

North Local Area Committee

Meeting held 23 February 2023

**PRESENT:** Alan Hooper (Chair), Vickie Priestley (Deputy Chair), Penny Baker, Vic Bowden, Lewis Chinchin, Craig Gamble Pugh, Julie Grocutt, Mike Levery, Janet Ridler, Ann Whitaker, Richard Williams and Alan Woodcock

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

**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 There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 January, 2023, were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising:

Item 5: Councillor Penny Baker noted that some residents were still experiencing problems with their gas appliances and/or bills. Aspect and Cadent were responding to these issues.

Item 6.1: Councillor Richard Williams advised that a meeting had been held between Stannington Pavilion Renewal Committee representatives and officers of Sheffield City Council. He noted that the meeting had been positive and that discussions would continue.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 The Committee received the following question from a member of the public who attended the meeting to raise it:-

(a) Bridget Kelly

When is the deadline for applications to the Parish Council elections?

In response, the Chair noted that Sheffield City Council's local elections would take place on 4 May, 2023, and that the timescales for the parish council elections would be the same. He advised that Andrew Towleron, Clerk of Ecclesfield Parish Council, would be in contact with Ms Kelly directly to explain the process.

The Committee received the following questions from members of the public who were not in attendance at the meeting and had submitted questions prior to the meeting, which the Chair read out:

*(b) Megan Smith, Chairperson, Grenoside Conservation Society*

We are very concerned about the traffic and roadside parking on Woodhead Road Grenoside near the car park for Wheata, Greno and Wharncliffe Woods.

There are 2 serious issues with traffic and parking.

1. This area has become very popular, especially with the mountain biking community. This means that at weekends there are a lot of large vehicles using the area which park on the roadside when the car park and laybys are full. This often means that it is very difficult to see to cross the road and is very dangerous for young families, dog walkers, horse riders and cyclists. It also makes it difficult for other road users as cars, cyclists and pedestrians have to weave through the parked cars in single file.
2. The other problem with the stretch of road that includes the car park is that it is very straight for about a quarter of a mile and there is no speed restriction, so when there are no parked cars, traffic can drive up to 60 mph which makes crossing the road or exiting the car park, very dangerous.

We are aware that there have been discussions with the police already, but this has not materialised in any obvious signs or improvements to the road. We have also tried asking Sheffield City Council directly but was told that it would not be a priority unless there was an incident to raise it up the list.

This situation has been ongoing for a long time now and we feel that the lack of action on this is unacceptable. We do not want to wait for a serious accident to happen before it is addressed.

We would very much like your help with this.

The Chair agreed to forward the details to Highways and the local policing team for a full response.

In response, Councillor Julie Grocutt advised that in Stocksbridge and Upper Don, funding was used to set up a speed survey to get accurate data and

suggested that Ward Councillors might want to try this option. Residents had complained about speeding, and the survey data has shown there was no speeding and that it was public perception. She noted that implementation of a 30mph speed limit would be costly and might not have the desired effect of reducing speed. She added that where there were parked cars, it was the responsibility of drivers to drive to the condition of the road. Sheffield City Council had the authority to update signage, however it was the responsibility of South Yorkshire Police to enforce speeds. Councillor Grocutt suggested that talks with South Yorkshire Police regarding enforcement could be an option.

Councillor Mike Levery added that the car park had been outgrown by the number of people visiting Grenoside Woods and queried how parking could be improved.

Councillor Craig Gamble Pugh advised that he had been contacted by East Ecclesfield residents regarding setting up a traffic campaign group. He agreed to contact the residents to see if they would be interested in looking further afield while looking for solutions to speeding problems.

The Chair noted that there were two main concerns: one was the number of cars parked on the A61 adjacent to the car park at weekends, and the other was speed limits that were contradictory to the 50mph speed limit. He suggested that signage to cross the road might help.

Councillor Penny Baker had also experienced issues around speed limits on some roads in Stannington and stated that referrals had been made to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee as appropriate.

Andrea Hatcher, an Ecclesfield resident, added that she regularly visited Grenoside Woods with her children, and agreed that speeding on the A61 was a problem. She believed that it would be useful to have speed deterrents and noted that, although there were speed bumps on the road through Grenoside village, there were none on the stretch of road near Grenoside Woods.

Tim Whitaker, an Ecclesfield Councillor and cyclist, had visited Grenoside Woods and Wharncliffe Woods that day. He noted that the woods had excellent mountain biking routes that were well known, and that people travelled from miles around to visit. He believed that the car park was not big enough for the number of visitors to the area.

(c) Dennis Patton

I have a couple of questions about the quality of the Amey road "repairs".

1. Why are many of the roads deteriorating so fast?
2. When will they be repaired to a decent standard of longevity?

The Chair advised that a full response had been received from Amey, which would be sent to Mr Patton and would be published on Sheffield City Council's website.

Councillor Levery added that the recent spells of cold weather had caused cracks in the road, followed by wet weather, which had allowed water ingress. He advised that Amey carried out emergency repairs and follow up work. He noted that surface water was also a challenge on some roads.

The Chair referred to responses received for two public questions raised at the North Local Area Committee of 18 January, 2023 and advised that the responses would be added to Sheffield City Council's website.

## **6. NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT**

6.1 David Luck, North Local Area Committee Manager, shared details on screen of voter ID requirements for the upcoming local elections. He noted that this was national legislation and that it did not apply to postal votes.

6.2 Each Local Area Committee was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 under an executive decision by the Leader of the Council on 17 August 2021. This money is to be spent in line with the Community Plan. As the Community Plan was not finalised until late in the 2021/22 financial year, very little of this budget has been spent across the Local Area Committees and it has been carried forward to the current financial year.

6.3 It was proposed to provide a grant of £20,000 to the Christian Centre, Stocksbridge, towards the development of a new community hub in Stocksbridge. This hub would involve re-modelling the Christian Centre, a Church of England/Methodist building to enable wider community use. The proposed funds would enable the first phase of the project to take place.

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

(i) notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North Local Area Committee in 2022/3, as detailed in the report, be noted; and

(ii) approves the award of a grant of £20,000 to The Christian Centre, Stocksbridge towards the development of a new community hub in Stocksbridge with these funds enabling the development of a new kitchen space.

### **6.5 Reasons For Decision**

The North Local Area Committee was asked to note the use of funding as per the previous decision of 30 September, 2021, and agree further expenditure to address the identified local priorities.

### **6.6 Alternative Considered And Rejected**

None. This is in line with the previous decision of 30 September, 2021 regarding expenditure below £5000 and the North Community Plan agreed on 9 March, 2022.

## **7. SHEFFIELD CARIBBEAN SPORTS CLUB**

- 7.1 Leroy Wenham provided an update for the Committee on the Sheffield Caribbean Sports Club. He explained that the club was established over 30 years ago and was a thriving sports club with much success over the years. It was an inclusive centre that aimed to promote sports within the Caribbean culture whilst welcoming all members of the community. The club had been working with the English Cricket Board to recruit players. The club had outgrown its pavilion and planned to build a new one in the future, which would require much support. Although football and cricket were the main sports offered, the club had also produced a successful netball team. The club aimed to also provide basketball, hockey and other activities. Mr Wenham hoped that these activities would encourage the community to view the club as an asset and help to develop the club to better serve the area. Clive Lloyd, former professional cricketer, had been working with the club to gain recognition for their cricket coaching in schools.
- 7.2 Mr Wenham advised that the new pavilion plans were available for viewing at the close of the meeting.
- 7.3 Another representative from Sheffield Caribbean Sports Club added that the club aimed to promote wellbeing as well as sports and was open to men and women of all ages.
- 7.4 Councillor Vic Bowden stated that she had visited the club for a tree planting ceremony and believed the club to be a 'hidden gem' that had a welcoming atmosphere. She suggested new signage and publicity for the club to show their wide range of activities.
- 7.5 Councillor Richard Williams asked if the club had managed to get back to the same level of activity since the pandemic. Mr Wenham responded by explaining that activity was building up gradually, and that attendance was regularly over 100. He noted that an extensive programme was being planned with schools, a 'Windrush' activity was planned in June, and a family event was due to take place in August. He noted the suggestion for more publicity and welcomed any available support for this.
- 7.6 Councillor Grocutt added that Sheffield Sharks basketball team did outreach work and suggested that Mr Wenham connect with them. She also suggested contacting the 'Look Local' newspaper that had a 'what's on' section and offered free publicising.
- 7.7 The Chair thanked Mr Wenham for attending the meeting.

## **8. THORNCLIFFE LEISURE CENTRE**

- 8.1 David Luck presented this item due to Ian Dickens (General Manager of Thorncliffe Leisure Centre) being unable to attend.

8.2 Mr Luck provided the following update for the Committee:

- Thorncliffe Leisure Centre continued to offer a warm space for members of the public to visit at any point in the week. Two sessions were now on offer that provided a free coffee and games (Wednesday 1.00pm to 3.00pm, and Thursday 9.30am to 11.30am).
- Places Leisure and Place for People Group had launched the Community Matters Strategy with a focus on developing further partnerships within the community. Any partners or organisations wishing to work with Thorncliffe Leisure Centre were encouraged to contact Ian Dickens by email at: [iandickens@pfpleisure.org](mailto:iandickens@pfpleisure.org)
- Food donations were welcomed at the site and were being distributed through the Food Poverty Network. Options were also being considered for working with other foodbanks in the local area.
- It was planned to hold family fun pool sessions on Saturdays and Sundays, commencing from the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> March. It was hoped that this would provide a fun element to the pool programming. It was anticipated that more of these sessions could be added during the Easter holidays.
- A £60,000 refurbishment of the gym facilities had been completed, which had included the introduction of some new fitness equipment and improved lighting.

8.3 The Chair added that the Centre had been there for over seven years and had excellent facilities that were well used. He noted the challenge of the recent energy crisis but hoped that footfall would increase during the temporary closure of Hillsborough Leisure Centre swimming pool, whilst maintenance work was being carried out there.

## **9. ECCLESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

9.1 Tim Whitaker (Councillor, Ecclesfield Parish Council) provided an update for the Committee, and advised the following:

- There had been no increase in the pre-set spending limit.
- Community skip days had been held in Chapeltown and High Green and had been successful. This was also planned for Grenoside and Burncross over the summer.
- The Parish Community Hall had been refurbished to a high standard and reopened and had received a steady stream of bookings.
- £20,000 had been redistributed to groups and local organisations in support of their activities.
- A range of activities were planned for the King's Jubilee.
- Walkabouts had taken place in High Green and Chapeltown with

South Yorkshire Police and Sustainable Community Officers.

- The Parish Council had jointly signed the Community Safety Charter, developed by Neighbourhood Watch to help provide an environment that is safe for everybody.
- The Parish Council received a bronze award by the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme in recognition of their support to those who have served in the armed services and their families.
- A visit had been organised for Ukrainian refugees to attend the Lord Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall.

## **10. UPDATE ON REFERRALS TO POLICY COMMITTEES**

- 10.1 The Chair provided an update on two issues raised at the North Local Area Committee meeting on 18 January, 2023, that had been referred to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee.
- 10.2 Ward Councillors for Stannington had been contacted, requesting a reduction of the speed limit on Rails Road. They believed it raised wider questions about approaches to speed on rural roads. The Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee requested that the issue be referred to Kate Martin, Executive Director for City Futures.
- 10.3 Ward Councillors for East Ecclesfield had been contacted by residents of Smith Street, Chapeltown requesting a residents parking scheme. A survey had shown a very high level of support, however Members had been informed that no residents schemes were possible outside of the city centre. The Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee requested that the issue be referred to Kate Martin, Executive Director for City Futures.
- 10.4 The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting. He advised that the next meeting of the North Local Area Committee would take place in Stocksbridge.

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