

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 17 JANUARY 2020

Present:

Councillor Kevin Tait (Chair)
Councillor Oscar Gomez Reaney (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Joseph Birkin
Councillor Mark Foster
Councillor Jeff Lilley

Councillor Lilian Deighton
Councillor Roger Hall

Also Present:

Councillor P Bone	Killamarsh Parish Council (for Min No 483 only)
Councillor M Foster	Eckington Town Council
Councillor C Renwick	Dronfield Town Council (for Min No 483 only)
N Clark	Director of Property Services and Regeneration
D Stanton	Governance Officer
S Sternberg	Joint Head Of Service - Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer

479 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence had been received for this meeting.

480 Declarations of Interest

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillor M Foster declared an interest in Item 5 – Scrutiny Review – in his capacity as both a representative of Dronfield Town Council and as a member of the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor R Hall declared an interest as a registered holder of a taxi license issued by a different authority, and indicated that he would not take part in the debate and withdraw from the meeting if it was to be discussed.

481 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 10 January 2020 were deferred to the next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be held on 28 February 2020.

482 Residential Parking Strategy

The Director of Property Services and Development at Rykneld Homes Ltd was present to discuss the Residential Parking Strategy.

The Committee heard that the Residential Parking Strategy had been agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 November 2019. It was stated that the Council and Rykneld Homes Ltd would promote parking provisions within the District, and address residents' concerns.

Members noted a number of trial areas in the District, which included Holymoorside, Apperknowle and Ashover. The Officer stated that there would be further consultation throughout the trial period, and that a report would be submitted to Cabinet that delivered the findings and conclusions upon completion of the trial.

The Committee discussed the Garage Strategy, as well as how the Strategy could impact carbon reduction. Members agreed that it was also important to encourage residents to park responsibly and legally, as they had become increasingly aware of dangerous situations at schools within the District.

The Officer assured the Committee that there would be continued dialogue and consultation with both Ward Members and residents, and that so far the feedback from residents had been positive. It was stated that this feedback would be incorporated into any policy following the trial period.

The Committee agreed that the Council and Rykneld Homes Ltd should proactively seek consultation by making direct contact with residents through means such as posters and leaflets.

The Director of Property Services and Development at Rykneld Homes Ltd informed the Committee that the Chair of the Asset Management Group had requested that the Council explored offering financial support to residents to help create off-street parking.

Members discussed parking provisions for new developments, and information provided by the Joint Head of Planning at a previous meeting.

The Committee also discussed the importance of Police involvement in proposed consultations, and Members expressed concern over some violent incidents which had occurred due to conflict over street parking.

Members thanked the Officer for attending the meeting.

The Officer then left the meeting.

483 Scrutiny Review

Killamarsh Parish Council - Councillor P Bone

The Committee welcomed Councillor Pat Bone to the meeting as a representative of Killamarsh Parish Council to discuss residential parking in Killamarsh.

Councillor Bone detailed a number of concerning incidents in Killamarsh, which included irresponsible and illegal parking. The Committee heard that Killamarsh had seen an increasing volume of vehicles, and this, combined with a reduction in the local bus service had contributed to busy traffic. The traffic was increasingly becoming a problem, especially during rush hour and at school times.

Members agreed that a culture had developed where irresponsible and sometimes illegal parking had become acceptable to some residents. There was also a consensus that villages like Killamarsh had outgrown itself, and Members were concerned to how continued and future developments would impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.

The Committee discussed enforcement and the use of Civil Enforcement Officers to target problem areas in the District. Members agreed that the use of Enforcement Officers could be a positive solution to the parking problems in the area.

Members thanked Councillor P Bone for attending the meeting.

Councillor P Bone then left the meeting.

Eckington Town Council - Councillor C Renwick

The Committee welcomed Councillor Carolyn Renwick to the meeting as a representative of Eckington Parish Council to discuss residential parking in Eckington.

The Committee heard how residential parking was becoming an increasing problem in Eckington, with inconsiderable and sometimes illegal parking becoming normalised. Councillor Renwick commented that many of the estates in Eckington had not been built for modern car use, and as such the village had become over-whelmed with the increase in traffic.

Members noted that there was little enforcement in Eckington, and that an effective deterrent could improve the situation. It was stated that there had been a number of near accidents, and that it was only a matter of time before a serious incident was likely to occur.

The Committee heard that there had been concerning incidents involving verbal arguments and violence at schools, and that the Police had been involved at Eckington precinct.

Councillor Renwick informed the Committee that Derbyshire County Council had agreed to a Traffic Enforcement Scheme, and it was hoped that this would make Eckington safer for both road users and pedestrians, especially in areas around the local schools. The Committee heard that a number of schools had now introduced phased start times for different age groups in order to ease the congestion.

Members had a wide ranging discussion on the merits of offering financial support to residents who wished to create off-street parking themselves. The Committee

agreed that the Council should be looking to make greater use of Civil Enforcement Officers, and that they would like further information on their powers and remit to be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

Members also discussed by-laws, and the potential they had to improve the District's residential parking issues.

Members thanked Councillor Renwick for attending the meeting.

Councillor Renwick then left the meeting.

Dronfield Town Council - Councillor M Foster

As a representative of Dronfield Town Council, Councillor Mark Foster updated the Committee on residential parking issues in Dronfield.

Councillor Foster reiterated that Dronfield was experiencing many of the issues that other Parish Councils were having to deal with, and stated that in his view greater enforcement was needed. Members heard about a number of parking issues in Dronfield, including at the Civic Centre car park, and how the congestion was impacting on the health and wellbeing of residents. Free parking facilities had also been removed at Dronfield Train Station, resulting in rail users parking in surrounding residential areas.

The Committee noted that a planning application had been approved with little consideration to appropriate numbers of parking spaces, and that some developments were making residential parking worse.

The Committee had a wide ranging discussion on the powers and resources available to the Police in dealing with residential parking issues. Members agreed that greater enforcement, traffic calming measures and by-laws could be effective solutions to the District's residential parking issues.

484 List of Key Decisions - Issue No 91

The Committee considered Issue No 91 of the List of Key Decisions which set out the major decisions being taken over the next few months.

RESOLVED – That the List of Key Decisions, Issue No 91 be noted.

485 Scrutiny Work Programme

Members reiterated that they would like information on Civil Enforcement brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Communities Scrutiny Work Programme 2019-20 be noted.

486 Additional Urgent Items (if any)

There were no additional urgent items to be discussed at this meeting.

487 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that, with the agreement of the Chair, the time of the next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny had changed and would now take place on Friday, 28 February 2020 at 1.00 pm in the Executive Meeting Room, District Council Offices, Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield.
