

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - DEWSBURY AND MIRFIELD

Tuesday 1st March 2016

Present: Councillor Darren O'Donovan (Chair)
Councillors M Ahmed, M Bolt, N Dad, E Firth, M Hussain,
P Kane, V Lees-Hamilton, A Patel, K Rowling and C Scott

Apologies: K Taylor

In attendance: 25 people attended

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the councillors introduced themselves. The Chair advised that he had received a request from Mr Shaun Maddox to film the meeting, and he had agreed to that request. Mr Maddox would make the recording from the designated recording seat. The Council Constitution permits recordings to be made at all meetings of the authority which are open to the public. The Council also takes a sound recording of the meeting.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 January 2016 were approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the public

Agreed – That all items be considered in public session.

5 Deputations / Petitions

Mr Shaun Maddox advised he had the following deputations to bring to the meeting:

- i. The land at Forge Lane Thornhill Lees has constantly been used to tip rubbish on and it is not secure under the Health and Safety Act 1974. Could the council take action against the land owners?
- ii. The building at 16 Partridge Crescent is deteriorating at an alarming rate due to the lack of maintenance. The leaseholder signed a contract to maintain the

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building and was given a three year free rent period in order to achieve this. As this hasn't been addressed and the maintenance not taken place, could the lease be revoked and the building demolished as it has been an eyesore for many years?

- iii. A council bungalow at 43 Valley Drive is visibly being used as a waste recycling centre and this was reported to the head of Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) Simon Rogers and Estate Manager Philip Thornton almost 2 years ago. The community would like to ask that someone independent of KNH monitor the property for the next 12 months and any breaches of the tenancy agreement are dealt with straight away instead of letting it get out of control.
- iv. Could Councillors in Dewsbury and Mirfield make more effort to attend the Dewsbury and Mirfield District Committee meetings?
- v. Could parking areas be provided on Smithy Parade and Partridge Crescent in Thornhill? Many residents are parking their vehicles on grass verges in front of their properties as they feel their vehicles are more secure, the closer parked to their house. The estate was designed in the 1950s when vehicle ownership was at a low and the miners who moved in walked to the local collieries.

This is not only causing community cohesion issues, it is leaving grass verges in a shocking state. Also parking issues on the estate as a whole are creating neighbour disputes.

The Chair thanked Mr Maddox, and advised he would forward the deputations to the appropriate Assistant Directors for investigation and response.

6 Emotional Health and Wellbeing / Mental Health

Nicky Hoyle, Consultant in Public Health and Rebecca Elliott, Advanced Health Improvement Practitioner gave an informative presentation on emotional health and wellbeing and mental health. The aim was to support a shared understanding of definitions of mental health and wellbeing, as well as the extent of the problem in Dewsbury and Mirfield. There would be consideration of what approaches could be taken in response, to try and prevent mental ill health as well as what works, current provision and identification of gaps.

Nicky highlighted some statistics, including that one in four of us would suffer some sort of mental health issues in any year. People with physical problems are more likely to develop mental health problems as a result of trying to cope with their physical problems. Early intervention and prevention with children is key. Suicide is the biggest cause of death in men aged 20-45 in the UK. In Kirklees men age 40-49 have the highest suicide numbers.

The Kirklees Children and Young People Survey 2014 showed that females had lower wellbeing scores than males. Young people in areas with higher levels of deprivation had more resilience than young people in other areas. In the Current Living in Kirklees Survey, having someone to rely on in a crisis was seen as

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important and having someone you can trust to help you, were seen as most important in Dewsbury and Mirfield. Depression and anxiety figures are higher in Dewsbury than Mirfield.

Rebecca set out the three stages to tackling mental health problems in public health; mental health promotion to support people keeping physically and mentally healthy; mental illness and suicide prevention; and top tier is improving lives, about recovery and inclusion. She explained some of the tools used such as the five ways to wellbeing framework. There followed a discussion between people sitting next to each other, about what each do already to follow this. The rainbow model of health was explained; how to look at the person as a whole, both physical and mental health needs, as well as the healthy foundations tool. Rebecca gave an outline of relevant local services.

There followed a range of questions from councillors, and the Chair advised this was an initial discussion on the issue, and would be revisited at a future District Committee meeting.

7 **Creative Scene**

Nancy Barrett, the Director of Creative Scene explained the Creative Scene programme is action research based, and about finding ways of doing things differently. The overall aim is to support more people to create and experience great art where they live, through collaborating with professional artists. It is not a community arts project, and does not give out grants.

The programme has been running for eighteen months, and Nancy has found the area's cultural assets great with an inspiring heritage and geography. The programme is managed by a consortium of the Lawrence Batley theatre, the Creative Economy Team in the Council, and Batley Festival.

Nancy showed pictures of the different projects in action; Scenemakers, Artists @ Work, Art activity promotion, beach hut creations at Dewsbury Market, and theatre productions in pubs, work to support the involvement of local young people, and organisation and delivery of a range of local events. The programme has funding until 2017, and they are about to bid for funding until 2020; overall there is a ten year long vision.

There followed a number of questions and suggestions for future activities from Councillors, and a request that the programme work more with Councillors to get their help to reach even more widely into local communities.

8 **Committee Budget Report**

The devolved budget balances were highlighted, and the Committee considered applications for funding and budget expenditure was approved as follows:

- (i) £15,000 New Homes Bonus funding to pay for patching and potholing works at Princess Lane, Chickenley.
- (ii) £23,000 New Homes Bonus funding to pay for a new section of pavement surfaced with additional guardrail near the entrance to Diamond Wood

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Academy, and additional road safety signage outside Ravensthorpe Junior School and Fir Parade.

Councillor Bolt asked that there be an amendment to the recommendation in the report, that Mirfield be allocated an equal amount of money for Mirfield schools to alleviate travel issues. The Chair advised there would need to be additional discussions with officers on this, with a potential report to the Committee in the next year. He advised a specific application and report would need to be considered to enable a decision to be taken. The Chair took a vote, and all supported the recommendation in the report circulated, apart from abstentions from Councillors Bolt and Lees–Hamilton.

- (iii) £1,200 revenue grant to Electronic Village Limited towards the costs of upgrading the organisation's server and computer network.

9 Public Question Time

The following questions were asked and Councillors responded:

- (i) Was it true that the Council had reduced the grant to Electronic Village Ltd, and increased its rent? Councillor Kane explained the grant funding would act as match funding to a lottery bid from the organisation.
- (ii) What had happened after the three days of resurfacing on Sugar Lane, that the water mains then burst, and this took the water board ten days to repair? Councillor Kane advised this had been bad luck and Highways were keeping a close eye on the situation.
- (iii) Paula Sheriff had flagged up the scale of cuts from central government being greater for authorities with higher levels of deprivation. Could this be challenged? Councillor Firth responded that it is being.
- (iv) What is being done to address the eyesore that is the building on entrance to Earlsheaton junction/Wakefield Road? Councillor Kane advised a compulsory purchase order has been placed on the building.
- (v) Why are there no 'matters arising' from the Minutes on the agenda? The Chair advised this would be considered as part of a wider consideration by the councillors of what is included on future agendas.

Councillor Ahmed thanked Councillor Abdul Patel for his work on the Committee and as a councillor. He is not standing for re – election in May 2016.

10 Dates of future meetings

The future Committee meeting dates will be set at the start of 2016-17 municipal year.