

Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on Thursday, 24 November 2016 at Council Chamber - Keighley Town Hall

Commenced Time Not Specified
Concluded Time Not Specified

Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	GREEN	THE INDEPENDENTS	INDEPENDENT	THE QUEENS BURY WARD INDEPENDENTS	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP	UKIP
Ali Brown Mallinson BM Smith	Farley Lee			Hawkesworth				

Observers:

Apologies: Councillor Khadim Hussain and Councillor Cath Bacon

Councillor in the Chair

35. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

36. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

37. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

38. NOMINATION TO LIST PROPERTY AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE



Members were advised that the Council had received a nomination to list properties known as Central Park, Haworth; Mytholmes Recreation Ground; Stanbury Recreation Ground and Cross Roads Park, Keighley as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011. The report of the Strategic Director, Regeneration (**Document “Q”**) considered whether the nomination and nominated assets met the Asset of Community Value Criteria set out in the Localism Act.

Resolved –

That in accordance with Option 1, contained in Document “Q”, the nomination of the properties known as Central Park, Haworth; Mytholmes Recreation Ground; Stanbury Recreation Ground and Cross Roads Park, Keighley as Assets of Community Value be accepted.

**Overview and Scrutiny Area: Environment and Waste Management
Action: Strategic Director, Regeneration**

**39. KEIGHLEY AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS 2015-17
PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Strategic Director, Environment and Sport presented a report (**Document “S”**) which outlined the work of the Community Development Workers on behalf of the three commissioned organisations during the period April to September 2016 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2016-17.

Community Development Workers were in attendance to answer questions about their organisations although it was explained that one of the workers had been unable to attend due to a bereavement.

Improving attendance at youth sessions was discussed and a Member raised concerns that this was due to problem youngsters in the area. It was explained that the police had been involved; those youths had been barred from the sessions and the situation was improving.

Concern that the reports provided no evidence of Ward Officers supporting additional areas beyond the wards where they were based were raised. In response, in discussions about the Craven Ward, it was acknowledged that the majority of the Ward Officer activity was undertaken in the Central Ward although work to support a “Friends of” group involved in the new health centre was reported. Measures undertaken by Keighley West Ward Officers in the Worth Valley were also reported. The Ward Officers in attendance explained that the absence of information in the reports did not mean that work was not being undertaken. Following those discussions it was requested that narrative to reflect those activities be included in future reports.

Resolved –



That the work of the Community Development Workers on behalf of the three commissioned organisations during the period April to September 2016 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2016-17 be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate

Action: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport

40. ALLOCATION OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING GRANTS

The report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport (**Document “R”**) set out the Community Building Grants allocation process. It was explained that the Community Building Grants were to support Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to meet their associated building related costs.

Members were reminded that, as part of the budget decision on the 25th February 2016, it had been agreed to reduce the discretionary support available to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. Following a review, by the VCS Buildings Support Group, it was proposed to merge the support available into one Community Building Grant. The decision making process for that grant would be devolved to Area Committees in recognition of their local knowledge and to increase fairness, transparency and accountability.

Included in Document “R” was a breakdown of the current levels of support each area received and the allocated amounts for each Area Committee for 2017-18 for the Community Building Grant. The report also revealed that a ring-fenced allocation would be made to organisations supporting district wide activity and community of interest groups. That support would be allocated by Bradford West Area Committee as several district wide organisations were based in the city centre.

Members questioned how the allocations reported in Document “R” had been calculated and why the Keighley Area allocation had been reduced by 50%. It was felt this was a disproportionate reduction compared to other areas. In response it was explained that officers in Neighbourhood Support based the allocations on the current provision whilst taking account of indicators of deprivation.

Members were advised that all recipients of current support and community development funding had been consulted. Analysis of feedback would inform the implementation of the proposal and would be shared with the Grant Advisory Group’s (GAGs).

Participation in the consultation process was queried and Members were advised that 120 people from a number of groups had been involved. Some organisations were fearful of the new allocation process whilst others welcomed the formal transparent procedure involved in the single allocation process.



It was felt that the allocations proposed for 2017/18 were not detailed sufficiently in Document “R” and that a more expansive business plan was required. As a result of discussions around that issue it was confirmed that the allocations proposed were for current recipients of Council support and that community asset transfers were not included. It was stressed that Members were being requested to support the application procedure and the GAGs would deal with the process of allocating funds.

The timeliness of the report, following a budget decision made in February 2016, was queried. It was feared that groups would not have sufficient time to prepare their applications and were in a fragile position as their current funding would shortly be coming to an end.

The number of small CVS organisations occupying individual premises and the duplication of services was discussed. It was suggested that, in times of limited resources, those organisations should be sharing resources and working together. It was acknowledged that those decisions were not the remit of the VCS Buildings Review Group; however, Members stressed their support for such measures. In response it was confirmed that CVS groups were encouraged to share premises and work together.

The limited timescale for organisations to understand the new allocation process and develop applications was raised as a matter of concern.

Following a detailed debate Members felt they had insufficient evidence to approve the recommendation in Document “R”.

The necessity for the application process to commence and for groups to understand their funding allocations was acknowledged. In order for the process to commence in a timely fashion it was suggested that the item be deferred for consideration at the meeting in December 2016 and that the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport be requested to provide the following information for discussion at that time:-

- An explanation of the decision making process adopted by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, to allocate the Community Building Grants and confirmation that the process complied with the Council’s constitution.
- Clarification of the formula used for the allocation of the funds between the five area committees and with particular regard to -
 - a) the decision that Bradford West Area Committee be responsible for allocating funds to organisations supporting district wide activities and community of interest groups and
 - b) the basis of the decision that Bradford South Area Committee would receive two thirds of the current year budget in 2017/18 whilst the allocation in the Keighley Area had been reduced by two thirds.



- Future plans for CVS organisations to share premises and amalgamate.
- A detailed definition of community related costs and the support available to CVS organisations.

Resolved –

That the item be deferred for consideration at the meeting on 15 December 2016.

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate

Action: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport

41. KEIGHLEY AREA WARD PLANS 2016-17 UPDATE

The report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport (**Document “T”**) outlined the work of the Keighley Area Co-ordinator’s Office in the period April to September 2016 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2016-17.

In discussions about the Ward Plan for the Craven Ward, and in relation to a limited police presence during the Steeton Primary School Parking Initiative, the relationship between the Area Co-ordinator’s office and the police was questioned. In response it was explained that a good working relationship had been established with the police and they did attend the Ward Partnership Team meetings.

With regard to the Steeton Primary School initiative it was explained that there had been some communication issues as a result of which the police problem solvers in the area had only been available for a limited time. It was acknowledged that limited resources did sometimes result in Police Officers being summoned to other duties. A report on police activities would be presented to all Area Committees in February 2017. Members raised concerns about the potential for initiatives organised by the police from central Bradford to be miscommunicated and requested that future events be organised at a more local level.

Ward Officers were thanked for their hard work to support the delivery of Keighley Area Ward Plans.

Resolved –

That the work of the Keighley Area Co-ordinator’s Office in the period April to September 2016 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2016-17 be noted.



Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate
Action: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport

42. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2016

The Strategic Director, Environment and Sport presented a report (**Document “U”**) that provided information about community engagement activities undertaken by Keighley Area Co-ordinator’s Office during April - September 2016.

Resolved –

That the constructive engagement with a wide range of the public undertaken through community engagement activities by Keighley Area Co-ordinator’s Office in the period April - September 2016 be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate
Action: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Keighley Area Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

