

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee held on Thursday, 15 July 2021 in the Council Chamber, City Hall - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.00 pm
Concluded 6.50 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE
Dodds S Khan T Hussain Tait Thornton	Bibby

Apologies: Councillors Mukhtar and Wood

21. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR (Standing Order 35)

Resolved –

That Councillor Dodds be appointed Chair of the Bradford South Area Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

ACTION: City Solicitor

Councillor Dodds in the Chair

22. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR (Standing Order 35)

Resolved –

That Councillor S Khan be appointed Deputy Chair of the Bradford South Area Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

ACTION: City Solicitor

23. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency of Councillors Dodds and Tait declared that they were both Chairs of the Friends of Brackenhill Park and Horton Park respectively (Minute 32).

24. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 be signed as a correct record.

25. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

27. OBJECTIONS RECEIVED TO THE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR WAITING RESTRICTIONS ON VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BRADFORD SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “A”**) which set out objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order on various roads in the Bradford South Constituency. The Principal Engineer stated that the Programme had been devised as part of the Safer Roads Programme and that the objections received were set out in the report.

In relation to the proposed waiting restrictions on Shetcliffe Lane, Tong, an objector was present at the meeting and stated that a number of neighbours had expressed concern that the proposal would reduce the number of parking spaces on Shetcliffe Lane, as not everyone had access to a drive. Cars were sometimes parked across people’s driveways on days when football was played. In addition there were concerns expressed regarding damage to cars and that speeding traffic was an issue, and that the road was already narrow.

In response, the Principal Engineer stated that the road in question also served as a bus route, and parking on both sides of the road was therefore an issue and measures were necessary to safeguard the viability of the bus route, as there was no possibility of diverting the bus route.

In response to a question, it was stated that dropped crossings could be looked at, however it was:

Resolved –

- (1) That the objections be overruled and the Order be sealed and implemented as advertised.
- (2) That approval be given to incorporate a further length of waiting restriction at the rear of Great Horton Road as part of the 2021/22 Bradford South Various Traffic Regulation Order.
- (3) That the objectors be informed accordingly.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

28. **BRADFORD SOUTH VARIOUS SITES TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2021-22**

The Strategic Director, Place submitted a report (**Document “B”**) which sought approval for a list of sites for inclusion in the Bradford South Various Sites Traffic Regulation Order 2021-22.

The Principal Engineer clarified that the reference in Appendix 1 to the report should be to Haycliffe Lane and not Haycliffe Road.

In response to a question regarding the Cemetery Road proposal, it was acknowledged that this scheme would have to be revisited as part of a wider Traffic Regulation Order report in the future.

Also in relation to proposed Wibsey Park restrictions, permit parking could be looked at as part of a wider area scheme. Subject to the inclusion of the Great Horton Road Waiting Restrictions scheme to the programme, it was therefore:

Resolved –

- (1) That the list of sites recommended for inclusion in the 2021/22 Bradford South Various Sites Traffic Regulation Order attached as Appendix 1 to Document “B” be approved, subject to the addition of waiting restrictions at the rear of 463 Great Horton Road.
- (2) That approval be given to prepare and advertise the Traffic Regulation Order.
- (3) That any valid objections to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order be submitted to this Area Committee for consideration or in the event of there being no valid objections the Traffic Regulation Order be sealed and implemented as advertised.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

29. VERBAL UPDATE ON COVID AND THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

The Director of Public Health provided a Verbal update on the latest situation of Covid and the Councils response, during her presentation she alluded to the following:

- That currently the number of infections were higher than during the January peak.
- The average age of those infected was 28 years old, so mainly it was affecting younger people, probably as a consequence of the vaccine having already been administered to the older age group.
- Although hospital admissions were less than during the previous waves, those requiring hospitalisation were acutely more ill.
- Current Covid rates were averaging 331 cases per 100k, with 256 new cases per day, a 33% increase, compared to the Yorkshire rate of 390 cases per 100k, a 48% rise and compared to the England average of 302 cases per 100k, a 45% increase.
- That the delta variant was now the dominant variant and in the national league table the district was 81st, in January of this year Bradford district was 2nd.
- That some wards had over 500 cases per 100k , so there were hotspots in densely populated areas and an increase in the secondary school population.
- There had been 143 outbreaks in 125 schools, however the upcoming school holidays was seen as a circuit breaker in terms of infection rates.
- PCR testing was averaging 570 per 100k, with a considerable amount coming back as positive .
- That tracking the virus and getting people to isolate was key in driving down infection rates.
- Vaccination rates were good as the roll out continued with a majority of adults having received their first dose of the vaccine.
- That the 19 July was a critical date in terms of the easing of the remaining restrictions, however vigilance and caution were still required, as the virus showed no signs of abating.

The Chair thanked the Director of Public Health for her detailed overview.

During the discussion a Member asked what impact the virus had had on businesses and what measures they had in place to protect the public. In

addition how many businesses had been in breach of the lockdown measures.

In response the Director of Public Health stated that local businesses had received good support throughout the pandemic, and that extra staff had been drafted to provide additional help, undertake spot checks, to ensure businesses had the right risk assessments in place. Outbreaks had been to a minimum, however fines had been issued and there had been some repeat offenders, with court action applied in a small number of cases. The detailed figures would be circulated to Members.

Within the school sector no school has had to close completely during the pandemic, however bubbles have had to be sent home.

A Member raised the issue of how information and communication around the pandemic had been disseminated in the district, and in particular in the context of the diverse nature of the district. In response the Director of Public Health stated that this issue had been addressed from the outset of the pandemic and that information was available in many languages. In addition since the rollout of the vaccine issues around vaccine hesitancy and take up had also been addressed. The work and success of the Covid Young Ambassadors was also commended. Although some challenges remained in certain communities, Bradford had been at the forefront and the work done in the district had also been recognised nationally.

In response to a question as to where the highest outbreaks were in the district, it was explained that the weekly data produced had the ward data. However the areas of the district with the highest deprivation levels, generally had the highest infection rates, and where isolating was difficult and therefore transmission between households was higher. Again this was linked to health inequalities and poverty.

In response to a question regarding testing, it was acknowledged that PCR testing was freely available.

In response to a question regarding the issue of long Covid, it was stated that this information was kept by the hospitals, and although support was available more work was required going forward.

The Chair thanked the Director of Public Health for her overview and the detailed responses to Members' questions, and looked forward to receiving a further update at the September meeting.

Resolved –

That the verbal update from the Director of Public Health be noted.

ACTION: No Action

PUBLICITY IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “C”**) which sought to update members on current casualty levels and trends in the Bradford District and on the Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity initiatives aimed at reducing these casualties.

During the discussion, a Member stated that although the direction of travel was good, how were the figures envisaged going forward. In response it was stated that although there had been a decline in the amount of traffic using the roads during the pandemic, speed had been reported as an issue, however the overall figures were still encouraging .

The Chair stated that further educational work with parents was probably needed to raise awareness around road safety. The Road Safety officer acknowledged that further work in this area was needed.

In response to a question around the increased use of scooters and electric bikes, again more work was required to ensure safety around these types of vehicles.

In relation to air quality, again key messages around using sustainable modes of transport was disseminated in the work done by the Road Safety team.

A key area of activity alluded to was the work done in the transition years of schooling, to ensure that key messages were disseminated to young people around road safety as walking longer distances, crossing busier roads and the use of bikes were key components for this cohort.

It was agreed that further information on particular hotspots in the district should be provided in future reports.

Resolved–

- (1) That the comprehensive update be welcomed and that the excellent work done by the Road Safety Team be commended.**
- (2) That this Area Committees continues to support an evidence based approach to determining Road Safety priorities.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

SOUTH

The Strategic Director Place submit a report (**Document “D”**) which sought to update members on the response led by the Steerside Partnership to the anti-social use of vehicles, and provide some more detail on issues relating to quads and motorcycles and the response to this in the Bradford South area.

The Bradford South Inspector of the Neighbourhood Policing Team was present at the meeting and stated that the key component of Operation Steerside was to improve driver standards, enforcement together with a focus on clamping down on the anti-social use of quads and motorcycles was alluded to, which was a particular area of concern in the Royds and Tong wards of the Bradford South area.

To this end there had been 13 joint operations under the Steerside umbrella resulting in a total of 24 seizures of such vehicles, however this was only the tip of the iceberg and more intelligence and enforcement was needed within the confines of the limited resources at our disposal. The public’s collaboration was key as to where these vehicles were stored, as many of the offences were difficult to detect given their nature.

A primary component was that this was a seasonal trend and a cultural/generational issue, and in undertaking enforcement, community safety was at the heart of the matter.

The Chair acknowledged the excellent work and results achieved by Operation Steerside and the link with the Ward Officers was also commended.

The Inspector stressed that improving communications was a key area of focus as was the need to change behaviours via education.

In response to issues in particular wards and public reporting, the Inspector urged that all incidents should be reported to the Police, however given the nature of the problem many vehicles made off before the Police arrived, and therefore enforcement was an issue.

A Member suggested that more proactive work with landlords should be undertake as they could supply key evidence where a crime had taken place, by way of CCTV footage etc.

It was acknowledged that better coordinated work with Partners across the piece was necessary, as was the better use of social media in disseminating key messages.

Resolved –

That the work of the Steerside Partnership to tackle vehicle nuisance in Bradford South be welcomed and supported.

ACTION: No Action

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

TO 31 MARCH 2021

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “E”**) which summarised the Cleaner Streets, Parks and Open Spaces grants awarded in the financial year April 2020 to March 2021 for the benefit of communities within the Bradford South Constituency.

Resolved–

- (1) That the wide range of applications from groups, organisations and individuals across Bradford South be noted and welcomed.**
- (2) That the Bradford South Area Co-ordinator’s Office continues to ensure the effective allocation of such grants and other funding by providing appropriate advice and support to applicants.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

33. 2020/21 BRADFORD SOUTH CONNECTING PEOPLE GRANTS

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “F”**) which detailed the Connecting People Grants awarded from applications received prior to the 4 January 2021 deadline.

Resolved –

- (1) That the wide range of applications from groups, organisations and individuals across Bradford South be noted and welcomed.**
- (2) That the Bradford South Area Co-ordinator’s Office continues to ensure the effective allocation of the Youth and Community Chest budget and other funding by providing appropriate advice and support to applicants.**
- (3) That the Committee approves that the membership of the Bradford South Grants Advisory Group (GAG), be the Chair, Deputy Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of the Bradford South Area Committee, for the municipal year 2021-22.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

34. FUTURE MEETING DATES OF THE AREA COMMITTEE 2021/2022

The remaining meetings of the Bradford South Area Committee for this Municipal Year were noted:

Thursday 30 September 2021 @ 1700 City Hall Bradford
Thursday 28 October 2021 @ 1700 City Hall Bradford
Thursday 2 December 2021 @ 1700 City Hall Bradford
Thursday 27 January 2022 @ 1700 City Hall Bradford
Thursday 17 March 2022 @ 1700 City Hall Bradford

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