

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee held on Thursday, 21 September 2017 at Committee Room 3 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.05 pm
Concluded 7.00 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	THE QUEENSBURY WARD INDEPENDENTS
Wainwright T Hussain Peart Tait Warburton Dodds Thornton Sharp	L Cromie

Councillor Wainwright in the Chair

19. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Dodds disclosed, in the interest of transparency, and in relation to Minute 23, that her son worked as a Council Warden and that she was a member of the Friends of Brackenhill Park Group.

Councillor Tait disclosed, in the interest of transparency, that she was a member of the Friends of Horton Park Group (Minute 23)

Councillor L Cromie disclosed, in the interest of transparency, that she was a Member of the Friends of Queensbury Cemetery Group (Minute 23)

ACTION: City Solicitor

20. MINUTES

Resolved -

That the minutes of the meetings held on 29 June and 13 July 2017 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

21. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

23. PARKS & GREEN SPACES SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (Document “J”) which set out the annual report for the devolved Parks & Green Spaces Service, reviewed activity during the past year and also outlined the significant issues that would have an effect over the coming 12 months with options where available for future service delivery, investment and savings.

The report revealed that the work of the Parks and Green Spaces Service (PGS) included woodland management; tree works; play area maintenance and development and maintenance of the district’s parks and other green spaces.

The Operational Depot Review of 2017 was discussed and new works planned for the coming year were reported.

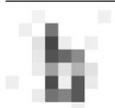
The report included issues around the use of Horton Bank Country Park. It was explained this was a well used facility by members of the local community and visitors from outside of the District, however, problems were being experienced with the car park being subject to numerous cases of fly-tipping and anti social behaviour. The budget pressures arising from the subsequent clean up costs and the unsightly mess greeting visitors upon arrival at the park were discussed.

Options to address the issues at the park were presented and included:-

- Do nothing and continue to clean up the tipping until the budgets were exhausted.
- Permanently lock the gates for vehicular access leaving pedestrian access only.
- Open and secure the access gates on a daily basis.
- Install CCTV

Members were advised that currently there were no resources or budget available to carry out the latter two options. It was explained that locking the gates for vehicular access was currently the preferred option but that on going discussions were required to confirm the optimum action to alleviate the issues being faced. The use of bollards was suggested to retain access but restrict vehicles to the park. It was explained that the site had initially been supplied by Yorkshire Water but had now been transferred to the Council so no third party needed to be consulted.

The consultation undertaken with Ward Councillors and residents about the



options was queried. In response it was explained that options had been suggested following a number of complaints about the site although consultation had not yet commenced. A recent poll had been undertaken by the local press and had resulted in a 75/25 split in favour of restricting vehicular access. Consultation with Ward Members would now be conducted.

A Ward Member reported consultation she had undertaken with Ward colleagues and that it was felt that no option other than to restrict access could be imagined. Whilst not wishing to upset visitors to the park it was felt that the area would become spoilt if the tipping was allowed to continue.

A Member expressed his disappointment that the option of CCTV had been suggested but that no costs or details of where the budget could be obtained were included in Document "J". The report had revealed an indicative underspend in the budget in the region of £33,000 and it was questioned if that underspend could be used for CCTV. Surveillance of fly tipping hot spots through the use of mobile CCTV was reported in an item to be discussed later in the meeting and it was suggested that, if cameras could be located elsewhere, they should be considered at Horton Bank Country Park. It was felt that this would prevent restricting use of the area to residents who enjoyed driving into the area and enjoying the views. It was suggested that a decision on the options being considered be deferred until consultation with users and calculations of the cost of CCTV were undertaken. A number of Members held the same view and it was agreed that the options be explored further.

The volume of vehicles being driven into the park in the evening was questioned but that information was not available. The park was located close to Brackenhill Park and it was explained that the measures were being proposed to prevent anti social behaviour in the area.

The cost of clearing the fly tipping was questioned and, whilst not available at the meeting, it was agreed to provide that information to Members.

Grass cutting and maintenance in the District's parks and green spaces was commended and it was reported that the number of complaints received had reduced from previous years.

Document "J" detailed a number of events held throughout the year and the cost of reinstating the parks and recreation grounds after such events was questioned. It was explained that the hire charges applied included reinstatement costs. Inclement weather could sometimes prevent an immediate response but any areas requiring reinstatement were addressed as soon as practicable.

Assets of Community Value, located in the Bradford East constituency, were discussed and it was agreed that the issues could be discussed outside of the meeting.

Problems previously experienced in the Southmere Drive area were raised and it was agreed that the area would be maintained and cut regularly to prevent a



recurrence of those issues.

The capacity of the Parks and Green Spaces Service to deal with projects funded through Section 106 Agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy was questioned and it was stressed that the service must be in a position to bid for that funding to be utilised in the Bradford South area. It was explained that Planning Officers would be dealing with those issues and reports would be presented to the Regulatory and Appeals Committee. The mechanism to propose schemes for funding was not known at this stage.

The recurrence of weeds following weed killing treatment was raised as a matter of concern. It was explained that the treatment used could not prevent germination but did clear and control weeds at the time of treatment which was applied three times per year. The contract for weed killing was to be renewed next year although no decisions on the new contract had yet been taken.

The costs of clearing overgrown snickets in the area were questioned and it was explained that this function was the responsibility of the Highways Department. Despite previous requests no developments had been forthcoming and Members suggested that the Committee could write to the department regarding the lack of progress.

Resolved –

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.**
- (2) That the Strategic Director, Place, be requested to provide a further report outlining consultation work undertaken and work with Environmental Enforcement to consider the use of CCTV to reduce fly tipping, littering and other acts of anti social behaviour at Horton Bank Country Park and to include possible ideas for the use of the indicative underspend in the 2016/17 budget.**
- (3) That the Area Co-ordinator be requested to write to the Strategic Director, Place, on behalf of the Committee, to ascertain progress on the establishment of a fund to clear and maintain snickets.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

Environment and Waste Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24. BRADFORD SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM ACTIVITY

A representative of the Neighbourhood Policing Team for Bradford South and the Chief Inspector for the area addressed the meeting and reported that they wished to redress any perceptions that crime was increasing. They presented analysis of crime data which revealed that significant reductions in crime had been seen in the last three months.

Members questioned the amount of police hours which had been utilised to



secure convictions for three people, under the age of 18 years, who had recently received custodial sentences. As the issue involved juveniles it was not possible to name those individuals but it was confirmed that those juveniles had been ring leaders for a significant amount of crime and were motivators of larger groups of offenders. The number of arrests leading up to the sentencing of those individuals was reported and the number of police hours used was discussed.

A Member referring to the data in the report felt that this did not provide enough information about the crime and requested that statistics be compiled into more meaningful information in future reports. Retail crime occurring in the Great Horton ward was raised and it was questioned why that was not included in the report. Members requested that the location, volume and nature of crimes be clarified in future reports. In response it was explained that the information in Document "1" was an annual summary and more detailed information was presented at the Ward Officer Team meetings which were held every 10 weeks. The Police also offered to send specific information to Members on request.

The number of Police Community Support Officers supporting each Ward Area was discussed. It was questioned why Wibsey and Royds shared that resource whilst other areas with lower crime figures had a dedicated team. It was explained that the Tong Ward had been a priority in the previous six months and the Police had endeavoured to provide the most effective personnel in each ward based on their expertise. A new Ward Officer would be commencing duty in the Wibsey area within the next week.

The Chief Inspector explained that there were 600 new PCSOs in West Yorkshire and that 137 of them were being allocated to Bradford. The Police force had made a significant investment in Neighbourhood policing but officers would need time to become focussed and trained. The Ward Officer Team meetings would be advised of individual arrangements for each ward.

A Member referred to negative reporting of crime in the Wibsey Ward. He stressed that himself and his ward colleagues had accompanied the Member of Parliament for Bradford South when she had been discussing a survey she had conducted with residents in the area. The main topic of conversation during those discussions had been around the street scene and transport services and crime and not been mentioned by the shopkeepers approached. He believed that a business watch being promoted would prevent a lot of crime and he was disappointed with the press and social media reports of crime in the area. He stressed that the reports had not been verified and if approaches had been made to Ward Members more accurate information would have been portrayed.

A Member, whilst welcoming partnership work being undertaken with the Police, was concerned that for the previous 12 months she had been requesting that Ward Officer Team meetings be rescheduled to allow Members to attend. She felt that she had not experienced the partnership arrangements alluded to. Apologies were provided from the representatives of the police about that issue and it was agreed that officers should be in regular contact with Ward Members. It was explained that police officers were always available to contact by email,



text or telephone. Whilst acknowledging that Ward Officer Team meetings were arranged around police officer shift patterns Members requested that account be taken of their availability when future meetings were arranged.

A Member recognised the successful police work conducted in the Tong Ward and the efforts undertaken to discover the perpetrators of crime. She believed that residents were now confident to report issues to the police as they had seen the actions undertaken. A view that the resources focused on the Tong Ward were detrimental to other wards was expressed by another Member.

The statistics contained in Document "1", during a period of massive reductions in resources, was discussed. It was acknowledged that the force was operating at a time of rising demand with reduced resources and the inevitable pressures were recognised. It was stressed that, at such times, the need to work in partnership was essential to ensure that effective resources were available in the right places.

Members were advised that services not outlined in the report such as support for people missing from home; those experiencing mental health issues or support for other 'blue light' services increased the demand on the service.

Members requested that the low volume of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Bradford South Ward be addressed and were assured that the police were looking to increase the number of groups. It was explained that with social media it was now much easier for people to communicate and that 40% of crimes could be reduced by the use of Neighbourhood Watch.

The Chair thanked the Area Co-ordinator and his ward colleagues for their assistance in compiling the ward plans.

Resolved -

- (1) That the work undertaken by the Bradford South Neighbourhood Policing Team from April 2017 to July 2017 that contributed to addressing priorities within the ward plans for the Bradford South Area be noted.**
- (2) That the positive partnership working that has been established with Elected Members, Council Officers, community organisations, volunteers and residents within the Bradford South Area be noted.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25. CLEANER AND GREENER STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS IN BRADFORD SOUTH - DEVOLUTION TO AREA COMMITTEE



The Bradford South Area Coordinator submitted a report (Document “K”) which provided an update relating to Council Wardens, Environmental Enforcement and Street Cleansing in the Bradford South Area. It highlighted a developing approach that delivered on the cleaner/greener agenda at an Area, Ward, neighbourhood and street level that was supported by residents, businesses and community organisations as part of the People Can – Make a Difference Campaign.

Appended to the report was information relating to the service requests and performance monitoring for street cleansing and environmental issues being dealt with by Council Wardens.

Concern had previously been expressed about the level of litter, particularly in the Great Horton area; however, the appendices to the report depicted a great improvement in the amount of litter. This was attributed to an increased presence by the clean team who had worked closely with the enforcement officers in the area. The close working relationship between those teams had resulted in the significant improvements seen.

Members questioned the definition of detritus and it was explained that this referred to the dirt around the gutters. In previous reports the figure had been low, however, that figure had now increased as less sweeping had been done due to more work being done to obtain a behaviour change around litter. The weight of the Big Belly Bins and how those receptacles were emptied was questioned. It was explained that the waste was compacted; a signal was transmitted when the bin was full and doors were opened and the rubbish removed. The availability of those bins was suggested for other areas and it was explained that the volume of rubbish was analysed in areas to decide if they were suitable for the ‘Big Belly’ type receptacles. A Member suggested that bins located on Broadstone Way in Holmewood were located inappropriately. It was suggested that the bins should be located along the route which residents took to their homes from the takeaway restaurants in that area rather than outside of the businesses.

The availability of cashless parking in the Bradford South area was questioned and Members were assured that, although there was little payable parking in the Bradford South area, the ability to pay via the meters was still available.

The difficulties in catching dog owners whose pets were fouling the area were discussed. It was explained that Wardens had patrolled the area, however, pet owners often moved on to another patch when they witnessed the wardens presence. Wardens were being asked to talk to residents about the issues to deter that behaviour.

An increase in the number of complaints in the Great Horton Ward reported in Document “K” was questioned and it was explained that this was likely because of the increased presence of Council Wardens and residents being encouraged to report issues.



The scope of the Crime Protection Notices and Community Protection Warnings reported in Document K was questioned. It was explained that a presentation was being given to the Planning Panels and could be shared with Bradford South Members if they so wished.

It was queried if the mechanical sweeper units differentiated between roads and the amount of detritus and it was agreed to get more technical information about that operation for the next report.

Resolved –

- 1. That the information in Document “K” be noted and welcomed.**
- 2. That the Area Co-ordinator and his staff be thanked for the work outlined in Document “K” and in particular for the efforts undertaken in the Great Horton Ward.**

Action: Strategic Director, Place

Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair

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

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

