

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2019

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2019

Present:

Councillor T Reader (Chair)
Councillor W Armitage
“ L Blanshard Councillor C Hunt

Also Present

Faye Green - Community Safety Manager (for Min No 584 only)
Tris Burdett - Partnership Development Officer (for Min No 585 only)
Darren Mitchell - Joint Streetscene & Waste Services Manager (for Min No 591 only)
Sue Veerman - Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Damon Stanton - Governance Officer

581 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors B Barnes, L Robinson and C Tite.

582 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.

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

583 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 8 February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

584 Community Safety

The Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Manager updating the Committee on the performance of the Community Safety Partnership as part of its annual review.

It was stated that crime in the District had increased, with a 10% rise in incidents in the year to-date. Members noted however that this trend had been seen country-wide, and the officer made clear that the number of crimes committed were small.

The officer outlined some of the achievements of the Community Safety Partnership, which included anti-social behaviour interventions, new CCTV surveillance facilities, and drug and alcohol awareness sessions within schools and youth clubs.

The Committee discussed the impact this was having on local residents and enquiries were made in regards to the effect that drug use was having on local schools.

The officer also outlined key themes for the Partnership in the New Year.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Community Safety Manager for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

585 Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership – Review of 2018/19

The Committee received a report from the North East Derbyshire District Council Partnership Team outlining the progress of the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership in the last year.

The report contained details of the health priorities, which included building cleaner communities and promoting healthy lifestyles. It detailed projects that had been commissioned, including the Pathways Project and Together Events. Members noted that with support from the Community Development Worker, the Shirland Healthy Futures Group started a Community Café in the village. The Committee heard that these events were proving both successful and popular. It was stated that since 2015 the total number of volunteers in these communities had exceeded 3,500, with at least 5,500 beneficiaries during that time. It was estimated that the social return on investment equated to £41,949 in 2018/19.

Members discussed that transport may be a barrier to some of those in the community attending social events. The officer stated that transport was provided to those who were identified as vulnerable, but acknowledged that more could be done.

The Committee discussed the Churches Together Programme in Dronfield, where enough money was raised to purchase the Parish Church Hall, which would be a community centre. Members noted that the Great Dronfield Get Together attracted 160 people to attend.

Members were informed of the excellent work of the Welfare Officers at Derbyshire County Council on Universal Credit and asked whether the Committee wished to receive an update from them.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Partnership Development Officer for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (1) The report be noted.
- (2) The Overview and Scrutiny Manager invite Welfare Rights to attend a future meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

586 Change of Order of Agenda Items

The Chair, in agreement with other Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee, changed the order of the agenda items as set out within these Minutes.

587 Draft Scrutiny Review

Members discussed the draft report on Homelessness. Two changes to recommendation 1.2 and 1.5 of the report had been submitted by the Chair of the Committee. The Committee agreed with the new wording of these two recommendations.

RESOLVED – That the draft report for the Scrutiny Review into Homelessness be agreed.

(Members/Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

588 Monitoring of Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations

The Committee considered the implementation of previous Committee and Review recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

RESOLVED – That the Committee note the progress on the Scrutiny recommendations 2018/19.

(Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

589 List of Key Decisions – Issue No 83

The Committee considered Issue No 83 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 83, be noted.

590 Scrutiny Work Programme

The Committee considered the Work Programme for the Communities Scrutiny Committee 2018/19 which set out the items that the Committee had considered through the year. The Work Programme had been completed.

RESOLVED – That the Communities Scrutiny Committee’s Work Programme for 2018/19 be noted.

(Members/Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

591 Streetscene

The Committee received an update from the Joint Streetscene and Waste Services Manager on the Waste Collection and Recycling Policy.

It was stated that the joint procurement arrangements had provided an initial shared efficiency savings to the Councils of around £100,000. Members heard that the Council was providing environmental educational messages to primary school children, which included events and educational packs for recycling. It was stated that to-date, in partnership with the Environmental Health Team, the Council had jointly delivered school education programmes to 137 classes of around 4,100 children across North East Derbyshire and Bolsover.

The Joint Streetscene and Waste Services Manager outlined the recently established UK Waste and Resource Strategy and its key milestones. Members heard that the UK would work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030 and would look to eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

Members noted that the Council’s combined recycling rate had been relatively stable over the past several years, where in 2017/18 the recycling rate was 46.6%.

Members discussed green and burgundy bins and the changes in recycling habits amongst local residents. The officer stated that extra recycling burgundy bins were being given to larger families to encourage recycling. Members noted that recycling rates had slowly increased over the past 10 years.

The Committee heard that the Government had set out a consultation on a 25 year plan. Its aim was to achieve consistency amongst different recycling practices across the country. The officer informed Members that the recycling rate for North East Derbyshire was slightly higher than the National average, and it was hoped that a better practice of diverting food from domestic waste would increase that further.

The officer informed the Committee that the diversion of food waste into green bins had not been particularly successful, due to perceived problems with cleanliness. The Council hoped to encourage further diversions of food waste into green bins by offering biodegradable corn starch bags to residents.

The Committee discussed fly-tipping and the fluctuating incidents that had happened recently in the District. Enquiries were also made in regards to the abuse of drivers, and the officer detailed several incidents where action had been taken by the Authority.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Joint Streetscene and Waste Services Manager for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

592 Additional Urgent Items (if any)

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

593 Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee would be confirmed once the Council's Calendar of Meetings Schedule for the 2019/2020 municipal year was finalised.
