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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - DEWSBURY AND MIRFIELD

Thursday 23rd February 2017

Present: Councillor Nosheen Dad (Chair)
Councillors D O'Donovan, M Ahmed, M Bolt, E Firth,
M Hussain, V Lees-Hamilton, K Taylor, G Asif and
M Pervaiz

Apologies: P Kane and C Scott

In attendance: Approximately 25 members of the public in attendance.

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Councillors Scott and Kane.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 29th November 2016 were agreed as an accurate record. Councillor Bolt advised that he thought there had been an agreement at 29th November 2016 meeting, for the allocation of discretionary grant of £500 towards the costs of renovating the old police box on Webster Hill.

Councillor O'Donovan advised there had been mention at the previous meeting of the possibility of a discretionary grant, but not approval. At the last meeting Councillor O'Donovan had agreed to research the necessary next steps to enable a renovation of the old police box. He had not been able to get confirmation of who currently owns the building.

Councillor Firth proposed that Physical Resources and Procurement be asked to confirm ownership of the building, and if owned by the Council, a request be made for costs of renovation.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th November 2016 were approved as an accurate record. That Physical Resources and Procurement be asked to confirm who is the owner of the old police box on Webster Hill, Dewsbury. If the ownership rests with the Council, then for costs to be requested for renovation of the building.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the public

Agreed – That all items be considered in public session.

5 Police Update

Sergeant David Briggs from the Dewsbury and Mirfield police team gave an update in the team's key initiatives and priorities. Across each of the four Dewsbury and Mirfield wards, incidents of anti-social behaviour had reduced in the previous six weeks, compared to the same period last year. There had also been a significant drop in the number of drugs offences over the same period (by forty one per cent), and this across the four wards.

The illegal off road motorbikes detection team had as usual been suspended over the Christmas period, but their patrols will resume again in the Spring. There had been some issues in Dewsbury Town centre in relation to rough sleepers and drink related offences.

Operation Treadpond had been carried out on the London Park Estate in Mirfield, and on Dewsbury Moorside. Both were successful. On 26th January there had been speeding checks on Sunny Bank Road, but the fastest speed detected was thirty five miles per hour.

The overall crime statistics had increased however on the same six weeks last year, but not significantly. The methods for recording of crimes have changed since last year.

There followed a number of questions from councillors. Councillor Ahmed asked about recent issues in the area with weapons and firearms in particular. What had the police done in response? Sergeant Briggs said he would have to refer the question to the firearms response team.

Councillor O'Donovan referred to three high profile incidents in Dewsbury West. Did the police think these were isolated incidents or the tip of the iceberg? Sergeant Briggs did not think there had been a significant increase in such incidents.

Councillor Hussain asked why there had been such an increase in CCTV cameras on the gyratory in Ravensthorpe. Councillor Ahmed advised these were checking the traffic flows, and had been placed there by Highways.

Councillor Asif asked what was being done to address the traffic issues outside schools at drop off and pick up times. Parents in his ward were regularly parking on the zig zag lines in front of schools and what was being done. Sergeant Briggs advised Police Community Support Officers attend to tackle issues whenever they can. If the number of reports gets serious then officers will attend the school to talk with the parents, and carry out enforcement where necessary.

Councillor Bolt asked what the police can do to stop vehicles parking illegally on pavements, such as can be common near the station in Mirfield. Sergeant Briggs advised the police take a common sense approach. It is only illegal if not possible to get a buggy or wheelchair past between the car and the side of the pavement.

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Councillor Ahmed asked whether there had been any spike in thefts of gold from local Asian households. Sergeant Briggs advised there had been no significant spike.

Councillor Lees – Hamilton asked what was being done about the trend for more and more drivers to go around with number plates so dirty, the police could not check whether the vehicle is taxed. Sergeant Briggs advised most colleagues would stop the motorists in question and impress upon them this is an offence. Councillor Lees-Hamilton also referred to concerns about the misuse of headlights and fog lights being on when not needed. Sergeant Briggs advised if a motorist spots an offence by another motorist they should report this to the police.

A member of the public asked about the seemingly significant increase reported on the West Yorkshire Police website of sex and violence offences. He wondered if there was any correlation to cuts in the numbers of police. Sergeant Briggs advised this was not his specialism, and he would need to check with someone else in the force. He is aware there is current recruitment ongoing at the moment for additional police officers.

Councillor Asif suggested a letter be sent from the Chair of the Committee to the police to thank them for all the excellent work they do.

RESOLVED – To thank Sergeant Briggs for attending the meeting and providing his update on the work of the Dewsbury and Mirfield police team.

6 Safer Kirklees Partnership Update, including information on the Kirklees Victims Support Service

Sean Hurry, the Kirklees Victims and Resolution Manager gave an update on the work of the Safer Kirklees Partnership. He talked about the four tier approach of the Partnership; Prevention, including education, engagement with communities, and communication. Early Resolution; involving anti-social behaviour, and involving frontline and Partnership staff. Partnership problem solving, such as intelligence led target hardening. High risk and intensive cases, involving specialist support workers.

He advised he had developed the Kirklees Supporting Victims pilot, which includes a Victim Support Hub in the Brian Jackson Centre in Huddersfield. Victims can drop in for advice and support on Mondays and Wednesdays 10am to 4pm. Kirklees has two specialist victim support workers and fourteen specialist volunteers.

Councillor Ahmed advised the councillors are looking to support the creation of a similar hub in North Kirklees.

RESOLVED: - To thank Sean for his presentation. Anyone wanting more information can contact Sean Hurry; sean.hurry@kirklees.gov.uk or Tel 01484 221000. The Victim Support helpline is Tel. 0300 303 1971. The Tel number of the Victim Support Hub at Brian Jackson House is 01484 415462

7 The Green Space Strategy and Natural Kirklees

Rob Dalby, the Parks and Greenspaces Manager presented a report on the service standards for parks and greenspaces in 2017-18, setting out which across Dewsbury and Mirfield are gold, silver, bronze, or natural.

Simon Pedley, the Parks and Greenspaces Volunteer Coordinator for Dewsbury and Mirfield gave a presentation on his work with Natural Kirklees and a range of groups and volunteers from across Dewsbury and Mirfield. He talked about the work in Sparrow Wood in Dewsbury South, involving Headfield Lane school, and work with a project called Froglife, and also Support 2 Recovery supporting adults with mental health issues. Simon can support groups sort out insurance and there is a tool share scheme.

RESOLVED: - To note Rob Dalby's report on the parks and greenspaces service standards for 2017-18, and to thank Simon Pedley for his presentation.

8 Devolved Budget Report

RESOLVED – To note the District Committee devolved budget balances and to allocate the following funding:

- (i) £7,060 revenue to Dentaaid for the TEETH project. As each of the four wards is contributing an equal amount of funding, the funding agreement should require an equal amount of delivery across the four wards.
- (ii) £15,000 New Homes Bonus to Sports Development Team to develop and deliver the Try It, Like It initiative across the four wards.
- (iii) £41,325 New Homes Bonus to Ravensthorpe Community Centre to deliver the Dewsbury West and South Environmental Improvement Pilot project. Councillor Bolt objected to the proposal on the grounds that he claimed it is very similar to his school traffic warden proposal for Mirfield. He asked he be supported to develop his project further. The Chair advised hep would be given where possible. The meeting was advised there were key differences in the proposals; Councillor Bolt seeks the Council to employ a warden with enforcement powers, and RCC proposal employs a worker with no such powers. Councillors Dad, Ahmed, Asif, M Hussain, O'Donovan, Pervaiz and E Firth voted in favour of the proposal. Councillors Bolt, Taylor and Lees-Hamilton voted against.
- (iv) £5,400 revenue to the Learning Community Interest Company to pay for two homework clubs ; one in Overthorpe Academy and the other in Headfield Junior School.
- (v) £ 2,500 capital to Physical Resources and Procurement towards the costs of essential repairs to the changing facilities at Savile Town Recreation Ground.
- (vi) £ 1,430 to St Paulinus Parent's Group towards the costs of a homework club in St Paulinus School.
- (vii) £4,000 revenue to Paddock Trust to set up weekly neighbourhood employment support sessions in Mirfield.
- (viii) £1,925 revenue to Upper Hopton Cricket Club towards the costs of a new batting cage and coaching equipment.

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To note the following discretionary grants:

- (i) £100 to Overthorpe Tenants and Residents Association towards the costs of a Christmas meal for those in sheltered accommodation.
- (ii) £500 to Longcauseway Church towards the costs of a Christmas Meal provision.
- (iii) £250 to Chickenley Community Centre for an Older Peoples' Christmas Lunch.

To note the following allocations from a grant totalling £4,000 approved on 30th June 2016 to the Dewsbury South You and Your Community event on 8th December 2016:

- (a) £500 to Raza Hiking Group for Walking for Fitness
- (b) £250 to Dads for Sure for a family football tournament
- (c) £250 to Savile Stars Cricket Club for 'Getting into Cricket'.
- (d) £500 to the Prevent Women's group for swimming lessons.
- (e) £250 to the Local Women's Association for emotional wellbeing classes.
- (f) £400 to Thornhill Trojans Junior Rugby Club for junior rugby team kit and equipment.
- (g) £250 to Whitley Older People's Welfare for over 60's activities.
- (h) £150 to Deaf Children's Society for activities for hard of hearing young People.
- (i) £100 to Overthorpe TRA for tackling social isolation
- (j) £100 to Nicola Kilkenny for toddler group equipment
- (k) £100 to Yasmin Musa for family trips.

9 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

10 Public Question Time

The following questions were asked and Councillors responded:

- (i) As a member of the public, Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton asked if the missing half of the double mini roundabout warning sign could be replaced on the B6409, Savile Road. The sign is on the right hand side of the road (the side nearest the river Calder) just behind the bus stop, and just before the double roundabout at the junction with Thornhill Road and Forge Lane. Councillor Ahmed advised he would contact Streetscene, Highways to find out what could be done
- (ii) Mr Shaun Maddox asked if there could be road signs across Dewsbury South saying 'Welcome to Thornhill', 'Welcome to Thornhill Lees', 'Welcome to Savile Town' etc.

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- (iii) A member of the public raised concerns about the empty Arcade in Dewsbury Town Centre, and a question about what could be done by way of the likes of Business rate Relief.
- (iv) Mr Michael Scott advised he lives on Nab Lane in Mirfield, and is concerned about road safety on that road. Lots of white vans and trucks are parking on there, and at school drop off and pick up time parents are parking on double yellow lines. Could something be done to better address the problems? Councillor Bolt advised it is the responsibility of Highways to take the appropriate and necessary action.

11 Dates of future meetings

The dates and times are:

Tuesday 11th April 2017, Dewsbury Town Hall 7 – 9pm