

North Yorkshire County Council

County Committee for Hambleton

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2017 at 2.00 pm at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Heather Moorhouse in the Chair.

County Councillors:- Robert Baker, David Blades, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Bryn Griffiths, David Hugill, Caroline Patmore and Annabel Wilkinson.

Co-Opted Members: Caroline Artingstoll (Thirsk Parish/Town Councils), Kevin Hardisty (Northallerton Parish/Town Councils) and Leah Swain (Community First Yorkshire)

Officers:- Inspector Dave Murray (North Yorkshire Police), Sally Mitchell (Democratic Services), Group Manager David Pitt (North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service), Mike Rudd (Head of Commissioning – Services for Older People) and Nigel Smith (Area Highways Manager)

Also in attendance:-

County Councillor Carl Les (Leader of the Council)

County Councillor David Chance (Executive Member)

Janet Probert (Chief Officer – Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group)

No members of the public

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors: Peter Sowray and John Weighell OBE

18. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

19. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items on the agenda at this stage at the meeting.

20. Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

21. Area Committee Membership - Appointment of Co-opted Members

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) inviting the Area Committee formally to appoint persons nominated to serve as Co-opted Members on the Area Committee.

Resolved -

That the following Co-opted Members be appointed to serve until the first meeting of the Area Committee following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2018, unless terminated sooner, and subject to each Co-opted Member continuing to be eligible to represent his/her nominating body:-

Community First Yorkshire - Leah Swain
Northallerton area Parish/Town Councils - Kevin Hardisty
Thirsk area Parish/Town Councils - Caroline Artingstoll

22. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Update for Hambleton

County Councillor David Blades stated that although not a disclosable pecuniary interest he wished it to be known that he was a Member of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Considered -

The report of Group Manager David Pitt advising Members of the Area Committee of community safety activities involving North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) that had occurred between 1 April 2017 and 30 June 2017 and providing an update regarding other issues from within the Hambleton District during that period.

Group Manager David Pitt highlighted the following issues from his report:-

- ◆ Service Delivery – an overview of the Community Safety initiatives conducted in the Hambleton Area for the past 3 months
- ◆ Prevention Activity
- ◆ Operational Welfare Unit – the replacement Welfare Unit was expected to be delivered into the Service in September 2017, becoming operational in the Autumn. The Unit would be located at Thirsk Station and crewed by RDS personnel
- ◆ Emergency First Responder (EFR) – the Scheme remained active at Pickering and Lythe Fire Stations, but notice had been served by YAS to all Yorkshire and Humberside Fire & Rescue Services to terminate the EFR Schemes from 30th November 2017.
- ◆ Youth Engagement – the BTEC Scheme at Stokesley School had started in June with 12 students enrolled in the Course which aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour and raise the profile of the Service within the community. Northallerton Station had concluded, but recruiting was now taking place for a new cohort for a Course starting in September
- ◆ Response Activity

In response to a question from County Councillor Bryn Griffiths, Group Manager David Pitt agreed that he would provide the Committee with any statistics relating to the number of Smoke Alarms fitted, compared to those eligible for the service.

Group Manager David Pitt gave an assurance to the Committee that there was currently on-going discussion with the Government and Fire & Rescue Services regarding the termination of the EFR Scheme.

The Committee was advised by Group Manager David Pitt that the FBU had set out a number of concerns regarding the on-going review currently being carried out by the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority, which had been put to the meeting of the Authority held on 20th September, 2017. In order to address one of the concerns raised, the Chairman of the Authority had offered an opportunity for the creation of a Non-voting seat for a FBU representative on the Authority's Collaboration Committee.

Group Manager David Pitt informed the Committee that there was on-going engagement with the Authority regarding the implementation of the TRV's and associated operational and crewing matters. County Councillor Gareth Dadd commented that he had previously asked for an assurance that the safety of the public would not be adversely affected by the review and the introduction of the TRV's into the Service and hoped that any decisions would be based on factual evidence, rather than vested interests on behalf of the Fire Brigade Unions.

Members were informed that there was sufficient hard data and information to support the use of TRV's within the Service and the Senior Management Team were standing by previous decisions and was confident that the correct decisions had been taken, however, more data was going to be presented to the December meeting of the Fire & Rescue Authority. An assurance was given that the current number of personnel crewing the TRV's would remain in place up till December 2017.

Resolved -

That the NYFRS activities that had taken place within the area between 1 April 2017 and 30 June 2017 be noted.

23. North Yorkshire Police Update

Considered -

The report of Inspector Dave Murray (Hambleton Neighbourhood Inspector) updating Members on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour, and other issues currently affecting the Hambleton Area.

Caroline Artingstoll declared for the record that as an independent Lay Visitor, she had an interest in the item relating to Northallerton Station Custody Suite Pilot

Inspector Dave Murray highlighted the following issues from his report:-

- ◆ Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – crime continued to remain stable, with an overall reduction within the year to date
- ◆ Burglary – overall was showing an increase, with 121 crimes within the same period, but remained well below 2015-16 levels which saw 157 crimes. One male had been remanded in prison in connection with 5 burglaries and 7 thefts over recent months in Northallerton

- ◆ Rural Watch – secured funding continued to support the very successful Rural Watch patrols, ensuring the volunteers were supported by dedicated officers
- ◆ ASB – remained slightly up on the same period last year, however, this was on the back of significant reductions over the previous 5 to 6 years
- ◆ Counter Terrorism – levels of Threat fluctuated dependent on national events and North Yorkshire Police continued to work alongside partners in maximising opportunities, strengthening and communicating the Prevent Strategy
- ◆ Northallerton Custody Closure Pilot had been concluded and analysis work had been presented to the Chief Constable and the PCC for a decision scheduled for 26th September 2017
- ◆ Recruitment – recruitment for Police Constables and PCSO's continued, with further Officers and Detectives being interviewed in late September, as part of a national Officer transferee advertisement. PCSO's were currently starting independent patrol, with more recruits having commenced their training earlier in September
- ◆ HQ17 Alverton Court – the migration of staff from Newby Wiske was almost complete and the planned move for Northallerton High Street Officers was scheduled for late October.

County Councillor David Blades asked if Inspector Dave Murray could provide a report for the 4th December, 2017 meeting of the Area Committee outlining the outcome of the Northallerton Custody Suite Closure Pilot, together with the reasons for the decision and this was agreed. Inspector Dave Murray also commented that if the Custody Suite did not meet Home Office criteria, it would need to be re-built in any event.

County Councillor David Blades again raised concerns regarding the shortfall of parking spaces at Alverton Court and was informed by Inspector Dave Murray that only one complaint had been received from a resident of the area, but upon investigation, the car had been legally parked. The Committee was assured that the parking situation was continuing to be closely monitored.

Questions were raised by Members regarding the deployment and effectiveness of Road Safety cameras, particularly along the A19 and Inspector Dave Murray assured the Committee that they were placed for road safety reasons only and were not deployed on a daily basis. It was agreed that Inspector Murray would report back to the Committee with statistics relating to the effectiveness of Road Safety cameras deployed within the Hambleton District.

Resolved -

That the content of the report and issues raised, be noted and Inspector Dave Murray be requested to provide an up-date on the Northallerton Custody Suite Closure Pilot and statistics on the effectiveness of Road Safety cameras deployed within Hambleton District, within his report to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 4th December, 2017.

24. Highways Update

Considered -

The oral report of the Area Highways Manager providing an update on highways issues within Hambleton District.

Nigel Smith highlighted the following issues:-

- ◆ Capital Programme 2017/18 - 95% of schemes had completed on the ground and the Programme was well advanced, due to reasonable weather and good team work with contractors. There were a small number of schemes to be delivered on site, but these were programmed to be delivered by 31 March 2018. The 2018/19 Capital Programme design was currently well underway in conjunction with partners and forward planning for 2020/21 was currently going through a data collection exercise where projects would subsequently be confirmed, schemes developed and ultimately given provisional delivery dates.
- ◆ Winter maintenance - Winter Season officially started on 2 October 2017, requiring a considerable amount of preparation. For example; salt bins and salt heaps had all been replenished as had the stock of salt, including the large salt barns located at Stokesley and Thirsk. There were currently 55,000 tonnes of salt available Countywide. Some of the Gritter fleet had been replaced with newer and more reliable machines. The workforce standby rotas had all been confirmed that would take the Authority through to April 2018, which was the end of the Winter Season.
- ◆ Routine maintenance - routine pothole filling as usual with a healthy position inasmuch that the workbank was manageable and works were being undertaken commensurate with the duration for completion placed on orders
- ◆ Capital Programme - the annual closure of Sutton Bank for routine maintenance had been successful, involving rock face inspections and the repairs to the crash barriers at the hair pin bends.
- ◆ No. 2 Area Office - the Thirsk Area Highways Manager reported that due to some long term absences, staff had been utilised from the Harrogate and Selby offices with WSP being used, together with careful prioritisation of workloads
- ◆ Area 2 Member meeting - the annual meeting with Members and the Director of BES was due to be held on 5 October 2017. Members were encouraged to contact the Area Office via Sarah Bailey as a primary point of contact. This method of communication was proving to be an asset to the operation of the Highways establishment.
- ◆ Countywide Partnerships Workshop - a very positive countywide partnership workshop had been held recently with Ringways, Barrie Mason, ESL and NYCC partners from around the county, with a particular focus on customer satisfaction and how to improve the quality of highway services that were delivered.

Members asked that their expressed commendations to Nigel Smith on the quality of the service provided by himself, Jayne Charlton and Sarah Bailey be recorded.

Nigel Smith agreed to forward Kevin Hardisty information on the legal use of mobility scooters.

County Councillor Caroline Patmore reported very broken down carriageways in and around villages in her locality including Rillington, Stillington, Wheldrake and Crayke and asked Nigel Smith whether a Highways Inspector could be asked to investigate at those locations.

Several Members commented on the variable quality of weed spraying across the district which Nigel Smith noted.

County Councillor Bryn Griffiths enquired whether newly planned housing developments were Highways assessed for the provision of dropped kerbs and was informed that they were and that a survey was currently planned for next year to look at tactile paving and dropped crossings etc. Highways was annually asked for the

provision of dropped crossing pavements at various locations, but collectively, the budget was not finite, so locations which would bring the most benefit were looked at first.

Caroline Artingstoll commented on the Parish Portal being rolled out and enquired whether enough Parishes were using this method and was informed by Nigel Smith that the take-up rate was improving, but many still emailed the Area Office. He gave an assurance that action was always taken on matters raised via Parish Portal and that method of contact also benefited the establishment by freeing- up officer time.

Resolved -

That the oral update by the Area Manager on highways matters within the Hambleton District be noted.

25. Community First Yorkshire

Considered -

Presentation by Leah Swain, Chief Executive of Community First Yorkshire, introducing and outlining the work of Community First Yorkshire.

Leah Swain highlighted the following issues from her report:

- ◆ Introduction - Community First Yorkshire was an independent charity formed in April 2017 from a merger of two well established charities, Rural Action Yorkshire and North Yorkshire and York Forum which worked across North, South and West Yorkshire to inspire and support positive, local action. It had successfully tendered to secure a grant from North Yorkshire County Council and NHS North Yorkshire to provide a countywide service to provide support for capacity building VCS organisations and volunteering.
- ◆ Community support and volunteering - capacity and capability support for social enterprises, voluntary and community organisations and volunteering support for individuals and volunteer involving organisations, representation, collaboration and sharing good practice, information and intelligence and also provided a service for the whole sector - from registered charities to individuals with a great idea and everything in between.
- ◆ Support available - marketing and communications, funding, fund raising and income generation, service delivery and improvements to services, volunteer recruitment and/or volunteer management, governance, including leadership support, policy development and support for trustees, strategy - planning including business, parish or emergency plans, outcomes impact monitoring evaluations and quality, workforce development and employment advice, finances and legal compliances eg data protection, safeguarding, community engagement and consultation and training on a wide range of topics.

Leah Swain welcomed the positive comments from Members and advised that the organisation had been kept very low key for its first six months to enable the staffing to settle down, but a big PR initiative was planned to start this Autumn 2017.

Resolved -

That the presentation be noted.

26. Proposed Closure of Alzheimer's Society Facility, Stokesley

Considered -

The joint report of Mike Rudd, Head of Commissioning - Services for Older People and Adele Wilson-Hope, Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (Hambleton) providing an update on the proposed closure of the Alzheimer's Society Facility, Stokesley.

Mike Rudd informed the Area Committee that on Wednesday 2 August 2017 HAS staff were made aware of Alzheimer's Society's (AS) plans to cease delivery of the dementia day service operating from Town Close in Stokesley. The service was operated and funded by the Alzheimer's Society with no funding contribution or involvement from NYCC. The decision had been taken by AS following a review of the service which determined that the day centre was no longer financially viable, having run at a substantial loss over the previous year. In addition AS were concerned about the suitability and sustainability of Town Close as a venue. The service was attended by eight people at any one time with a total of 11 people registered as members. The service was charged at £45 per session running from 10 am to 3 pm, including lunch.

At the point at which NYCC was made aware of the decision, AS had made staff and attendees aware of its decision and were attempting to work with people and their families to secure alternative support, which included offers of places at a similar day centre in Northallerton. In order to pursue potential alternatives to the service, Stronger Communities began working with Stokesley Community Care Association (CCA) who expressed an interest in supporting the group. Following discussions through Stronger Communities the CCA had agreed to take on the service with effect from 1 October 2017, to ensure there was no break in service. This would include supporting any funding shortfall in the short term and it was intended that Stronger Communities would then work with the CCA to develop a sustainable, longer term project to ensure support for people living with dementia in Stokesley on an ongoing basis.

Mike Rudd commented that whilst the decision to close the AS service was disappointing and the manner in which it had been taken doubly so, there was confidence that a strong and suitable successor organisation had been found in the CCA. The Committee was assured that HAS, Stronger Communities and the CCA would work closely together to ensure there would be able to take the service forward to ensure that people living with dementia and their carers in Stokesley were suitably supported.

The Area Committee commended Mike Rudd and Adele Wilson-Hope on their actions and asked that the Area Committee be kept fully informed of future developments on the new proposals.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

27. Local Mental Health Services - Consultation

Considered -

The oral report of Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (HRW CCG) providing the Area Committee with information on the public consultation on proposals for improving adult and older peoples' services in Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Janet Probert (Accountable Officer – HRW CCG) summarised the consultation and highlighted the following:-

- ◆ Options – Option 1: Do nothing – maintain the current inpatient provision at the Friarage Hospital and the current level of community mental health services Option 2: Preferred option - Enhanced community and crisis services with inpatient care provided at the nearest neighbouring hospital in either Darlington, or Middlesbrough. Older patients with very severe organic mental health problems will go to Bishop Auckland General Hospital, which was the nearest Hospital for these patients Option 3: Enhanced community and crisis service with inpatient care at a single site at either Darlington or Middlesbrough. Older patients with very severe organic mental health problems would go to Bishop Auckland General Hospital which was the nearest specialist hospital for these patients
- ◆ Consultation – from 26th June 2017 to 15th September 2017 and engaged with 866 individuals, local MP's, community groups, patients/service users, local GP's and many other individual groups and bodies, CCG officers attended 27 extra meetings, hosted 35 open public events, distributed 748 hard copy summaries and published 162 media posts
- ◆ Response from Consultation with 866 people – 442 Questionnaires completed, 387 comments received and 55 other feedbacks
- ◆ Challenges – complexities of the service, stigma, Friarage concerns, hard to reach and engage service users and other consultations
- ◆ What CCG did – targeted voluntary & community groups, released statements & briefings, widespread presence, published more accessible information and implemented a service user group
- ◆ Next steps – finish the analysis, complete the report, NHS England, Northern Clinical Senate, report to CCG Governing Body and update Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman thanked Janet Probert for attending the meeting and her presentation.

County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson asked whether a 'compromise' was a possibility ie. Older people stayed in Northallerton at the Friarage and younger people sent elsewhere and Janet Probert explained the difficulties around that suggestion and re-iterated that the biggest priority was to keep people supported in their own homes where ever possible. Hambleton District also had a very small number of people in this category, so economies of scale were also an issue to be taken into account.

County Councillor Caroline Patmore commented on the problems of rural transport which the Committee echoed, but expressed concern about the availability of support staff locally to look after people in their own homes. Janet Probert advised that it was easier to recruit staff to home based care than unit based care and there would be a detailed implementation plan, once an Option was chosen.

Queries were raised about the diagnostic aspect of care as GP's were over-stretched already and Members were informed that Psychiatrists were already in place in Hambleton and Richmondshire and gave an assurance that the Mental Health Services transformation programme was a reinvestment of resources and not a money saving exercise.

Janet Probert informed the Committee that pre-engagement workshops were planned starting on 4th October 2017 if Members were interested in attending.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and a representative of the CCG be invited to future meetings of the Committee to update members on health matters affecting the District, or the future of the Friarage Hospital.

28. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) presenting the Programme of Work scheduled for future meetings and inviting Members to comment, amend and/or suggest additional items to be included.

Resolved -

That the business currently scheduled in the report for consideration at future meetings be approved, together with the addition of regular up-date reports from the Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group on matters affecting the residents of Hambleton District and particularly regarding the future operation of the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

29. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Resolved -

That the next meeting take place on Monday 4 December 2017 at 2 pm at County Hall, Northallerton.

30. Other Business

There were no items of other business to be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.

The meeting concluded at 4.40 pm

SAM