

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

25 July 2017

Feedback from the Area Committees

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To bring to the attention of the Executive specific issues considered at the recent meetings of the County Council's:-

- ◆ **Richmondshire Area Committee - 14 June 2017**
- ◆ **Hambleton Area Committee - 26 June 2017**
- ◆ **Ryedale Area Committee - 28 June 2017**
- ◆ **Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee - 5 July 2017**

2.0 Richmondshire Area Committee - 14 June 2017

2.1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

County Councillors Helen Grant and Angus Thompson were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, until the first meeting following the Annual County Council meeting in 2018.

2.2 Items raised by Members of the Committee – County Councillor Blackie

- a) Communicating and signing Road Closures in the Upper Dales and elsewhere
Councillor Blackie highlighted a number of examples of poor signage and how communicating these at short notice was causing inconvenience.

At his request, the Proprietor of Tan Hill Inn addressed the Committee about the inconvenience and loss of trade his business had experienced, due to lack of notice about road closures on the weekend of the Swaledale Show.

The Improvement Manager responded to the points raised and said that the Highways Section would aim to build up a library of events in the area which should assist, going forward.

- b) Parking Enforcement in Hawes

Councillor Blackie referred to Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council having to continually deal with complaints about the Police and Scarborough Borough Council not properly enforcing parking restrictions in Hawes. (Scarborough Borough Council act on behalf of the County Council on parking enforcement issues).

His report also referred to complaints made about the officious attitude of an Enforcement Officer and the lack of willingness of the Police and Scarborough Borough Council to book offending motorcyclists who park on double yellow lines and trail bikers for parking on the pavement outside the Penny Garth Café in Hawes, which was a particular pinch point.

Officers responded to the points made.

- c) Future of the Friarage Hospital and other Key Local NHS Healthcare Services
Councillor Blackie advised of his concerns that the Friarage was being downgraded and would not be dealing with planned or emergency care. He also referred to an incident where the Ambulance Service, having said an Ambulance would be sent, did not send one and did not ring back to advise of this.

It is a recommendation to the Executive:-

That the North Yorkshire County Council Richmondshire Area Committee requests that the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health Integration bring to the attention of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG the concerns of Richmondshire Area Committee that, given the re-arrangements and reductions of NHS healthcare provision that are taking place, there are not sufficient resources being made available to meet the needs of the communities the local NHS serves, and in particular, there is already a shortfall of emergency ambulances along with their front-line crew members to cater for the current demands being placed upon the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

2.3 Service Updates

North Yorkshire Police - among the matters highlighted were the fact that the Police Cadets had been successfully relaunched in York and Scarborough and a scheme would shortly commence in Richmondshire.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – update on Community Safety Activities - there was some discussion about the proposal of the Police and Crime Commissioner that the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police should merge. The Leader advised that the County Council has a duty to come to a conclusion about the proposal, but would be just one of several consultees.

Community Safety - dealing with domestic abuse is a priority for the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. Other priorities for 2017/18 were:-

- On-going development of the Community Safety Partnership
- Work in Safer Hubs
- Protecting vulnerable young people

Stronger Communities – the update included:-

- The library transition programme was progressing – management groups are working hard and hopefully the public see “business as usual” when visiting the libraries. The refurbishment at Richmond Community Library has been completed and the library re-opened on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May.
- The Stronger Communities Grants Programme had awarded grants totalling £128,337 to 16 projects in 2016/17.
- The new Stronger Communities Grants Programme would be launched at a series of roadshow events.

Highways - the Improvement Manager responded to Members queries on a number of matters, including works at Quakers Lane; damage caused at Station Bridge and the “report it” facility on the Council’s website.

2.4 Public Rights of Way

The Committee considered a report by the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services, concerning a set of proposals relating to the categorisation of the Public Rights of Way Network. The report also included the results of the public consultation on the draft proposals.

The Countryside Access Manager responded to queries from Members about a number of areas, including landowner responsibilities and the footpath at Mercury Bridge in Richmond.

The Service's suggested response to the consultation was supported.

2.5 Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Committee resolved as follows:-

- a) That the following appointment be made to a "Category 2" outside body, to represent the County Council and to serve until the date of the County Council elections in 2021:-

Richmondshire Community Safety Local Delivery Team
County Councillor Carl Les

- b) That the following appointments be made to "Category 3" outside bodies, to be the County Council's appointee, each to serve until a replacement is appointed:-

- Atkinson and Clarke Educational Foundation - A.S.Tate
- John Dakyn's Educational Charity - Mr Alan J Cowie and County Councillor Angus Thompson
- Reverend Michael Sydall Educational Foundation – County Councillor Carl Les
- Richmond School Trust - County Councillor Stuart Parsons
- Yorebridge Educational Foundation - County Councillor John Blackie and R Tunstall

2.6 Membership of the Area Committee

The Committee made the following decisions on this issue:-

- a) That it be recommended to the County Council that there be twelve Co-opted Members on this Committee – six from Parish/Town Councils and six from the Voluntary/Community Sector (each County Councillor Member of the Committee to nominate one Voluntary/Community Sector representative).
- b) That, because of the review to be undertaken of the Terms of Reference of Area Committees, Co-opted Members be appointed until the first meeting following the Annual County Council Meeting in 2018 (rather than for the usual four year term).
- c) That in respect of the Co-opted Parish/Town Council representatives, a ballot be held to determine who should be the representative covering the Middle Dales electoral division.

3.0 Hambleton Area Committee - 26 June 2017

3.1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Area Committee elected County Councillors Heather Moorhouse and David Hugill as its Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, to serve until the first meeting of the Area Committee to be held following the County Council elections in 2021.

3.2 Membership of the Area Committee

The Area Committee recommended that the following seats be created for Co-opted Members on Hambleton Area Committee for a period of one year, until the meeting following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2018, also subject to each Co-opted Member (and Substitute Co-opted Member) continuing to be eligible to represent his/her nominating body:

- 5 x representatives nominated by Parish/Town Councils
- 1 x representative from Community First Yorkshire - Hambleton.

3.3 Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Area Committee made appointments to 11 outside bodies, nominees to serve until the County Council election in 2021. These included:

- Hambleton Community Action
- Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Council
- Safer Hambleton Steering Group for Community Safety
- Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee
- Appleton Wiske Educational Foundation
- Constance Elizabeth Beckwith Bequest (Easingwold and Husthwaite)
- Heber Charity (Thornton-le-Beans)
- John Dakyn Trust, East Cowton Fund
- Middleton School Foundation
- Preston Education Foundation (Stokesley)
- Prowde's Educational Charity

3.4 Service Update

The Area Committee received updates concerning the following:-

North Yorkshire Police - Inspector David Murray provided an update regarding activity within the Hambleton area covering the following:

- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Rural Watch Patrols
- Stokesley and Great Ayton Letters
- Counter Terrorism
- Northallerton Custody Closure Pilot
- Recruitment
- HQ17 Alverton Court

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service - Group Manager David Pitt advised of community safety activities undertaken and incidents of note April 2016 to March 2017.

Stronger Communities - Adele Wilson-Hope, Communities Delivery Manager Hambleton, provided an overview of the programme, advised of the development of

the new investment strategy - Stronger Communities Investment Prospectus, and updated on local projects.

Highways - covering the Capital Maintenance Programme, Surface Dressing Programme and Stokesley Road (B1257) closures and diversions.

3.5 Public Rights of Way - A New Approach to Categorising the Public Rights of Way Network

The Area Committee considered the draft proposals relating to the categorisation of the Public Rights of Way network, the consultation responses received to the draft proposals, and the suggested response of the Public Rights of Way Service to the consultation. Comments from Area Committee Members were as follows:-

- Proposed re-designation of the Coast to Coast Route as a National Trail.
- Potential for 'stopping-up' unused PROWs.
- Enforcement Action.
- Potential use of the Highways 'Portal' for reporting PROW issues.
- Number of countryside volunteers available in PROW maintenance workforce.

The recommendations for the new approach were supported.

3.6 Stokesley HWRC

The Area Committee received an update from the Waste Services Manager on the operation of the HWRC at Stokesley highlighting the following issues:-

- A general update on the 20 x HWRC's near major centres of population.
- Stokesley - major changes.
- Efficiency savings introduced on 1 April 2016.
- Residents only permits.
- Tonnage changes.
- Complaints and other feedback.
- Fly-tipping.

4.0 **Ryedale Area Committee - 28 June 2017**

4.1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Area Committee elected County Councillors Caroline Goodrick and Keane Duncan as its Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, to serve until the first meeting of the Area Committee to be held following the County Council elections in 2021.

4.2 Membership of the Area Committee

The Area Committee recommended that the following seats be created for Co-opted Members on Ryedale Area Committee for a period of one year, until the meeting following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2018:-

- One representative nominated by Community First Yorkshire
- One representative nominated by Ryedale Parish Councils

The Area Committee recommended that there would be no District Council Co-opted Members on Ryedale Area Committee because five County Councillors were also District Councillors.

4.3 Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Area Committee has made appointments to 3 outside bodies in Category 2; County Councillor Caroline Goodrick to Ryedale Citizens Advice Bureau and Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee and County Councillor Val Arnold to the Safer Ryedale Delivery Team.

The Area Committee made no appointment to outside bodies in Category 3. A report would be taken to the next meeting for the Committee appointments to Category 3 outside bodies.

4.4 Public Rights of Way – A New Approach to Categorising the Public Rights of Way Network

The Area Committee has considered the draft proposals relating to the categorisation of the Public Rights of Way network, the consultation responses received to the draft proposals, and the suggested response of the Public Rights of Way Service to the consultation. Comments from Area Committee Members were as follows:-

- Members recognised the need to balance what the authority could actually do.
- Whether any Category D public rights of way will be reinstated. Members were asked to note that the report gave examples of issue prioritisation scoring (within Tables A2 and A3 of Appendix 1) which illustrated circumstances under which that Category D would be allocated higher priorities for action.
- Members acknowledged the value of community groups and volunteers to help the authority.
- Would there be any adjustments to the programme, the Committee were informed that there would be a review in 12 months following full implementation and that operational flexibility for Officers was an integral aspect of the proposal to deal with any anomalies that may arise.
- Concerns that horse riders would be forced onto the carriageway.
- Was there any value in putting lower level footpaths into the Parish Council remit.

4.5 Service Updates

The Area Committee received updates concerning the following:-

Highways England on the A64 - Providing an update on items presented from the last meeting and a general look forward regarding programmed work. The Committee were informed that the Barton Hill Scheme is now programmed for delivery for this financial year with an anticipated start date of November 2017.

Stronger Communities – The work undertaken, and the new programme to be rolled out in 2017/18, in the Ryedale area. The Programme aimed to support communities to help themselves and create local solutions for the delivery of services.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – Community safety activities and providing an update regarding other issues from within the Ryedale District.

North Yorkshire Police on initiatives currently being undertaken within the Ryedale District.

4.6 Public Questions or Statements

The Area Committee received two public questions:

Mr Simon Thackray concerning the planned experimental 7.5 tonne weight restriction over Norton level crossing. In response, the Area Highways Manager advised of a meeting in the Business and Environmental Services Directorate where the 7.5 tonne weight restriction over Norton level crossing would be finalised.

Mr Chris Miles, Chairman Sherburn Parish Council concerning works being carried out along the A64 particularly in Sherburn village which suffered from flooding whenever there is rainfall. He asked what remedial works are to be carried out on the A64 at Sherburn following the CCTV survey by Highways England, in order to minimise the ongoing flooding issues while the more permanent works are decided upon and completed. In response, Simon Jones from Highways England advised that Highways England have a number of drainage renewal schemes already committed for delivery in its forward programme between 2018 and 2020, including Sherburn, which will replace the current drainage system in its entirety.

5.0 Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee - 5 July 2017

5.1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Area Committee elected County Councillors Joe Plant and Clive Pearson as its Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, to serve until the first meeting of the Area Committee to be held following the County Council elections in 2021.

5.2 Membership of the Area Committee

The Area Committee recommended that the following seats be created for Co-opted Members for a period of one year, until the meeting following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2018:-

- Four representatives nominated by Parish/Town Councils
- One representative nominated by the Voluntary Sector

5.3 Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Area Committee made appointments to 5 outside bodies, nominees to serve until the County Council Election in 2021. These included:

- Citizens Advice Scarborough and District - County Councillor Roberta Swiers;
- Scarborough United Scholarships Foundation with the John Kendal Trust – County Councillor Janet Jefferson;
- North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum Executive Committee – County Councillors Joe Plant, Derek Bastiman, David Jeffels and as substitute Andrew Jenkinson;
- Eskdaleside-cum-Ugglebarnby Educational Foundation – County Councillor Clive Pearson;
- Staintondale Educational Trust – County Councillor Derek Bastiman.

5.4 Service Updates

The Area Committee received updates concerning the following:-

North Yorkshire Police – Temporary Chief Inspector Andy Colbourne provided an update regarding incidents and performance within Scarborough and District covering all categories of activity.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – the written report of Group Manager Danny Westmoreland was noted in his absence, this covered Community safety activities undertaken and incidents of note from 1 March to 31 May 2017. The Chairman of the Fire Authority, County Councillor Andrew Backhouse, acknowledged the Fire Brigades Union's concerns regarding the deployment of tactical response vehicles, advising that Owen Haywood had responded, and commenting that he would seek assurances that these vehicles are now working well.

Stronger Communities – Karen Atkinson (Stronger Communities Delivery Manager Scarborough District) provided an overview of the programme, advised of the development of the new investment strategy – Stronger Communities Investment Prospectus, and updated on local projects.

Highways – Richard Marr (Area Highways Manager) provided an update on recent activity: the completion of the surface dressing programme; the review of brown tourist/visitor advice signs; infrastructure changes relating to the potash mine; proposed resurfacing and street lighting works for Marine Drive and Royal Albert which are presently out to tender – liaison with the Scarborough Borough Council is on-going regarding other facilities such as car charging points; the desire to create a corridor to the seafront building upon the precinct theme.

5.5 Whitby Controlled Parking Zone

The Area Committee were consulted regarding whether the operation of the Whitby Controlled Parking Zone should be reduced to 1 March to 31 October. Richard Marr, Area Highways Manager, acknowledged that this is a long running issue – noting the receipt of a petition from local traders requesting the lifting of restrictions in the winter. He advised that to make a change in winter would have an adverse impact on the locality which is an all year round destination. He also responded to a public question which had been submitted in writing from Mr Peter Croft regarding the operating surplus for 2015 and 2016. Feedback from Area Committee Members is summarised below:-

- It was noted that last year the Area Committee had voted unanimously for seasonal parking – but it was acknowledged that this is a decision for the Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services.
- It was noted that this is always a tricky topic, but on balance the Borough and County provisions seem to be working well together – although it was acknowledged that the public are not always clear regarding the Borough offer: there are 1100 free parking spaces provided in winter.
- It was felt that if the arrangements were changed to seasonal, this would weaken the County stance.
- A comment was made that parking was a nightmare before the new arrangements, and following implementation it is far better.
- A local Member expressed some reservations based upon the response to the consultation.

On balance Members supported the retention of the controlled parking zone in Whitby.

5.6 Public Rights of Way – A New Approach to Categorising the Public Rights of Way Network

The Area Committee considered the draft proposals relating to the categorisation of the Public Rights of Way network, the consultation responses received to the draft proposals, and the suggested response of the Public Rights of Way Service to the consultation. Comments from Area Committee Members were as follows:-

- Yes, this is the right direction of travel when resources are limited.
- A query was raised regarding Eastfield Bridleway which is regularly overgrown and barely passable at times.
- It was felt that landowner responsibilities must be firmly reiterated.
- The importance of retaining valuable shortcuts for locals and routes for ramblers was noted, also the importance of public rights of way from a health perspective as a source of exercise.
- The important contribution of Parish Councils and volunteers was also noted.

The proposals were supported.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 That the report be noted.

6.2 That the proposals regarding the establishment of co-opted Member seats on Area Committees be commended to County Council for approval on 19 July 2017. (The Executive Report to County Council reflects these.)

6.3 From Richmondshire Area Committee:

That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health Integration bring to the attention of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG the concerns of Richmondshire Area Committee that, given the re-arrangements and reductions of NHS healthcare provision that are taking place, there are not sufficient resources being made available to meet the needs of the communities the local NHS serves, and in particular, there is already a shortfall of emergency ambulances along with their front-line crew members to cater for the current demands being placed upon the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

Barry Khan
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17 July 2017

Background Documents: the published agendas for each of the meetings identified in the headings in this report