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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - HUDDERSFIELD

Tuesday 21st March 2017

Present: Councillor Sheikh Ullah (Chair)
Councillors J Homewood, J Hughes, M Kaushik, M Khan,
P McBride, B McGuin, C Pattison, A U Pinnock,
M Sokhal, J Stewart-Turner and L Wilkinson

Apologies: N Mather, K Allison, C Burke, J Calvert, A Cooper, E Hill,
M Sarwar and G Wilson

In attendance: 30 members of the public were in attendance

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced members of the Committee to the public.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Questions were raised by Bob Mortimer again on the same issues, the Chair advised he contacts the relevant officer again if he is requiring further information to what they have already provided to him.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 February 2017 were approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

Councillor Pinnock declared an interest in Agenda item 9, as she is a Board Member of Ashbrow Partnering Together and Local Services 2 You which has two grants being considered under the Committee budget item.

4 Admission of the public

RESOLVED – That all items be considered in public session.

5 Deputations / Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

6 Service Standards for Parks and Open Spaces and Natural Kirklees

Rob Dalby presented the report to the Committee on the service standards for 2017/18.

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Ruth Dodds is Huddersfield's Volunteer Co-ordinator appointed to work with existing groups and help create new ones where needed. Ruth can support groups with setting up and planning projects, site management plans, fundraising, training, publicity and health and safety.

The Committee received an informative presentation from the volunteer co-ordinator on their role in supporting communities and the work of the Council with Natural Kirklees. A range of support and expertise is available to community groups from the network such as free insurance and hand tools available to borrow from the shed at Beaumont Park via the website.

RESOLVED - The report setting out the service standards for parks and open spaces in the Huddersfield district for 2017-18 was noted.

7 **Round Up - District Committee Activity in 2016/17**

The Chair gave an update on the work of the District Committee over 2016 – 17.

The Chair emphasised the important contribution the District Committee makes in making improvements across the Huddersfield district. The Chair along with his 20 colleagues across the 7 wards have worked in partnership with a number of Council services, Community Groups and Partner Organisations to support some essential programmes of work which have helped deliver on shared committee priorities and those of the Council. Such as:

- The future of our town centre
- Tackling poverty
- Comoodle and the Sharing Economy
- Communities doing more for themselves and each other
- Health and Wellbeing
- Schools as Community Hubs
- Community Safety, Victim Support and Cohesion
- Managing our green spaces

Over 15 local Community Groups across the 7 wards have also received grant funding to help them deliver a range of grass roots activities such as:

- Tackling social isolation
- Bringing communities together
- Environmental improvements to parks and open spaces
- Improving Community Buildings
- Community learning opportunities
- Village events
- Social activities

This has resulted in approximately, £43k being awarded from the District Committee during 2016/17, resulting in a minimum of 12,371 volunteer hours and volunteer match totalling £143k demonstrating excellent value for money.

RESOLVED – The Chair thanked his Committee colleagues, the Area and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, local partners and community groups for their important contribution and improvements made across the district, town centre, wards and neighbourhoods.

8 Huddersfield Town Centre Activities

The Committee received an informative update on the town centre programme of activities funded by the District Committee by Jayne Pearson from Investment and Regeneration.

7 activities were funded by the District Committee totalling £53k which are designed to talk up the town and increase footfall. Two projects have commenced these are:-

- **People Poets** – Huddersfield Literature Festival promoted local Poets work in the window of the old BHS providing animation to the town. A poetry trail across the town centre via the shops was also undertaken.
- **Markets Campaign** – delivery of an open air market which will increase Sunday trading located on New Street consisting of 40 stalls and food concessions promoting Huddersfield is open for business on Sundays.

The other 5 activities are currently being planned these include:

- **Streets of colour** – could be in paint, chalk or textiles transforming the streets of the town through colour creating places for conversation and connection
- **Celebrate Huddersfield** – through the Students Union at Huddersfield University, Student engagement with the local community will commence by promoting awareness of local shops especially the independent sector. A local map of the town will be created to ensure students are integrated into the town
- **What's On** – a range of branded media will be used to get the message out of what is happening in the town A number of questions followed, which the officer responded to.
- **Making Space** (based in the Media Centre) – space will be made available so people can exchange skills, develop and support ideas. Public workshops and events will commence soon promoting a programme of activities to increase the range of arts and enterprise offer in the town.
- **Independent Network** – approximately 60 independent retailers/ businesses will be brought together to create connections and develop a programme of events e.g. tea party on the piazza and a fashion show.

The Chair emphasised that this programme of 7 activities was created as a result of residents/groups feeding back their ideas through the District Committee meetings during 2016. Demonstrating “you said, we listened and we did”.

RESOLVED – Members will be made aware of key dates and activities taking place across the town relating to this programme.

9 Committee Budget Report

The District Committee budget balances were noted and applications for funding were considered. The Committee noted the following:

Fast Track and Discretionary Grant:

- (a) £381 Capital - additional funding needed for the Taylor Hill Footpath original grant of £10,000 approved 27.9.16) - Councillors have agreed to pay the additional £381.00 - Streetscene and Housing (Newsome Ward) - **Fast Track Commission**
- (b) £150 Revenue – Norcross Avenue parking sign – (Lindley Ward) – **Fast Track Commission**
- (c) £250 Revenue – Greenhead Community Ward Meetings (Greenhead Ward) – **Fast Track Commission**
- (c) £400 Revenue - Friends of Tolson and Ravensknowle – purchase of defibrillator (Almondbury Ward) - **Discretionary Grant**

Return to Budget – Underspend

- (a) £1,000 Capital – Newsome Ward – Longley Festival Lights (funding awarded 01/12/15)

Change of Use:

Fern Lea TRA no longer require the IT Equipment previously awarded through a £500 grant. The equipment will be transferred to Mount Forum to support the development their community activity programme.

RESOLVED - That the following projects be funded:-

Revenue, Capital and New Homes Bonus Projects

- (a) £7,500 Revenue – Almondbury Ward – Paddock Community Trust - Almondbury Forest School / Nature Reserve Feasibility
- (b) £9,500 Revenue – Ashbrow Ward – Local Services 2 You – Chestnut Centre Improvements
- (c) £6,000 Revenue – Ashbrow Ward - Local Services 2 You – Communications for Ashbrow Partnering
- (d) £750 Revenue – Greenhead Ward - Friends of Greenhead Park Summer Bandstand Concerts
- (e) £7,196 – Revenue/Capital – Newsome Ward – Streetscene and Housing – Wildflowers at Wood Terrace
- (f) £17,095.43 – Revenue/Capital – Newsome Ward – Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing – Edale Avenue Retirement Living Scheme Newsome– Installation of Four Mobility Scooter Stores and Improvements to Communal Garden Footpaths
- (g) £4,445 – Revenue/Capital – Newsome Ward – Streetscene Manor Road/Elm Street Open Space – Landscaping project
- (h) £5,000 – Capital – Crosland Moor and Netherton – Streetscene and Housing - Manchester Road/ Thornton Lodge Crossing

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- (i) £5,000 – Revenue/Capital – Almondbury Ward – Streetscene - Pedestrian Safety Measures – Stocks Walk, Almondbury
- (j) £240 – Revenue – Lindley Ward – Streetscene and Housing - Lindley Ward Pedestrian Safety Measures
- (k) £5,000 – New Homes Bonus – All 7 wards - Kirklees Dementia Action Alliance - Dementia Friendly District Event
- (l) £14,000 – New Homes Bonus – All 7 wards - Public Health/Ext delivery organisation tbc - Mental Health First Aid Training

10 Public Question Time

A number of questions were raised relating to:

- Netherton Village Hall Changing Rooms and future aspirations for the building for the local Football Club.
- Ravensknowle Park Public Toilets not being maintained and cleaned adequately.
- Footpath maintenance issues in the Crosland Moor and Netherton ward.
- Committee budget allocations and how schemes are prioritised.
- Recruitment process for the Chief Executive of Kirklees Council.

Officers and Committee Members responded directly to residents:

RESOLVED– The Chair confirmed that any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant service who will provide a direct response to the residents.

11 Dates of future meetings

RESOLVED - Dates of future meetings to be confirmed.