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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL

Thursday 24th September 2015

Present: Councillor Edgar Holroyd-Doveton (Chair)
Councillors B Armer, R Barraclough, D Bellamy, J Dodds, D Firth,
C Greaves, T Lyons, A Marchington, N Patrick, H Richards, K Sims,
N Turner and M Watson

Co-optees: R Bamforth, M Moores

Parish Council Representatives: M Blanshard, J Roberts

Apologies: Councillors, C Iredale, D Ridgway, J Taylor, G Turner
Parish Council Representatives: R Brook, R Bray
Co-opted Member: K Armitage, J Margetts

In attendance: Approximately 15 members of public

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone and Councillors introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30 July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admissions of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/ Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

6 Kirklees Dementia Action Alliance

Elaine Bostock, Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the aims and activities of Kirklees Dementia Alliance which works to improve the lives of people with dementia.

The number of people living with dementia in Kirklees was set to increase from 4,800 to over 7,000 by 2030. The role of the Alliance was to create dementia friendly communities in Kirklees. Local organisations who are members of the

Alliance make a commitment to do something towards this aim. There are over 100 members in Kirklees. The Alliance supports member organisations to put together an action plan, providing a tool kit and resources as appropriate as well as networking and partnership working opportunities.

By raising awareness of dementia the Alliance is encouraging people to seek help or a diagnosis sooner, rather than waiting until the disease has progressed. Places can register to be dementia friendly, for example Dementia Friendly Meltham. There is a register of 1,100 dementia champions in Kirklees, each one supporting individuals. Information has been sent to all schools with a view to encouraging them to become dementia friendly.

Shops which demonstrate they are dementia friendly receive a sticker for display. The Alliance is keen to receive feedback that shops are doing what they have committed to. Local shops look out for people and work with their families. Shops have an information pack with key numbers that they can phone if they need help with a customer, for example, the Making Spaces helpline.

Arriva bus drivers are being trained so that they can help passengers. West Yorkshire Police has introduced community champions, using the Herbert protocol if people go missing and bringing in crime safety. They help to identify people for referral for a card and are working to improve their help desk environment. Holme Valley Memorial Hospital was also working on the scheme.

Plans for next year include a consultation on what dementia friendly communities look like, expansion of the champions network (next training session is in November), programme to support churches, information packs for small shops and intergenerational work with 16 – 18 year olds with a view to them becoming champions. Alliance members would be encouraged to take a lead in specialist areas.

In the Kirklees Rural area, Rural Action Yorkshire had been commissioned to create hubs. It was suggested that Kirklees Youth Council may be interested in helping.

Organisations could register to become dementia friendly via the Kirklees Website or by contacting Elaine direct tel: 07854 028219, email: elainekdaa@gmail.com

RESOLVED – That Elaine be thanked for her presentation.

7 Safe Places Scheme

The Committee received a presentation from Samantha Jones, Co-ordinator Mencap about the network of safe places scheme being developed for vulnerable people when they are out and about.

The scheme was introduced following a scrutiny review on isolation, being a way to help prevent hate crime and other issues for people with learning disabilities. It has since been rolled out. The scheme helps people to know they are welcome to seek help by matching up their card with a sticker in the window of the organisation. People are encouraged to carry the card in a bag that people can easily find. When people start the scheme they are taken on familiarisation tours of the safe places.

In promoting the scheme to local businesses the key was to speak to someone and to explain the benefits of it for their business. The same applied to public buildings and libraries. Weekend and evening places like Kirklees Active Leisure venues would also be helpful. Some parts of the Kirklees Rural are like Marsden did not have any safe places.

In selecting appropriate safe places in an area Mencap worked with local business forums to discuss the best places, with local GP's and do roadshows. There are just under 500 members of the scheme across Kirklees.

RESOLVED – That Samantha be thanked for her presentation and that the Committee's Health and Well-Being Portfolio Group work with Mencap and Kirklees Dementia Alliance to action plan how the safe places scheme can be rolled out to local businesses and communities in the Kirklees Rural area.

8 District Committees and Estates and Environmental Works Budget

The Committee considered a report which set out the approach, process and timescales for decision making on the estates and environmental works budget.

Decision making on schemes under this budget was delegated to the District Committee. An amount of £97,179.00 was delegated to the committee for 2015-2016.

The budget should be spent on Council estates to mainly benefit tenants and used for one off works or as pump priming. Applications would be encouraged which form part of wider initiatives or contribute to joint funding, provide a low maintenance solution, offer value for money and are appropriate to the current climate (no hanging baskets, CCTV). Schemes that improve the physical environment and encourage community activity or contribute to wider aims such as improving health and well-being would meet the criteria.

The decision making process would involve ideas coming forward from tenants, residents, leaseholders, Councillors and officers year round. Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing Officers would provide support and people would be enabled to progress their ideas where possible. Worked up proposals would be discussed at a special area forum before coming to the District Committee for decision. For this year it was expected that decisions would be made by the committee in January or February 2016.

RESOLVED – That the proposed approach and timescales for the gathering of ideas, engagement at a special area forum and decision making be approved and that a date for the area forum in late November be arranged as soon as possible.

9 Committee Budget Report

The Committee's budget balances were noted and applications for funding were considered.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Linthwaite Lights Group be granted £1,000 revenue towards Christmas lights for the village, subject to the group registering with the Council's grant access point.
- (2) That £7,400 revenue be allocated to Christmas trees/ lights 2015: Denby Dale £900, Kirkburton £1,300, Colne Valley £2,600 and Golcar £2,600.
- (3) That Golcar Lily Day Environment Group be granted £250 revenue to produce a Golcar Lily Ginnel Trail leaflet.
- (4) That approval of £500 revenue discretionary grant towards Holme Valley Wartime weekend 5/ 6th September in Holmfirth be noted.

10 Public Question Time

The following questions were asked and Ward Councillors responded:-

- (a) Does Kirklees pay Traffic Wardens by the number of tickets they pay out?
- (b) Will the regional devolution plans create competition among areas?
- (c) Coal Pit Lane, New Mill is overgrown, what is the Council doing about it?

Ward Councillors were liaising with Highways Officers.

- (d) Two signs on the lower road between Netherthong and Meltham are encased in trees, can they be cleared so drivers can see there is a cross road?

Ward Councillors would raise with Highways Officers.

- (e) What is being done to stop parked cars obscuring sight lines by the Health Centre?

Ward Councillors would raise with Highway Officers.

11 Dates of Future Meetings

The dates of future meetings were noted as follows, 7pm Thursdays –

26 November 2015
25 February 2016
24 March 2016