

Contact Officer: Susan Ginty, Email: susan.ginty@kirklees.gov.uk, Tel: 01484 221000

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - BATLEY AND SPEN

Tuesday 15th March 2016

Present: Councillor Gwen Lowe (Chair)
Councillors: M Akhtar, D Hall, S Hall, L Holmes,
V Kendrick, J Lawson, M O'Neill, S Pandor,
A Palfreeman, D Sheard and E Smaje

Apologies: S Alvy, R Light, A Pinnock, K Pinnock and A Stublely

In attendance: Approximately 56 members of the public were in attendance

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Councillors introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2016 were approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

Councillor Gwen Lowe declared an `other` interest in Item 7 Budget Report 5, Millpond Support Group grant application as a committee member and left the meeting at that item.

Councillor John Lawson declared an `other` interest in Item 7 Budget Report 1, Cleckheaton Literature Festival grant application and did not vote on that item.

4 Admission of the public

All items were considered in public.

5 Deputations / Petitions

None were received.

6 Public Question Time

The following questions were raised and Councillors responded:

- (i) Mrs B Biltcliffe asked if Minutes could be circulated earlier.
- (ii) Mr B Wilson asked if bollards could be installed on Healey Lane.
- (iii) Mr M Haigh asked if the committee could fund insurance costs.

District Committee - Batley and Spen - 15 March 2016

- (iv) Mr B Wilson asked if there was a charge for removal of fridges and if there was something that could be done about fridges dumped on Healey Lane, Batley.
- (v) A question was asked about action that could be taken to get potholes repaired.

7 **Committee Budget Report** **RESOLVED:-**

That the following decisions made by the Head of Safe and Cohesive Communities, under the discretionary grant scheme, be noted:

- Batley Foodbank – purchase of freezer - £500 revenue (Batley East/ Batley West)
- `Love Your Volunteer' event Batley Town Hall – entertainment and certificates - £300 revenue (Batley East/ Batley West)

Revenue Approved:

- Cleckheaton Literature Festival - £7,727 (Spenn Valley)
Councillor John Lawson declared an 'other' interest in this item and did not vote.
- Blanket Hall Street Stalls, Heckmondwike - £460.80 (Spenn Valley)
The grant was approved on the basis of encouraging footfall and trade in the town.
- Spenn Valley Civic Society Luddite Trail Leaflets - £515 (Spenn Valley)
- Crown of Lights Free Music Festival 2016 – up to a maximum of £14,390 (Spenn Valley)
Early fundraising was recommended in future to cover festival costs.
- Millpond Support Group, Batley - £500 (Batley West)
Councillor Gwen Lowe declared an 'other' interest and left the meeting.
Councillor Steve Hall was nominated as Chair for this item.
- Ladies Sewing Classes (MEDO) (Batley) - £700 (Batley East/ Batley West)
- Manor Gardens (Batley) Dig In Phase II, Facilities Enhancement - £7,150 (Batley East/ Batley West)
- Clear It Up Birkenshaw - £220 (Birstall and Birkenshaw)
- Remembrance Day Parades 2016 (in Birstall, Birkenshaw and East Bierley) £575 (Birstall and Birkenshaw)

District Committee - Batley and Spennings - 15 March 2016

- Town and Village Hanging Baskets 2016 (in Birstall, Birkenhead and East Bierley) - £2,820 (Birstall and Birkenhead)
- Wacky Wednesdays at Oakwell Hall (Summer 2016) - £1,800 (£300 per ward)
- £30.00 underspend to be returned to revenue budget (Spennings Valley) – Build Your Future (project approved 11/11/2014)

New Homes Bonus Funding Approved:-

Step by Step Employment and Learning Support - £30,297 revenue

8 District Committee Chair's overview of 2015 - 2016

The Chair reflected on District Committee activity over the last year 2015-2016 highlighting key items of discussion at District Committee meetings where there were opportunities to shape delivery or promote better public understanding;

- Service standards to parks and open spaces
- The programme of unclassified roads maintenance
- The programme of estate and environmental works improvements
- The Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Making Dementia friendly communities and the Safe Places Scheme
- Winter maintenance
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Police service standards

Resident engagement activities had taken place including 5 'You and Your Community' events across the district, stimulating new community activity and enabling groups to deliver 29 projects.

There had been around 200 attendees (including those that evening) at public District Committee meetings having opportunities to contribute to discussions.

New audiences were reached through greater use of social media and the District Committee Facebook page.

Priorities and grant scheme criteria had been approved and around 15 grants (including those on the agenda) had been funded through the year and around 9 more commissioned.

Councillors had worked together in themed subgroups to drive outcomes on District Committee priorities. Five productive sessions had taken place which would lead on to further development work outlined in the Plan of Place.

The Chair thanked all the active and enthusiastic volunteers across the district. The District Committee would continue to work with communities and partners to and utilise the strengths, resources and skills in the district to address priorities outlined in the Plan of Place.

9 Plan of Place

District Committee - Batley and Spen - 15 March 2016

The Plan of Place outlining current District Committee priorities and areas of focus, was approved.

10 Celebrating Community Activity

The Chair welcomed a dance performance by young people, supported by Kirklees Integrated Youth Support Services.

Following the performance the Chair thanked the young girls involved and acknowledged the wealth of activity across the district and the fabulous volunteers who gave their time and energy to make Batley and Spen a better place for everyone.

A range of projects were to be showcased during the meeting. It was acknowledged that other residents at the meeting were also involved in community activities, for example tenant and resident committees, sports clubs or informal carers to others. The Chair paid tribute to the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of community organisations and thanked all volunteers.

Several community organisation representatives from across the district then gave updates on projects which had been funded by Batley and Spen District Committee.

Dig In at Manor Gardens

A community garden had been created from land formally used for antisocial behaviour including drug use and dumping. The organisation had worked with local schools and children were learning how to prepare the ground and harvest produce. Membership was growing from residents around the site and beyond. There was a transfer of skills and experience. Placements were also offered. Links were made with other growing groups for example Growing Newsome. Raised beds were being added to the facilities to enable people with a disability to participate.

Positive feedback had been received:

“It has become a nice place and no waste dumping or drug addicts”

“It’s a wonderful project. Let me know if I can help or support in any way”

Dewsbury Rotary Club – Technology Tournament

This project had run locally and nationally for 11 years. Several schools across the area were involved in the tournament which the District Committee funding enabled to take place. It aimed to bring young people together and challenge interaction, leadership and design skills. Students who completed the activity were awarded a certificate.

Cleckheaton Folk Festival

Support from the District Committee facilitated the development of the outdoor aspects of the festival such as the parade, street entertainment, workshops, and sing-a-rounds. It was estimated that the festival brought in 3,500/4,000 visitors to the Spen Valley. Eighty per cent of events were free because of the District Committee support.

Batley Business Association – Batley Vintage Day

District Committee - Batley and Spen - 15 March 2016

The event had lots of community support and brought around 2,500 people into Batley town centre some even travelling from America for the event. The Vintage Day 2016 would be bigger and better with more workshops and upcycling. A Spitfire did a fly over last year. This year a Lancaster Bomber would fly over.

Crown of Lights Free Music Festival

The Festival had grown year on year as a great family friendly event with quality artists who were eager to be involved. Their website captures the many positive comments from earlier events. Organisers were trying to make the event self-sustaining.

Birstall Chamber of Trade - Birstall and Birkenshaw Festive Lighting

Organisers fundraise through a variety of different means and volunteers put in hundreds of hours. The Christmas tree was donated and volunteers erected it. With 25 new Christmas trees it would be spectacular this year. It brought 2000 people into the village and around 1000 into the library.

Invaluable support was provided by Kirklees officers Vina Randhawa, Darran Huntington, Andy Bullen, John Hollings, local Councillors and the Chamber team. There was fabulous feedback on the lights which now go from end to end of the village. 2016 will be self-financed.

Mosaic – The District Committee funding had been central to the work organisers had been able to do. 12 schools had been involved, each contributing £1,000 and lots had been done on a voluntary basis to enable 300 children to be given fabulous after school learning experiences.

Cleckheaton Literature Festival - Positive feedback had been received complimenting the first festival, held last year. Around 546 people were engaged. A vast number of hours were put into delivering the festival. This year there were more authors involved. All the authors who attended last year wanted to return. Links have been made with other 'friends of 'groups. There had been demand for creative writing. It was hoped that the 2016 festival would be bigger and better.

Friends of Oakwell 'Your Country Needs You' – Friends of Red House were also involved in delivering this World War One re-enactment event featuring the Lancashire Hussars, a cavalry ride and charge. There was an encampment with recipes cooking, music and arts. There were plans for a May Day event with traditional Maypole dancing and May horses, readings, music and traditional food.

Batley Cricket Club – The District Committee award enabled a kitchen refurbishment and facilities for the disabled, which had made a huge difference and allowed for club and outside functions and cookery classes.

The club had developed a good working partnership with Spark Skills and links with Kirklees Integrated Youth Services. Yorkshire Cricket Club played at the club and complimented the club on the facilities. Thanks went to the former cricket club committee as well as to the District Committee.

District Committee - Batley and Spennings - 15 March 2016

Batley Cricket Club, along with several organisations was also involved in a big event, Communities United, coming up on 27th March, all were welcomed to attend.

Batley Foodbank – The District Committee grant enabled the organisation to purchase a freezer. This enabled the foodbank to take up an offer from a hotel chain, of frozen ready meals. The frozen items in addition to tinned and dried foods, offer a better choice particularly for children.

The Chair thanked all the representatives for attending and sharing their updates and acknowledged that the projects outlined were just a snapshot. There were other equally fabulous projects going on across the district.

11 Dates of future meetings

Dates were to be determined and published in the new Municipal year.

12 Networking

Councillors, community organisations and members of the public were invited to enjoy networking time to find out more about the projects outlined earlier and other activities and events going on across the district. Information leaflets were available as well as a demonstration of some of the sports kit available for community groups to hire through 'Comoodle', for use for fetes and events.