

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on Monday, 23 December 2019 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.05 pm
Concluded 7.50 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR
Amran
Akhtar
Mohammed
Thirkill
Nazir
A Ahmed
Engel
Mullaney
Kamran Hussain

Councillor Amran in the Chair

28. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

29. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings held on 19 June, 17 July and 23 October 2019 be signed as correct records.

Action: City Solicitor

30. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

31. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

32. JESMOND AVENUE, BRADFORD - OBJECTION TO A PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACE

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “O”**) considered an application for a Disabled Persons Parking Place where the application had received an objection.

Resolved –

- (1) That the application for the installation of a Disabled Persons Parking Place at 66 Jesmond Avenue be approved.**
- (2) That officers undertake a review of the existing Disabled Parking Places on Jesmond Avenue (subject to the timing of the last review).**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

33. PETITIONS RELATING TO TRAFFIC MATTERS

The report of the Strategic Director (**Document “P”**) considered the following traffic matters:

- Bonn Road, Bradford – Requesting permit parking
- Vine Terrace East, Bradford – Request for bollards and street works

Resolved –

- (1) That no further action be taken on the request for permit parking on Bonn Road, Bradford.**
- (2) That officers undertake enforcement action on Bonn Road and other local streets to tackle on-street vehicle trading.**
- (3) That officers arrange a meeting with residents from Vine Terrace and local ward members to discuss options for highways improvements**
- (4) That an item for Traffic Management Measures on Vine Terrace East be added to the list of schemes awaiting funding from the Bradford West Safer Roads budget.**
- (5) That as and when Vine Terrace East has been prioritised for funding for traffic measures as part of the Bradford West Safer**

Roads programme, a formal consultation exercise with local residents, ward members and other key partners be carried out to determine a preferred scheme.

(6) That no further action be taken on the requests for the Council to fund highway improvement works or street cleansing operations on Vine Terrace East.

(7) That the petitioners be informed accordingly.

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

34. STRONGER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (Document “Q”) gave progress update of the integrated Communities Programme which was a part of the Stronger Communities Strategy and Delivery Plan, produced by the Bradford Stronger Communities Partnership.

The Project Lead was in attendance and with the invitation of the Chair, provided the committee a glossary of the contents outlined in the report:

- The work undertaken by the Stronger Communities Delivery Team was overseen by the Stronger Communities Partnership Board and independently chaired by the Bishop of Bradford. The Deputy Chair was Deputy CEO of Incommunities. The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Community Safety and Councillor Sinead Engel were represented on both the Partnership Board and Steering Group that formulated the Delivery Plan and the five years Strategy. The Board formally adopted its responsibilities and duties from June 2019. Please see Appendix A for Staffing and Governance Structure. This Board was one of five strategic partnerships that contribute to the Bradford District Plan 2020 and is involved in the development of the 2040 Plan;
- The Strategy comprised of four key priority areas; Employment, Education, Social Mixing and Perceptions of the Other which built on existing strategic priorities across the District, incorporating good practice as well as innovative ideas to test and learn from what works and what does not in improving and removing barriers to integration;
- The Stronger Communities Partnership’s strategy and delivery plan incorporated delivery of local interventions following Bradford’s designation as one of five ‘Integrated Communities Pilot Areas’. Funding had been provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of a ‘test and learn’ programme to deliver some of the interventions in the Stronger Communities Together Strategy and delivery plan;
- The Strategy was supported by a range of projects, supported by the Council’s existing areas of work such as People Can, Remembrance Days and Great get Togethers. It was also supported by the Integrated Communities Programme, known as Bradford for Everyone which was funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and would run from April 2019 to March 2021 as well as the Controlling Migration Fund which would end in March 2020. The Strategy also

included wider work taking place in the District that contributed to the impact such as Believing in Bradford and local initiatives by VCS groups; and,

- The definition articulated in the Strategy of what makes stronger, happier and well integrated communities “was of a place where everyone felt that they belong, were understood, felt safe and were able to fully participate in the opportunities the District offered.” The report outlined the priorities of the Strategy.

Following the aforementioned, a question and answer session ensued:

- Would resident in communities that would be directly impacted, be involved in the delivery of the strategy?
 - To ensure that activities involved local residents, a recruitment process had been undertaken to appoint people across the Bradford District who would make up sub-groups, Bradford West residents were. A retired professional and lived in Manningham. He had been involved with many projects such as the Race Equality Network previously known as Consortia of Ethnic Minority Organisations. A professional who lived in City as Manager of Refugee Action as well as running 10 by 9 at Speakers Corner. She arrived in the country 14 years ago from the states. A Bradford resident who worked with Incommunities and lived in Toller. She had a passion for writing and social media. A lay person who had been involved with Better Start Bradford as parent champion and lived in City. A professional who worked for the NHS Trust and lived in City. He had a passion for arts and culture;
- How were the various delivery strategies being delivered?
 - The Delivery Plan entailed the commissioning of projects advertised through a tenders’ process. Commissioning, procurement rules and regulations which ensured a fair process was followed. The Panels involved included a mixture of Ward Officers, Area Coordinators, Stronger Communities staff, local people and Board members during each stage of the appraisal; and,
- Were themes around integration being addresses?
 - There was some provision for grant funding set aside for community organisations to undertake projects with support from Partner Forum. This provision offered learning, collaboration, design thinking and co-design solutions to support improvements to integration. The Partner Forum had successfully now engaged with over 180 organisations.

The Chair thanked the Project Lead for the detailed contents contained in the report. However there was a lack of information on the activities that had been undertaken in Bradford that led to the successful implementation of the strategy to date, and therefore:

Resolved –

- (1) That the progress on the Integrated Communities Programme, Bradford For Everyone has made in the last 9 months against the Stronger Communities Together Strategy developed by the Stronger Communities Partnership be noted.**

- (2) That a further report be presented to the Bradford West Area Committee in March 2020 that gives a breakdown of the activities taking place in Bradford, the work that has been delivered and the positive impact that has been made in the communities during the delivery of the Integrated Communities Programme.

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

35. STREET CLEANSING - PERFORMANCE AND CHANGES TO SERVICE DELIVERY

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “R”**) updated Members on the Street Cleansing service including detailed information on complaints and performance in relation to litter and flytipping. The report also provided information on recent major changes including the merger with Parks and Green spaces, service redesign and the recent recruitment of new staff.

The Shipley Area Coordinator was in attendance and accompanied by the Performance Officer, Neighbourhoods and Customer Service. At the direction of the Chair, a report glossary was provided, as follows:

- Since April 2019 there had been two major changes to the Street Cleansing service. Firstly, the merger of the management structure of Parks & Green Spaces and secondly the redesign of how the service would be operated.
- On 6 March 2019 this Committee resolved to redesign the Bradford West Cleansing operation including the cleaning of gateways and strategic roads on a daily basis and development of a prescriptive working pattern in estates following completion of the gateway work. Since June the clean teams had started earlier to clean the essential strategic networks in the constituency and from mid-August the prescriptive work patterns for estates were introduced. The new working patterns had been a major change for all staff and were still bedding in.
- To coincide with these changes, the Parks operation merged with Street Cleansing. It had been a smooth transition but had been a steep learning curve for the five managers and all had adapted to the changes very successfully. Area Coordinators and managers were currently looking at how both operations could link together in the future including assessments of all roles and responsibilities, joint depot locations and maximising any joined up working including: -
 - Litter bin emptying, grass cutting, strimming, clearing snickets
 - Winter maintenance
 - Weed control
 - Leaf clearance
 - Ability to work together with Britain in Bloom and Green Flag awards
 - Economies of scale re purchasing
 - Ward Officer Contacts / WOT Partnerships

A further focal feature of the report was on street cleansing complaints logged with Council Contact. Complaints included litter, leaves, dog fouling and overflowing litter bins amongst other things. In hindsight, it was paramount that

totals be looked at in perspective of the time period across an entire ward e.g. how many cases per day across an entire ward. Also to note that since 2012 a growing amount of contact for the cleansing service as made through online contact rather than the traditional telephony channel, in some wards more than 50% of contact came via online reporting and it had meant that many cases were created outside of normal working hours.

The level of complaints reported for Street Cleansing in Bradford West had been relatively stable prior to 2018/19, however there was an increase in 2018/19. The first half of 2019/20 showed there were fewer complaints being reported than in the same period in the previous year.

Following verbal presentation, a question and answer session ensued:

- What course of action was being addressed to educate communities in keeping local areas clean?
 - Within the scope of reduced resources, there is an increased need to encourage more people and communities to take on more personal responsibility and for our services to support people who volunteer to help;
- How was the use of IT being taken advantage of to address problem areas?
 - In summer 2018/19 a new opportunity arose to conduct the monitoring in a much swifter fashion utilising technology. The monitoring was called Land Audit Management System (LAMS) and could be used for parks, grounds and cemeteries as well as public highways if so desired.
 - The deployment of an efficient street cleansing service and increased use of technology and data was being used to target problem areas; and,
- How could respective ward councillors assist the service in addressing cleansing issues in their communities they represent?
 - Within the scope of reduced resources, there is an increased need to encourage more people and communities to take on more personal responsibility and for our services to support people who volunteer to help.
 - Councillors could assist the service by encouraging residents to volunteer and take action themselves;
- How were local communities be educated on the prevention of fly tipping?
 - Neighbourhood Services are currently in partnership with the Keep Britain Tidy Group regards hard hitting and sustained anti-fly tipping publicity and marketing campaigns. Campaign themes also entailed, litter and dog fouling campaigns. The programme of campaigns since 2017/2018 had continued to focus on different themes e.g. chewing gum, car litter, householders' duty of care and City Centre littering with illustrations. The most recent campaign, 'Don't Be A Tosser', was aimed at people who threw their waste out of car windows. A third of people were not aware that the registered keeper of the vehicle could now be fined up to £100 if rubbish as seen being thrown out of a car window. The campaign had been designed to send a hard-hitting message to drivers and their passengers that littering from cars as totally unacceptable in terms of behaviour and the damage to the environment and the wildlife.

Resolved –

- (1) That the information contained in Document “R”, particularly the major changes to the service, the information on complaints, the monitoring of cleanliness standards and the various litter campaigns be noted and that the Cleansing teams be thanked for their hard work and perseverance.**
- (2) That a further report be presented in 2020 outlining the full-year impact of operational changes made since April 2019.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

36. PARKS AND GREEN SPACES ANNUAL REPORT

The operational management and maintenance of Bradford District’s Parks and Green Spaces was a service devolved to Area Committees. The service merged with the Street Cleansing Service in April 2019.

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “S”**) sought to review the activity during the past year and the trends and direction options where available for future service delivery.

The Area Parks and Landscapes Manager was in attendance and with the invitation of the Chair, he proceeded with introducing the report to the committee with an

extensive and comprehensive detailed glossary of the report, as follows:

- In April 2019 the management structure of Parks and Green Spaces merged with the Street Cleansing Service. This followed the ‘lift and shift’ of the Parks and Green Spaces operation from Sport and Culture to Neighbourhood and Customer Services in September 2018. There were five Parks and Street Cleansing Managers who reported an Area Coordinator and oversaw the operation of both Parks and Street Cleansing services. The individual staff teams had not yet amalgamated to the same operating locations. However, the intention was to do so and work is currently ongoing with Estates.
- There were over 188 named parks, playing fields, recreation grounds and pleasure gardens throughout the district. Operation and maintenance of these sites fell to the devolved service via the Area Coordinators and the Parks and Street Cleansing Managers. These sites ranged from district wide destination parks with a wide range of facilities and large sporting hubs, to parks and open spaces provided for local communities.
- Facilities within these sites included a wide range of buildings and structures, many of which had ‘listed’ status. These included operational depots, lodges, changing rooms, pavilions, cafes, statues, bridges, memorials, walls, gates and fences in addition to lakes, paths, signage and seating.
- Operation of these sites including the coordination of their use and the direction of development was in collaboration with the ‘Friends Of’ groups. Other user groups include bowling, football, rugby and cricket teams, and

regular users such as Park Run, fitness classes, cycle training, and model engineering clubs.

- The Service booked and facilitated an annual cycle of fun fairs, circuses and band concerts across the district. Also provide venues within the parks and green spaces for over 200 events each year. The events ranged from Friends Of events, and events provided by, or aimed at the local communities, to large events with a district wide appeal.
- In addition to the operation and maintenance of the Park's sites the service also oversaw the highway weed spraying contract and provided a grounds maintenance service to the council's varied estate. This included the civic spaces in town and city centres, roundabouts and urban highway verges, cemeteries, social residential care facilities, libraries, sports centres, museums, public open space and other grassed open spaces. The combined total area of the grass maintained by the service was in excess of 7.5 million square metres; the equivalent of 1043 Wembley Stadium pitches. The service also played a pivotal role in the winter gritting programme.
- The service operated in committee areas with each area retaining its own staffing profile and budget. Some service delivery across boundaries occurs due to geographic practicalities, skill set and service demand. This enhanced service efficiency. The service operational staff base was 72 gardeners and 21 seasonal workers. Included in the base line were 10 vacancies which were covered with additional seasonal agency staff and tendered contracts for grass cutting operations. Rationalising the area budgets whilst taking into account previous and future budget savings would enable the service to rebase staffing for the following year.

Following the detailed synopsis, a question and answer session ensued:

- What was the reasons for many overgrown grassed verges?
 - Maintenance standards across the Bradford District reflected the staffing level and previous budget savings. Previous reductions in the service level had included reduction in the maintenance frequency of all grass areas, bowling greens, shrub beds during the mowing season and the reduction of annual floral displays;
- There were a significant number of litter bins especially in parks that were not being emptied on a more regular and routinely manner?
 - Bradford West had 192 litter bins across its parks and green spaces. Two gardeners rotated around the area emptying bins and litter picking each site weekly. Heavily used sites had an increased frequency to combat peaks in use where resources allowed. It was hoped over time when staff moved together into area depots that closer working operations between parks and cleansing operatives would further improve services; and,
- Due to the increased usage of parks and green spaces, were any further developments in process for enhancing specific areas?
 - The Lister Park Play Area - replacement of the existing worn out play area with a new Destination Play Area as part of the council's Playable Spaces Strategy was an ongoing project.
 - A significantly larger development was under consideration for a proposed play area for Bradford forming the largest single site play facility in the council's emerging Playable Spaces Strategy and Funding Programme.

The Chair welcomed the work undertaken for the success in operational management and maintenance of Bradford District's Parks and Green Spaces. The committee echoed the praises outlined by the Chair and went further by stating its wish for the progress towards the proposed development for the Lister Park Play Area.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Bradford West Area Committee welcomes the content of this report and the smooth merger of the operational management and maintenance of Parks and Green Spaces with the Street Cleansing Service, whilst maintaining levels of service.**
- (2) That following approval of the Budget in February 2020, an update report be presented to the Bradford West Area Committee to outline the Plans for “The Lister” Lister Park play area, at the February 2020 meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

Chair

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

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