

Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on remotely on Thursday, 18 March 2021

Commenced 6.05 pm
Concluded 7.40 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	THE INDEPENDENTS
M Slater Lintern	Brown Ali K Green	Hawkesworth

Apologies: Councillor Khadim Hussain and Councillor Chris Herd

Councillor Brown in the Chair

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

2. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2020 be signed as a correct record.

3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

5. STREET DEDICATION TO MARGARET WINTRINGHAM MP

The report of the Strategic Director, Place, (**Document “A”**) considered a proposal to name a street on a new development at Spring Gardens Lane, Keighley, in honour of Margaret Wintringham MP. The dedication was part of the Pioneering Bradford Lasses campaign which recognised influential women from

the District.

It was explained that, at the request of the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Regeneration, Planning and Transport, the title MP be excluded from the proposal.

A Member was concerned that he had been unaware of the proposal and questioned if residents had been consulted. In response it was explained that Ward Members, the Chief Executive and Leader of Council would be consulted although the protocol in such cases did not include resident consultation.

Members acknowledged the importance of recognising influential women from the area and whilst no objections to the honour were raised some Members thought the name was long winded and could be unattractive to potential house purchasers. Consideration was given to 'Wintringham Way' however concerns that this would detract from the association to the MP were raised. The Strategic Director confirmed that it was customary when honouring a person in the district to use their full name.

Resolved –

That the proposal to name the street “Margaret Wintringham Close” be approved.

***OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Regeneration & Environment
ACTION: Strategic Director, Place***

6. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE NON-CLASSIFIED ROADS AND SURFACE DRESSING ALLOCATION FOR KEIGHLEY CONSTITUENCY - 2021/22

The Strategic Director, Place, presented a report (**Document “B”**) which provided information on the Capital Highway Maintenance funding element of the Local Transport Plan for 2021/22 and made recommendations on the allocation for Non-Classified road resurfacing schemes and Surface Dressing sites in the Keighley constituency.

A Member questioned why the value of schemes supported in the Ilkley Ward were considerably higher than other wards. The Strategic Director explained that schemes were progressed on evidence of their condition which was obtained from a third party company annually. Evidence on the surface and condition was captured from a vehicle with roof-mounted cameras. In addition, information from in house inspectors and engineers on the network was combined with accident data and car damage reports to prioritise the schemes.

The Strategic Director clarified that traffic volumes had changed over decades and together with the bad winters experienced had contributed to deterioration. If interventions were made before further deterioration progressed it was possible to save the roads with prevention treatments which could be applied within the first two years of decline.

A Member reported that Slaymaker Lane in Oakworth had received surface

dressing which had not adhered to the road and was blocking gullies. The Strategic Director explained that, to prevent the issues reported, a road surface would be given four or five sweeps after the dressing had been applied. It was agreed to look into the issue raised if the Member could provide further details.

The non-inclusion of Sefton Drive and Gordon Street in Ilkley on the priority list was questioned and it was suggested that the condition of those roads was worse than schemes on the priority list. A substitution of High Wheatley with Kings Road from the reserve list was also raised. A discussion between Ward Members ensued and it was acknowledged that schemes on the list for treatment were deteriorating due to flooding. The Strategic Director confirmed that the schemes had been prioritised on condition and usage (volume of traffic, number of HGVs, number of properties served, etc.). It was also likely that some schemes on the reserve list could be addressed with Department for Transport Pothole Fund monies.

The responsibility to clear gullies blocked by resurfacing works was questioned and it was explained that this was the responsibility of the contractor. Concerns about gullies in the Central Ward were raised and the Strategic Director agreed to liaise with contractors if Members could provide the precise locations.

Resolved –

That the proposed list of schemes for 2021/22 as shown in Appendices 2 and 3 to Document “B” be approved.

***OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Regeneration & Environment
ACTION: Strategic Director, Place***

7. PROTECTING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION.

The report of the Chief Executive (Document “C”) provided an update to Members and built on the report presented to the District Area Committees previously regarding the issue of Child Exploitation (CE).

The report focused on the strategic response to all forms of exploitation in children and adults and how partners from the Working Together to Safeguard Children – the Bradford Partnership and the Bradford Safeguarding Adults Board worked to drive improvements across the District and to hold agencies to account for their work in their area. The report also outlined the emergence of other complex safeguarding themes and outlined how partners were effectively collaborating and focusing on the protection of children and adults.

Appended to Document “C” were reports on Working Together to Safeguard Children – The Bradford Partnership; the Strategic Response to Risk and Vulnerabilities in Complex Safeguarding; Information and Data for Keighley Area; Case Studies; Trusted Relationships Statistics and Cyber Team Statistics.

The Bradford District Cyber Team Bradford Cyber Prevention Early Intervention Summary Report 2019/20, also appended, detailed the current level of engagement with all schools. It was questioned whilst 156 primary schools had

engaged and had Cyber Safety workshops none of the secondary schools had been involved in those initiatives.

In response it was confirmed that all secondary schools had a dedicated police officer providing input on cyber safety. There was much support provided to secondary schools, including those in the private sector, and schools' officers continued to be deployed throughout lockdown. The measures contained in the report were in addition to what was ordinarily provided.

A pattern of emerging risk seen in Ilkley was raised and it was questioned how that was being addressed. It was explained that in response to any referral reported measures would also be taken with their peer group and that could be the reason data showed bundles or cohorts in a particular area. Referrals were discussed in multi-agency meetings held daily and consideration was given to all young people at risk. Risks were managed and monitored to allow information to be gathered and hot spot locations identified.

A Member referred to data included in the report depicting the average number of children at risk of exploitation. He questioned if the figure depicted was a total or children identified in the that month. He also queried if when that figure reduced in October was that because the children were no longer at risk or because they had moved out of the area. In response it was clarified that this was the cumulative number.

In response to a request for additional clarity about the figures reported it was explained that the numbers indicated the number potentially at risk per 10,000. It was agreed to make future reports easier to understand.

A Member, whilst welcoming the report and the work undertaken to help people susceptible to risk, questioned what was being done to catch the perpetrators.

In response it was confirmed was that there were hundreds of officers and staff working to investigate, arrest and convict perpetrators of abuse. In addition, there was a significant number working on Operation Dalesway investigating non recent CSE and dealing with investigations from a number of years ago. Thematic reviews were undertaken to learn lessons and assess if further changes were required. Daily risk meetings allowed for information sharing with all parties involved in disrupting people who harmed children.

The report referred to the Young Lives consortium and it was asked if that organisation had taken over from a group known as E5. It was clarified that the Youth Consortium comprised of a number of voluntary sector partners formed to be stronger and attract funding and was part of 'Young Lives Bradford'. It was explained that 'E5' was a conglomeration of separate funding streams.

A Member expressed concern that the report provided only statistical evidence. He referred to the District's history regarding unknown CSE cases and a lack of confidence that the situation was improving. He suggested that a report containing more detail including an indication of where the incidents were occurring and how the statistics had been calculated was needed. It was felt that it was difficult to understand the situation with only statistical information. He found the case study appended to the report helpful but requested the

reassurance he needed to give his constituents confidence that the best was being done.

The point made about the granular information in the report was acknowledged and it was agreed to take those comments on board. Assurance that the last Ofsted report referenced the good work being done in the District was provided. It was explained that during the Ofsted inspection officers had spent time in the Hub where all cases were discussed. The report was published on the website and officers were happy to provide copies to Councillors on request.

Members were advised that the purpose of the report under discussion had not been to provide the level of detail requested and it would be very difficult to provide that level of accountability in a short presentation report. All Members were invited to visit the Hub and observe the meetings being held and whilst GDPR issues were acknowledged Members were assured that responses would be made within seven days to their enquiries.

It was reported that more detailed information was provided to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Area Co-ordinator agreed to liaise with officers to allow that information to be shared with the Committee.

A debate ensued about the level of assistance which Members could provide and it was acknowledged that their relationships with local communities and their local knowledge and information which they could share with was invaluable.

Resolved –

- 1. That the contents of the report be noted and Members be requested to consider how they can support local activity against Child and Adult Exploitation.**
- 2. That a further report on the progress of the response to Exploitation be provided in 12 months' time.**
- 3. That Partners from the Working Together to Safeguard Children – the Bradford Partnership and the Bradford Safeguarding Adults Board, be requested to seek further funding opportunities from Government funding streams to enable continuation of service provision as outlined in Document "C".**
- 4. That the Keighley Area Co-ordinator be requested to liaise with the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ascertain if the evidence provided in reports to that Committee on Child Exploitation could be shared with Keighley Area Committee Members to provide them with additional information to enable them to support local activity against exploitation.**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Children's Services & Health & Social Care

ACTION: Chief Executive

8. CHAIR'S NOTES

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR ABID HUSSAIN AND THE LATE COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ELLIS

At the conclusion of the meeting Members paid tribute to the late Councillor Abid Hussain who had been a Member of the Committee and Ward Councillor for the Keighley Central Ward.

At an informal meeting at the beginning of the year Members had also paid tribute to the late Councillor Michael Ellis, Chief Whip for the Conservative Group. To allow those sentiments to be formally noted it was agreed that they be recorded in the first formal meeting since that time.

THE LATE COUNCILLOR ABID HUSSAIN

Councillor Green paid his respects to the late Councillor Hussain. He referred to his service to the Committee and the loss his passing would have.

Councillor Farley spoke about his friendship with the late Councillor Hussain for ten years and his unique way of pulling people together – despite not answering emails! He recounted he was a very ‘hands on’ and approachable Councillor and that he had spoken to him shortly before he died. He reported that he had been improving and looked forward to going home. The news of his passing was very sad and would have a great impact on the local community.

Those sentiments were echoed by all Members. It was agreed that Councillor Hussain would be sadly missed and his passing was a great loss to the District. Condolences were passed to the family of the late Councillor.

THE LATE COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ELLIS

Councillor Ali reported that the late Councillor Ellis had been a good fellow and friend. He had provided him with lots of advice and he was an asset to the party.

Councillor Hawkesworth recalled that with the exception of Councillor Dale Smith she had known the late Councillor Ellis longer than anyone else on Council. He had made a huge contribution politically and in particular for his work with flood management. He would be sadly missed.

Councillor Brown acknowledged the late Councillor Ellis’ professional skills and talents and that the Council and the whole district benefitted from his expertise. He recalled that as a Whip he had a very dry sense of humour and when he had seen him recently, despite him losing his hair due to his treatment, he offered a comb and bottle of brylcreem to a colleague who was requiring a haircut.

Councillor Farley explained that he was a member of the Flood Resilience Committee and had spoken to the late Councillor Ellis many times on that topic and particularly after the Boxing Day floods. He was always approachable and did his best for his constituents and would be sadly missed.

Those sentiments were echoed by all Members. It was agreed that Councillor Ellis would be sadly missed and that his passing was a great

loss to the District. Condolences were passed to the family of the late Councillor.

FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

The Chair wished good luck to all Members standing in the local elections in May 2021.

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