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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - BATLEY AND SPEN

Thursday 16th March 2017

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

Apologies: L Holmes, E Smaje and A Stubbley

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Committee members introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

Councillors were asked to note that Mental Health First Aid Training approved at the meeting on 7 February was being tendered.

3 Interests

Councillor Gwen Lowe declared an 'Other' interest in item 9 budget report, reports 2 and 3, as Vice Chair of The Friends of Staincliffe Park.

4 Admission of the public

It was agreed that all items be discussed in public session.

The Chair advised that photographs would be taken during the presentations and asked if anyone had any objection to make that known.

5 Deputations / Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions received.

6 Public Question Time

Mr Peter Jackson asked if there might be a change to the district committee's allocation of funding to wards/areas in the new municipal year?

The Chair responded that funding would be considered in planning arrangements for the new Municipal year.

7 Committee Budget Report

The remaining district committee budgets were highlighted and the committee considered grant applications and proposals for expenditure.

Cllr Lowe vacated the Chair for reports 2 and 3 and left the meeting while report 2 (Staincliffe Park Christmas Lights) was under consideration. Cllr Kendrick chaired.

RESOLVED:

Revenue Approved:

£3,190 Grant - Mount Cricket Club - ground and coaching improvements.
The Club celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. It offers cricket for girls and children with disabilities. Two years ago the group represented Yorkshire in Rome. The activities and voluntary contribution was noted.

£3,500 Grant - Friends of Staincliffe Park - Staincliffe Park Christmas lights.
The Chair of the Friends group described the events run by the group and interest in expanding engagement and activities.

£1,748 Grant - Spark Skills - Youth Horizon Project.

£1,995 Grant - Batley Community Alliance - community garden in Batley Memorial Gardens.
This would be developed on land adjacent to Batley Baths. The design would be wheelchair friendly.

£1,000 Grant - East Bierley Preservation Society - East Bierley Christmas lights.
Up to 1000 people attended the previous Christmas lights switch on. Funding was matched by independent fundraising and new people were getting involved.

£4,483 - Improving economic vibrancy in Birstall, Birkenshaw and East Bierley
The project supported communities to help themselves. Grants criteria was to be brought back to the committee along with details of projects developed.

District Committee - Batley and Spen - 16 March 2017

£2,320 Grant - Liversedge Football Club – for an access options analysis with recommendation to the group that the feasibility study should include an analysis of land ownerships for any potential access routes that are considered as part of the study.

The access prevented improvements to the facilities and reduced the potential for drawing in external funding. The expertise of consultants was required to advise the club on the options available so that the club could meet conditions imposed by the league.

£10,674 Grant – Fearless People – Heckmondwike activity programme.

The Chair of the group described how this programme involved the community stepping up. The three events were designed to become self-sustaining and offered opportunities for footfall for businesses, bringing communities together and increased community pride.

Capital Approved:

£5,000 - Repairs to Batley Bats monument.

£4,708 - Improving economic vibrancy in Birstall, Birkenshaw and East Bierley.

£5,000 Grant - 1st Spen Valley Scout Group Birkenshaw – provision of accessible toilets.

The committee noted the contributions in kind and fundraising to meet the wider overall cost of the project.

£7,000 Grant – PCC St Paul’s Church - Birkenshaw village clock repairs.

The committee noted that the clock is in ownership of the villagers of Birkenshaw and that a specialist firm was required to carry out the repairs.

New Homes Bonus Approved:

£15,000 - Try It Like It physical activity development programme.

£5,000 Grant - Kirklees Dementia Action Alliance – for a Dementia Friendly Community event. Information on expenditure of a previous award is to be received along with breakdown/clarification of costs for the community event, prior to release of funding.

£19,890 - Refurbishment of theatre seating at Cleckheaton Town Hall, subject to consultation with Chief Executive.

The committee noted that the Town Hall was well used. It had been established that the seats could be refurbished at a much lower cost of £19,890 rather than replaced at a cost of £38,359. The committee approved refurbishment subject to the sign off process for New Homes Bonus being clarified with Jackie Gedman.

£52,626 - Dual purpose track for mountain biking and cross country running at Oakwell Hall, Birstall (phase 1).

It was suggested that measures were taken to ensure that off road cycling did not become a nuisance and that different users didn't clash.

8 Chairs Overview 2016-2017

The Chair Cllr Lowe, summarised district committee activity over the last municipal year. Through the meetings in public, speakers had raised awareness and understanding of a wide range of matters including:

- (a) The ongoing work to tackle poverty in Kirklees and the district
- (b) The programme of Estate and Environmental Works improvements in our district, funded through the housing revenue account
- (c) Activity to create Dementia Friendly Communities. The training session at the meeting created additional Dementia Friends
- (d) Comoodle - sharing stuff, space and skills
- (e) West Yorkshire Joint Services highlighted scams & frauds and how to avoid becoming victims
- (f) The Community Safety Partnership Plan, cohesion and victim support services
- (g) Mid Yorkshire Hospital Trust changes to Maternity and Children's Services
- (h) Kirklees Active Leisure and the Sports and Physical Activity Development Team offer to improve health and wellbeing
- (i) service standards to parks and the work of Natural Kirklees

The committee had addressed issues in further detail and facilitated progress on developing:

- A Money Matters event - to assist people in maximising household income and making savings
- A North Kirklees Apprenticeship/Careers event
- Mental Health First Aid Training - helping 'front line staff' to spot the signs of mental ill health and signpost people to support
- a response to the Joint Strategic Assessment of health and wellbeing in the district
- Work with, and involving and celebrating young people

The Chair outlined the amount of funding allocated and number of projects grant funded or commissioned over the year (33 including those on the agenda) in the district. All the volunteers involved in Batley and Spen community projects were thanked for their commitment which was highly valued by the committee. All the attendees of district committee meetings were also thanked for their valuable contributions over the year.

District Committee - Batley and Spen - 16 March 2017

Five 'You and Your Community' events had been held across the district, which had enabled groups to deliver 39 projects. A small amount of funding (£2,000 per ward) had led to lots of small scale activities and 'spin off' benefits.

All the volunteers involved in Batley and Spen community projects were thanked for their commitment which was highly valued by the committee. All the attendees of district committee meetings were also thanked for their valuable contributions over the year.

9 Celebrating Community Activities in Batley and Spen

Several community group representatives highlighted their community projects, funded by the district committee, and described the positive impacts the projects had made:

Cleckheaton Folk Festival Organisation – Folk Festival
Spenborough Chamber of Trade – Cleckheaton Christmas Lights
East Bierley Community Sports Association- Development of East Bierley Playing Fields

Batley Business Association - Batley Vintage Day

Batley Cricket Club - Bowling machine

Roberttown Women's Institute Defibrillator - (You and Your Community funding)

Spen Valley Civic Society – Luddite Trail

A representative of the Youth Council also described the activity of the youth Councillors in Batley and Spen over the last year.

RESOLVED - Community groups were thanked for their updates and for their commitment to delivering community activities. The work of all the volunteers across the district in all capacities was commended.

10 Dates of future meetings

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the last scheduled meeting of the municipal year.

Kirklees website, Batley and Spen District Committee on Facebook, or local press should be checked for updates.