

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on Thursday, 22 September 2022 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.00 pm
Concluded 7.35 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR
Alipoor
Amran
Azam
Engel
Ibrar Hussain
Kamran Hussain
Nazir
Regan
Shaheen

Councillor Amran in the Chair

Apologies: Councillor Fozia Shaheen

13. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Engel disclosed, in relation to Minute 19, that she was a volunteer for an organisation, Hope Not Hate, and in relation to Minute 20 she was the Council's LBGTQ Champion. The interests were not prejudicial and she remained in the meeting during consideration of those items.

In the interests of transparency Councillor Azam disclosed that he had been approached by constituents but had not become involved in Minute 17.

Action: Director of Legal and Governance

14. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2022 be signed as a correct record.

Action: Director of Legal and Governance

15. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

17. JESMOND AVENUE, PROPOSED FORMAL BLUE BADGE PARKING PLACE - OBJECTIONS

The Strategic Director, Place, presented a report (**Document “G”**) which considered objections to the introduction of a formal Blue Badge Parking Place on Jesmond Avenue, Toller, Bradford.

A summary of the points of objection and corresponding officer comments was provided. It was reported that in addition to the objections outlined in the report that three representations supporting the proposal had been received.

Members were reminded of the resolution of the meeting on 4 August 2022 that a review of existing Blue Badge Parking Places on Jesmond Avenue be undertaken. It was confirmed that the review had since been conducted and it had been found that there were nine valid existing blue badge parking places in that location.

A person in objection to proposals addressed the meeting and reported that he was not against a disabled persons parking bay as such but he was concerned that the informal bay was being abused. He claimed that one family had three or four cars and these were being parked in the space. He explained that he lived next door to the bay and was never able to park outside of this home due to the vehicles abusing the disable parking provision. In addition, concerns were expressed that the parking bay would be extended into the area outside of his home.

It was claimed that people who were not disabled had parked in the bay for extended periods of time, including periods of up to two weeks. The objector had collected evidence to document the abuse. He also reported that he had only one car for his family of five children but that other residents had three or four cars parked on Jesmond Avenue.

A resident in support of the formalisation of the disabled parking bay explained that the bay was required for his elderly disabled mother. He also explained that, whilst not classed as disabled, his 93 year old father was partially sighted, hard of hearing and had suffered from a heart attack. It was stressed that the location suffered from inconsiderate and dangerous double parking. He also expressed concerns that should there be an emergency in the area the emergency services would be unable to access his home. Claims that the space had been used by people who were not displaying a disabled badge were refuted.

Members agreed that disabled people should be able to access their properties but acknowledged that informal disabled parking spaces could be abused. It was

noted that there were nine disabled parking spaces on Jesmond Avenue and that informal bays could be used by any disabled person.

It was questioned if there were ways to ensure that only disabled people were utilising those spaces and prevent misuse. In response it was explained that it was not possible to identify vehicle ownership and that any motorist could park in an informal bay and any motorist legitimately displaying a blue badge could park in a formal bay.

Resolved –

- 1. That the objections to the introduction of a formal blue badge parking bay on Jesmond Avenue be overruled, the bay be introduced as shown on drawing No. HS/TRSS/104773/COM-17A and the Traffic Regulation Order be sealed and implemented.**
- 2. That the objectors be informed accordingly.**

Action: Strategic Director, Place.

18. PETITION - VINE TERRACE WEST, FAIRWEATHER GREEN, BRADFORD

The report of the Strategic Director, Place, (**Document “H”**) considered a petition requesting traffic calming measures on Vine Terrace West.

Petition details were appended to the report and corresponding officer comments were reported. It was documented that Vine Terrace West was one of three roads linking Bull Royd Lane to Thornton Road and that there were residential properties along one side and Crossley Hall School opposite.

Details of two site visits carried out on 21 July 2022 to assess the reported problems were reported. At the start and end of the school day it was found that, due to the level of traffic and congestion in the area, there were no issues with speeding. Outside school start and finish times Vine Terrace was quiet and vehicles that were observed appeared not to be speeding or driving dangerously.

It was noted that some areas in close proximity to Vine Terrace West had been previously traffic calmed. That work was undertaken in excess of 10 years ago and it wasn't known why traffic calming was not installed on Vine Terrace West at that time.

A request to traffic calm Vine Terrace West had been on the list of schemes awaiting funding since 2015/16. The allocation of funding for highways schemes was subject to the project conforming to the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy and the rationale and a summary of that strategy was provided and included that the Council had to be confident that any works proposed were likely to address specific casualty patterns. The accident data for Vine Terrace West had been studied and there had been no collisions resulting in injury in the previous five-year period.

Members accepted that it was not known why the area had not received traffic

calmed ten years previously when other roads in that locality had benefited from those measures. They referred to the genuine concerns they had heard from residents and noted that the area was on the list of schemes to be considered by the Committee when the 2023-24 Safe Roads Schemes was determined.

Officers were requested to investigate if there were more achievable options, to address the concerns of residents', available prior to the determination of that scheme.

Resolved -

- 1. That the request for traffic calming on Vine Terrace West be retained on the list of schemes to be given consideration by the Bradford West Area Committee when the 2023-24 Safe Roads schemes programme is determined.**
- 2. That the Strategic Director, Place, be requested to investigate the feasibility of other traffic management interventions on Vine Terrace West and explore funding options as appropriate and report the findings to the appropriate Ward Members.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

19. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE PREVENT TEAM IN THE BRADFORD WEST AREA.

The Strategic Director, Place, presented a report (**Document "I"**) which outlined the progress made in the last twelve months in the Bradford West Area in delivering the national Prevent strategy against the District Prevent Action Plan.

The report was presented in response to an agreement made at the Bradford West Roundtable meeting on 2 August 2022 that the Prevent Team would provide feedback on the work of Prevent, and its impact, to Members.

Appended to the report were details of the roles and responsibilities of Prevent in the Bradford District and work undertaken in the Bradford West area in the past year.

Projects including the Bradford Hate Community Alliance (BHCA); Supplementary Schools Against Radicalisation and the Manningham Mills Sports Community Association were reported together with further training provided to ensure staff were aware of the extremism risks in their areas; signs of people needing support; the support available locally and how to be referred to that support. The additional training had been provided to the following services:

- Mears Housing
- Ward Officers
- Bradford City FC
- Domestic Violence officers
- NHS Safeguarding staff
- Elected Members
- Local Authority Safeguarding Adults personnel

- Refugee and Asylum staff
- Probation officers
- Cadet training
- Various children's homes

The report also detailed that Prevent displays were depicted in libraries across the area and linked with the Council's 'Make Sure It Adds Up' campaign to stress the importance of checking stores and thinking critically before information was shared.

Members were advised that whilst specific statistics were provided to the Home Office on a quarterly basis it was important to also consider the impact of the work conducted. As progress was shown in things that didn't happen rather than work conducted feedback was vital to understand how work had affected those involved. It was reported that comments were gathered after each training session and project. That information was shared with partners and utilised to inform future plans.

A Member referred to what he felt was 'disgusting' treatment of some communities and that despite feedback to the Government with regard to concerns about the Prevent strategy no response had been received. It was reported that parents felt the strategy was heavy handed and that issues were blown out of proportion and they could not understand why referrals were made.

In response it was explained that great importance was placed on unpicking issues which were reported. Discussions were held with teachers, or others reporting issues, to understand the background to any concerns. It was rare for referrals to be made to the Counter Terrorism Police or for issues to meet their strict criteria for concern. There may be additional issues contributing to people's behaviour such as mental health problems. Assurances were provided that parents were always consulted and involved.

Concern was also expressed by Members about disparaging comments expressed about Muslim communities by the Government's Independent Reviewer of Prevent.

It was felt that the comments made at the Roundtable discussions in August 2022 had not been addressed in the report and requests that there should be a local independent approach taken to Prevent in Bradford had been ignored.

In response it was explained that consultation had taken place at a local level to discover people's concerns and their fears about the Prevent Strategy. It was explained that it had been difficult to engage with residents and the rationale for the roundtable meetings had been to work on issues locally and unpick the concern of residents.

A Member referred to a visit he had undertaken to a local football tournament where he had spoken to young people. They were concerned that they were visited at schools and when told about terrorism it was only about Islamic terrorism which was discussed. There had been no mention of the far right or other extremists which it was felt was more dangerous to local communities. It was felt that young people were more at risk of racial attacks from far right

extremists and that young people should be educated to protect them from real dangers.

It was further stressed that information presented appeared to suggest that the programme was working well, however, that was not the response which was being heard from local communities.

A Member believed that the perception of the Prevent agenda was anti Muslim and that nothing had been done to negate that image. He believed communities felt threatened and that people were working against them. In response it was explained that work was undertaken to address all forms of extremism and it was agreed that examples would be provided.

Those sentiments were echoed by Members who questioned where in the report were details of the groups of people targeted and the proportion of time spent with diverse groups at risk of radicalisation.

It was agreed that Members needed to be provided with a much more detailed report to include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- Which venues and how many venues had been utilised.
- The gender and ethnicity of the people the Prevent team were targeting and working with.
- The membership of the Prevent Advisory Group.
- Statistics which were reported quarterly to the Home Office.
- Specific information on what the Prevent Team had undertaken and achieved.
- Details of the groups most likely to be at risk of radicalisation.
- Measures undertaken to counter threats from far right extremists.
- Engagement with far right extremists.
- Funding and the funding criteria.
- The work which had been conducted with groups other than ethnic minorities.
- The precise schools engaged in the Prevent programme.
- What was not working in the strategy and measures to address those failings.

It was acknowledged that all Members were passionate and knowledgeable about the issues being discussed but they were not reassured that people who needed to be addressed were being reached. It was cited, as an example, that information shared at school assembly times would not reach those young people who were not in school. It was also highlighted that the report did not include an equality impact statement.

It agreed that a more detailed report be requested and that when that update report was provided the Prevent Co-ordinator; Education Officer and Engagement officers be invited to attend the meeting.

Resolved –

That the concerns of Members about the lack of detail contained in Document “I” be noted and the Strategic Director, Place, be requested to provide a further report in November 2022 containing more detailed information on the work of the Prevent Team.

Action: Strategic Director, Place

20. EQUALITY PLAN AND OBJECTIVES AND PLAN 2021-25 UPDATE

The report of the Assistant Director, Office of the Chief Executive, (**Document “J”**) was presented to update Members on progress made through the Equality Plan and Objectives and specific developments in the Bradford West Area.

Members were reminded that the plan progressed outcomes under the headings of Leadership, Workforce, Communities and Service Delivery and progress against each heading was reported in Document “J”.

Following a detailed presentation, the Chair of the Committee referred to a promise, made to him in his previous role in racial equality, that the Council’s workforce would reflect the communities it served. That promise had been made 20 years previously but he believed that the situation had not changed. He wished to see all communities reflected at all levels in the Council.

It was requested that officers from Human Resources should be engaged to fulfil that promise and stressed that there was a lot of talent already working in the organisation which should be mentored and assisted to provide a workforce representative of the city it served.

A Member referred to the reports statement that a new programme was being developed by workforce development which included specific training on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. In response to questions about when that work would begin it was explained that a person had been appointed to a new post and work had begun on Respect Training and Common Purpose. As that person was newly appointed it was felt more appropriate to report back at a later date.

Resolved –

That the update provided be welcomed.

Action: Assistant Director, Office of the Chief Executive.

Chair

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