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## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### DISTRICT COMMITTEE - BATLEY AND SPEN

**Tuesday 19th July 2016**

Present: Councillor Gwen Lowe (Chair)  
Councillors. F Fadia, M Grainger-Mead, D Hall,  
V Kendrick, R Light, M O'Neill, S Pandor, A Pinnock and  
D Sheard

Apologies: M Akhtar, L Holmes, J Lawson, A Palfreeman, K Pinnock,  
E Smaje and A Stublely

In attendance: Approximately 25 members of the public

**1 Welcomes and Introductions**

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

**2 Minute's Silence in Memory of Batley and Spen MP Jo Cox**

The Chair paid tribute to Jo Cox and a minute's silence was held.

**3 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15 March 2016 were approved.

**4 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**5 Admission of the public**

All items were considered in public.

**6 Deputations / Petitions**

None were received.

**7 Public Question Time**

Questions were received and Councillors responded:

Could there be a room at Batley Town Hall named after Jo Cox? It was also suggested that Batley Resource Centre might be renamed and that the new tea room at Batley Railway Station be named after Jo Cox. The family were to be consulted on any suggestions.

Is Batley Resource Centre a public building?

## District Committee - Batley and Spen - 19 July 2016

It is not a public building. Batley Resource Centre leases the building. A representative undertook to look into the use of toilets there.

Is the Council involved in a supermarket closure?

Councillors advised not.

### 8 **District Committee Arrangements 2016/2017**

The Chair outlined the context in which the district committee is working including; reduced finances, the priorities for Council expenditure, safeguarding vulnerable citizens, and the need for communities to do more for each other. The Chair commended the active local community groups in the district. The working arrangements for the District Committee and the grant scheme 2016/2017 were approved in line with the report.

### 9 **Comoodle**

The Committee received a presentation from Duggs Carre on the Comoodle project which connects people and enables sharing of equipment, space and skills. Comoodle is about people and making things happen in communities. The project was funded by Bloomberg and has been going for a year. Early successes that were highlighted included the loaning of sports equipment, use of Council vans, and insurance for community groups. Through Comoodle, residents are invited to connect, seek or offer equipment, space, or skills. Residents were invited to join a focus group, become a user/tester, and become a story teller supporting the project via social media. A question and answer session followed which highlighted:

- (a) That equipment was available on loan to community groups who wanted to do clear-ups. The Council might be able to offer help in collecting waste.
- (b) Loaning equipment was a balance of risk and that issues including insurance were being worked through.
- (c) Professional skills are often needed e.g. legal or finance and ways of securing volunteer time from professionals willing to help is being explored.

Mr Carre was thanked for the presentation.

### 10 **Better Future for the Blind**

Chris Stephen from Better Future for the Blind described how socially isolated people were supported and encouraged to meet up to support each other. Better Future for the Blind offered a befriending service and supported various groups. There were volunteers who were also blind. There were many younger people who were socially isolated in need of the type of support now offered. Current groups enabled people to get out and about, meet other people and share experiences. Better Future for the Blind planned to develop groups in Batley and Spen. Venues were being explored. Volunteers were trained up to ensure sustainability as more groups developed. Anybody who needed the service or who could suggest /offer a venue should get in touch.

## District Committee - Batley and Spen - 19 July 2016

Councillor A Pinnock undertook to contact a resident who had raised streetscene issues.

Chris was thanked for the presentation.

### 11 **Dementia Friendly Communities**

A presentation was received from Elaine Bostock from Kirklees Dementia Action Alliance, updating the committee on initiatives to support Dementia friendly communities. Some of these included training Dementia Friends, intergenerational activity, work with schools, bus companies, police, ambulance, fire service, churches, businesses and high street shops.

The alliance has grown to 200 members and is a leading alliance in Yorkshire and Humberside. The presentation confirmed that First Buses and Arriva were signed up and that sessions had been delivered to emergency services. A Dementia Friendly High Street Pack had been launched to support staff. The Herbert Protocol had also been launched. That protocol encouraged putting together useful information which could be of help should the person with Dementia go missing. A question and answer session followed which touched on the need to engage with people with memory loss, that other conditions could cause Dementia like symptoms and the importance of raising awareness and understanding in young people who can often experience Dementia in older relatives and be affected by the lack of recognition or aggression due to the condition.

Elaine was thanked for the presentation.

### 12 **District Committee Budget Report**

An overview of the district committee budget was given and fast track commissions discretionary grants and underspends to return to the district committee budget were noted:

- (i) Fast Track Commission – Civic Celebration of the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday – £250 – approved on 13/04/2016
- (ii) Discretionary Grant - Howden Clough TRA – to purchase a chest freezer for a Real Junk Food Project at the Chatterbox Centre - £230 approved on 29/06/2016

#### **Underspends to be returned to District Committee Revenue Budget**

£182.80 underspend – Neighbourhood Employment and Learning Initiative – Batley East and Batley West (£5,000 revenue approved 05/03/2013)

#### **Underspends to be returned to District Committee Capital Budget**

£790 underspend – Spen Valley Digital Microfilm Scanner, Cleckheaton Library – Spen Valley (£5,300.00 capital approved 19/03/2015)

£22,000 underspend – Birstall and Birkenshaw Pedestrian Safety Measures – Birstall and Birkenshaw (£27,654.00 capital approved 05/03/2013)

**District Committee - Batley and Spen - 19 July 2016**

**RESOLVED:**

- (iii) £12,660 (£2,110 per ward) Revenue was approved - You and Your Community Events Programme.

**13**

**Dates of Future Meetings 2016-2017**

Future dates were agreed as highlighted on the agenda.