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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - BATLEY AND SPEN

Tuesday 7th February 2017

Present: Councillor Gwen Lowe (Chair)
Councillors M Akhtar, F Fadia, M Grainger-Mead, D Hall,
S Hall, L Holmes, V Kendrick, J Lawson, M O'Neill,
S Pandor, A Pinnock, D Sheard, E Smaje and A Stubley

Apologies: R Light, A Palfreeman and K Pinnock

In attendance: Approximately 34 members of the public

1 Welcomes and Introductions

Councillor Steve Hall was nominated as Chair until Councillor Lowe, who was delayed, reached the meeting. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Councillors introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2016 were approved.

3 Interests

Councillor Viv Kendrick declared an Other interest in Item 9, budget report, as a member of the Petanque Club.

4 Admission of the public

All items were considered in public.

It was agreed to take item 9 Budget Report, earlier in the agenda order.

The committee conveyed best wishes to Dave Minich.

5 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

Councillors responded to questions relating to:

- (a) The possibility of building additional sheltered housing accommodation to meet growing need.
- (b) The length of consultation time and scale of Council budget cuts.
- (c) The difficulty experienced by community groups of disposing of Christmas trees.

7 Community Safety, Cohesion and Victim Support

The committee received an overview of the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership Plan themes and an update on their delivery from Chris Walsh.

Safer Kirklees was the name of the Community Safety Partnership which brought together key agencies such as the Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Housing and Offender Management Services to work with local people and elected members to create safer communities.

There was a partnership plan which used data and consultation with local people to identify key community safety issues for the district.

The partnership plan had 4 themes:

- (i) Improving confidence and satisfaction
- (ii) Reducing crime
- (iii) Tackling anti-social behaviour
- (iv) Protecting people from serious harm (e.g. domestic abuse, violent extremism, child sexual exploitation etc.)

The approach in delivering on these themes was:

- (i) Prevention e.g. by education and changing the relationship with residents so that they do not commit or tolerate crime
- (ii) Early resolution - communities taking ownership for reporting and challenging issues
- (iii) Partnership problem solving- using tools and powers to problem solve recurrent and emerging shared hotspots.
- (iv) High risk intensive cases - specialist support to address underlying issues e.g. mental health or enforcement and prosecution where earlier interventions had not been successful.
- (v) Victims approach – a hub provided free confidential support and advice for victims of crime.

An outline of engagement work including the Connecting Communities programme, community tensions monitoring, the It's Up to You programme and cohesion activity, was presented by Andrew Dolman.

The work of the Community Engagement Team was described including myth busting and the work around breaking down barriers between young and older people.

The CliK survey was used as part of an evidence base indicating levels of pride and satisfaction in the area in which people lived and how well people got on with each other. The survey indicated a 10% increase over the last 4 years of people feeling better connected.

A workshop was offered to explore community connections further.

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Inspector Rauf outlined current staffing levels in the Neighbourhood Policing Team, crime trends, key community safety messages to prevent crime. Residents were encouraged to report any suspicions of criminal activity.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) covered the 6 wards in Batley and Spen.

Inspector Rauf described the work of the NPT Co-ordinator and also gave an indication of trends around home burglary, figures having dropped significantly over the last month, and other crime. Burglary of commercial property had been a recent issue.

General advice was given around securing property and keeping valuables out of sight.

Inspector Rauf stressed that community intelligence was vital and encouraged residents to report any suspicions through Crime stoppers or 101.

A question and answer session followed, in which the following points were made:

Regarding resources, the Batley and Spen NPT was almost up to strength and information was prioritised within available resources.

Firthcliffe Tenants and Residents Association had worked with a local school and delivered a project involving young people distributing hampers to older people.

Parking of commercial vehicles and parking on footpaths was raised. Individual complaints were to be discussed outside of the meeting.

In relation to assaults on staff, there had been instances of assaults on police officers. Drink often played a part. Officers received training in handling situations.

Officers still had a role in Neighbourhood Watch. Residents were encouraged to start or get involved in local Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Volunteers sometimes had reservations about working with young people as they didn't fully understand aspects around safeguarding. Support and training was available.

8 The Green Space Strategy, Service Standards for Parks and Open Spaces and Natural Kirklees

The service standards for 2017-18 on parks and greenspace sites in Batley and Spen were presented by Rob Dalby for noting.

The committee received an update from the Chair of Natural Kirklees. Natural Kirklees is working in partnership with the Council in the care of green spaces. The aims of Natural Kirklees were outlined.

Patrick Crowley, a Kirklees Volunteer Co-ordinator, described the role and support available to groups in setting up, organisation, site management plans, creative engagement, fundraising, training, publicity, and health and safety.

9 Committee Budget Report

The remaining district committee budget balances were noted.

The following Fast Track and Discretionary Grants decisions were noted:

- (i) **£400** revenue discretionary grant – Spensborough Chamber of Trade, Savoy Square Cleckheaton Christmas Tree Lights (Spens Valley)
- (ii) **£10** revenue – Clear It Up Birkenshaw – Birstall and Birkenshaw (£220 approved 15.03.2016). Total project costs were £230 so an additional £10 revenue funding was allocated

Underspends to be returned to District Committee Revenue Budget:

- (i) **£1,879.73** Spens Valley – Cleckheaton Literature Festival (£7,727.00 revenue approved 15.03.2016)

RESOLVED:

Revenue Approved:

- (i) **£3,995** Grant - PCC of St Thomas the Apostle, Batley (Batley East ward) to develop an area of land behind the church, adjacent to the community hall, to create usable car parking spaces.
- (ii) **£1,800** (£300 per ward) – Wacky Wednesdays summer activities for children and young people, at Oakwell Hall Country Park, in the summer 2017.
- (iii) **£8,320** – Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Birstall and Birkenshaw ward.
- (iv) **£2,000** Grant - Birstall Chamber of Trade to purchase and install lights for twelve trees situated in the Market Place, Birstall.

Capital Approved:

- (v) **£32,000** - Streetscene -To create four new Petanque terrains at Firth Park, Heckmondwike (Spens Valley)

New Homes Bonus Approved:

- (vi) **£14,000** - Public Health - Mental Health First Aid Training for community champions.
- (vii) **£15,500** - Speed Indicator Devices maintenance and moves in Birstall and Birkenshaw; Cleckheaton; Heckmondwike; Liversedge and Gomersal. The cost identified for Cleckheaton ward was to be confirmed and any relevant adjustment to be made as necessary.

10 Dates of future meetings

Date of next meeting – Thursday 16 March 2017