meeting the needs of the North in line with the North community plan

6.8 **Alternative Considered And Rejected**

This report is in line with the previous decision of September 30th 2021 regarding expenditure below £5000 and the North Community Plan agreed on March 9th 2022. Members have the option to consider the budget as four ward budgets of £25,000 but have indicated they do not believe this is a strategic and flexible approach to the budget. Funds will be tracked during the year to ensure a fair approach to meeting need across the whole LAC area with the funds remaining, which give scope for further initiatives, particularly when the community plan is refreshed in September 2023. An alternative option was not to allocate the level of funding to the two new funds proposed. However, these funds give opportunity for partners to help address key LAC priorities and if suitable bids are not received fund will be able to be reallocated.

**7. STOCKSBRIDGE TOWNS FUND UPDATE**

7.1 Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, gave a presentation to the Committee.

7.2 It was explained that Stocksbridge Town Fund were a £24.1m investment delivering 10 projects across Stocksbridge. The three key priorities of the

fund were: -

1. Regenerating and better connecting the Town Centre
2. Developing skills and education for the future
3. Focusing on improving health and wellbeing

7.3 Amanda Holmes explained that although Stocksbridge were identified as a town in 2019, funding was only received in December 2022.

7.4 As part of regenerating the Town Centre, the following 4 projects were identified: -

1. Library and Community Hub Building - a new landmark building in the Centre of the town offering a range of commercial and community uses (included Adult Education Hub).
2. Placemaking and shop front grant scheme - creating opportunities for businesses to improve their properties and investing in paving and landscaping.
3. Better connections and signposting the Town Centre - improving car parks and signposting and creating better connections to different parts of the Town.
4. Community Transport - a new local hopper bus service for the community, connecting residential areas with Town Centre facilities.

Amanda Holmes highlighted the next steps of these Town Centre projects.

7.5 As part of the Health and Wellbeing priority, the following 5 projects were identified: -

1. New Skatepark and improvements to Oxley Park in Stocksbridge – phase 2 of the Oxley Park investment.
2. Walking and cycling trails: an investment in upgrading walking and cycling trails in the town and improving access to the countryside.
3. Rivers Project: improvements to the Little Don including weir improvements and flood alleviation work.
4. Sports Hub: a package of improvements to sporting facilities in the town, including a new multi sports pavilion, all weather pitch and improvements to Rugby and Football club facilities.
5. Hydrotherapy pool: a new facility at the Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre to deliver a new hydrotherapy pool.

7.6 It was explained the Town Fund Board were comprised of the following people: -

- Co-Chair - Miriam Cates MP, Penistone and Stocksbridge
- Co-Chair • Yuri Matischen – Community Representative
- Kate Martin, Sheffield City Council – Executive Director
- John Crawshaw, Crawshaws Butchers (Local Business)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge Town Council (Local Councillor)
- Graham Silverwood, The Venue Trust and Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (Community Representative)
- Dave Cates, Redemption Media (Local Business)
- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (Local Business)
- Colin Blackburn, Sheffield City Region (Mayoral Combined Authority)
- Neil Curtis – Community Representative
- Shared role, Town Centre reps : Katheryn Giles Bowman and Gail Larking

7.7 Amanda Holmes explained that she were unable to provide an exact end date for these projects mentioned, although she would be happy to feed that information back into the LAC once known.

7.8 Councillor Lewis Chinchen mentioned that he was pleased with how forward looking the Town Centre projects were and how he hoped this would make the area more attractive and increase footfall.

7.9 A member of the public stated how difficult it was to access the Town Centre for people who walked and cycled. She mentioned there was information relating to improving public transport but not much information relating to improving walking and cycling access.

Amanda Holmes explained that there were a trails project which is currently overbudget and was due to undergo a review. Amanda Holmes stated that she was happy to take the member of public's details and update her of any more information when known.

## **8. STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE**

8.1 Mark Whittaker, Chair and Mayor of the Stocksbridge Town Council, gave an update on the Stocksbridge Town Council.

8.2 It was explained that Stocksbridge Town Council Town Council's Leader were also a Mayor therefore had many ceremonial duties as well as Charing Council meetings. They administered funds raised through sources such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and these funds were to be spent to improve the wellbeing and happiness of the people of Stocksbridge. They gave grants to local charities and ran the participatory

budget scheme where the local people of Stocksbridge voted for their priorities for those funds to be used for. The Town Council had 8 Town Councillor positions in which only 7 positions were currently filled. The Town Council met twice a month and each Town Councillor then stood on committees of local groups and charities as a Town Council representative. Town Councillors were volunteers and not in a paid capacity. The Council were supported by 2 clerks who were also the clerks for Bradfield Parish Council. Mr Whittaker encouraged anyone in attendance who would like any further information, to speak to him after the meeting.

- 8.3 The Chair mentioned how he was proud that the North had the Town Council and stated they added a lot of value to the communities. He added that there was a meeting planned for Parish/Town Council and the LAC to discuss how they can work together going forward.
- 8.4 Councillor Julie Grocutt referred the point on Stocksbridge Town Council still having 1 position available for a Town Councillor. Therefore, asked if anyone were interested in the position to get in touch the Town Council.

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