

North Yorkshire County Council

Craven Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Craven Area Committee held on 8 December 2016, commencing at 10.00 am at St Peter's Hall, Crosshills.

Present:-

County Councillor David Ireton in the Chair, County Councillors Philip Barrett, Robert Heseltine, Andy Solloway and Richard Welch.

Co-opted Members: Brian Shuttleworth and Marion Swales (Parish Councillors); Hazel Chatwin and Roger Nicholson (Voluntary Sector); and Alison Davies (Business Sector).

NYCC Officers: Marion Tweed-Rycroft (Local Delivery Manager, Stronger Communities), James Malcolm (Area Highways Manager – Boroughbridge/Skipton), Mary Davies (Legal and Democratic Services) and Holly Austin (Business Support).

Others in attendance: Inspector Geoff Crocker and Chief Inspector Wilkinson (North Yorkshire Police) and Station Manager Simon Render (North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service).

Apologies: County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE. Veronicka Dancer (Bradleys Both Parish Council), Alan Sutcliffe (Craven District Council) and John Waterhouse (Carleton-in-Craven Parish Council). Group Manager Phil Whild.

2 Members of the Public attended.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

145. Minutes

Minute 140: Marion Tweed-Rycroft asked that the level of investment stated for Stronger Communities in Craven should be amended to record that £93,000 had been invested in the Craven District and not the stated £750,000 which was the total amount for the County as a whole.

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016, having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

146. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

147. Public Questions or Statements

Mrs Margaret Nicholson

The following contribution submitted by Mrs Nicholson had been circulated to all present.

Approximately 3 years ago I was allowed three minutes to beg NYCC Craven Area Committee to provide a pavement along the road from Sutton Mill to Eastburn. Photos were shown of the conflict between pedestrians and the heavy traffic. Result – no priority, no money because no problems! Money was then spent on roads being used by the Tour de France.

The renovation of Royd Hill to provide private housing has now resulted in talks of narrowing the road there to provide a pavement for the new residents to walk to Sutton. Over the past few months Sutton residents have put up with traffic lights at this spot whilst utility work has been carried out. What happened to people walking to Eastburn and Airedale hospital at this time? Queuing stationary traffic had to keep near the wall side whilst moving traffic passed at the other side as the lights dictated. Pedestrians had no room for safety at either side of the road. If the road is narrowed anywhere on this old road it will lead to even more danger for pedestrians.

The fairer way would be for the boundary wall of Royd Hill to be pulled down and a pavement made on their property for the whole of their frontage to allow safe passage towards the cricket field. Forward planning should then promote a pavement continuing on that side of the road to Eastburn. This could be like the precedent of the path outside South Craven School with the path on the inside of the existing wall. Some dark night there will be a major accident on this road which has not been changed since I moved to Sutton in 1946 and used by horses and carts. Sutton already has 3 narrowed roads on the Main Road and Bridge Road. This slows down traffic but it also leads to congestion and a loss of car parking spaces which are already at a premium here.

I strongly object to any plans to narrow the road and I urge North Yorkshire and Bradford Met., to sort out pedestrian safety on this road with a path way whether it be on the North or the South side of the road. This road serves both Counties with our two primary and one secondary school and takes a lot of heavy traffic. There is a problem, a big problem and safety is paramount.

James Malcolm responded that he had spoken to the Parish Council and taken into account their concerns, however the footpath was linked to a planning application which included cross boundary work with Bradford Council; he highlighted the need for connectivity between the two Authorities.

148. North Yorkshire Police - Current Issues

Considered -

The Police report was presented by Inspector Crocker, North Yorkshire Police, updating on current performance, community safety and crime reduction partnership operations in the Craven District.

Inspector Crocker gave a verbal update on the community safety and crime reduction partnership operations and crime overview, noting that the figures were taken on the 7th December 2016 so there may be some minor variation with the published report of 17th November 2016:

CRIME - 21.1%
ASB - 12.8%
PSW - 41.4%
ROAD - 24.7%

Arson and Criminal Damage reports are down by 18.3% overall with 179 offences recorded against 219 last year and 158 2014/15. Locally some increases in Settle,

Sutton and Skipton outweighed by reductions in other areas. Burglary Dwelling remained up at 14.5% with 95 offences recorded against 83 for the same time last year and 50 for 2014/15; locally this increase has been seen mostly in Skipton West followed by South and North Wards. Burglary - Others have decreased by 5% with 132 offences recorded against 139 last year and 111 for 2014/15. Significant increases have been seen in Settle and Ribblesbanks increases of 8 offences to 16 and Skipton North with 23 offences from only 8 last year; context here is the increase in building and development, however this was less so at Settle. Robbery has increased to 3 offences up 1. Sexual Offences are down 23% (27) and rape by 43% (13), further analysis may well reveal that the reductions are from higher figures caused by the recording of non-recent sexual offences.

Theft – up by 9.9% - 210

Bike Thefts static - 16

Shoplifting – down by 9.6% - 122. Recent development include the Skipton Business Improvement District which has adopted the BCRP and will fund the radio scheme.

Theft From the Person – down 17.6% - 14

Vehicle Offences – up 19.5% 23 crimes – 141. Largely this is TUMVs and often from insecure vehicles. Inspector Crocker advised of a vehicles left with their engines running outside homes, and he considered there was a lack of concern regarding security that enabled opportunist thieves to be continually successful. Locally Aire Valley with Lothersdale has seen the biggest increase with Gargrave also suffering; stolen vehicles have increased by 57% with 33 offences recorded.

Violence with Injury – down 7% - 143

Violence without Injury – up 49.6% - 172

Drugs Possession up 2.3% - 45

Trafficking Drugs - up 1 at 8 offences

Possession offensive weapons – to 12 offences up from 2.

Public Order up 68%.

Inspector Crocker was pleased to see ASB on the decline over the past few months after seeing an increase in the early part of the year.

Inspector Crocker advised of the arrival of 4 transferees to the District all of which were experienced officers, however he also advised of the departure of a number of Specials and PCSOs who have been successful in joining North Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police and Cumbria as Police Officers; the Police were actively replacing them. The first new PCSO would arrive out of training next week. In January there will be a new PCSO for Grassington, transferring back from Knaresborough. Inspector Crocker stated that all of the response shifts are currently fully staffed and in February the Police will see the arrival of their own Camera Safety Vans which will significantly add to the safety on the road network as well providing real time crime intelligence data.

Inspector Crocker advised that the Police now have their own Vulnerable Exploited Missing and Trafficked meeting and although this is mostly unseen work it has had a significant impact on the Police's ability to manage vulnerable individuals as well as targeting offenders; this also includes a West Yorkshire element with both West Yorkshire Police and Bradford Social Care team attending.

Inspector Crocker highlighted the ASB Hub Pilot which, he advised was going well and was constantly developing and identifying work. He advised of recent successes.

Members made the following comments:

- Concern with the increase in Assaults with Injury in Embsay with Eastby. Inspector Crocker explained the changes to the way the Police record crime figures and that it only took 1 or 2 individuals to make a difference to the figures.
- A Member commended the Police on the use of Police Safety Vans with night crime prevention and for dealing with the public using electronic devices whilst driving.
- A Member asked if the Police could use the Safety Vans to tackle speeding and domestic burglary crime in South Craven.
- Can the Police have greater regard to issues such as speeding on B roads? Inspector Crocker gave his assurances that the Police were aware of areas of concern in Craven. He also advised of partnership work with West Yorkshire Police monitoring individuals coming in from outside the area.

The Chairman informed Inspector Crocker that he had called the 101 number for 8 minutes with no response after which time he had given up. He considered this needed looking into and suggested this must be happening to other members of the public. He asked that more information on the 101 number and any data recorded be brought to a future meeting.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

That information on the 101 number and any data recorded be brought to a future meeting.

149. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety Update Craven

Considered -

The Fire and Rescue report was presented by Station Manager Simon Render in place of Group Manager Phil Whild who was unavailable. Station Manager Render advised of community safety activities involving North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service occurring between April 2016 and September 2016 and providing other relevant information relating to NYFRS within the district. Key issues covered were:-

- Service delivery:
 - Community Fire Safety. Station Manager Simon Render urged Parish Councillors to get the message out to local people that the Fire Service fit smoke alarms which can give occupants valuable minutes to vacate a property and also that the Community Safety Officer's carry out home fire risk check visits to properties.
 - Summer Road Safety campaign which included the Learn & Live presentation to young drivers on the dangers of speeding, drugs and drinking. Station Manager Render advised of presentations to Sixth Form students and to local cycling groups on road safety and awareness of other road users.
 - Encouraging older drivers to refresh their skills.
 - The CFOA Water Safety Week to raise awareness of the dangers of natural watercourses.
 - Chimney Fire Safety week providing literature to Chimney Sweeps for their customers.
 - Crucial Crew Event.
 - Use of social media by Community Safety Officers.

- District update on Operational Response rates. A railway theme had been used this year at Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway, crews from Skipton, Grassington, Ripon and Harrogate took part as well as staff from the railway. North Yorkshire County Council's Emergency Planning attended with local Parish Councillors to observe the exercise.
- Incidents of Note

Members made the following comments:

- Commended for the work being carried out by Community Safety Officers visiting homes and advising on fire safety.
- Agreement that new drivers should attend a speed safety course. Station Manager Render asked the Committee for their support getting the message out to young people regarding this course.
- In response to a question on part time Fire Officers, Station Manager Render advised of 4 new part time recruits, however, he also noted the difficulties currently for the Fire and Rescue Service recruiting part time Fire Officers and asked the Committee for their support particularly in Settle and Bentham.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

150. North Yorkshire Stronger Communities Progress Report

Considered -

The report of Marion Tweed-Rycroft, Policy and Partnerships, updating on progress within the Stronger Communities Programme in Craven.

Marion Tweed-Rycroft presented the Annual Report 2015/16 for the Stronger Communities Programme to the Committee which had been completed and distributed to members and stakeholders. She advised of a further 4 funded projects which had been developed and funded in Craven since last Area Committee as well as non-grant funded activity and was pleased to report that the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager continued to support the transition of 4 libraries into community ownership. Marion Tweed-Rycroft highlighted the Library Transition Programme in South Craven, Settle, Ingleton and Bentham. She advised on a new Volunteers recruitment campaign with information available in most Libraries; more volunteers were particularly needed in Skipton Library. Marion Tweed-Rycroft informed the Committee of the first Craven Network Library meeting which took place on Wednesday 7th December 2016 which had gone well. She stated that groups could support one another and she highlighted that Gargrave Library had raised funds purely from its community which had brought the community together and was great to see. Settle Library has resolved its issue with the Charity Commission and should shortly be a registered charity. Pioneer Projects is working with North Yorkshire County Council to design the new library, and fitting out will occur in February 2017.

Marion Tweed-Rycroft went on to advise the Committee of the most recent grants awarded since September 2016 and of a number of projects which are currently being developed contained in paragraph 4.2 of the report; she also advised of the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager's community development work contained in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

In regard to the Annual Report 2015/16 the focus in future was as follows:

- Libraries – continuing to support Craven library groups
- Health & Adult Services – developing a more targeted approach to grant funding of activities and services
- Community Transport – raising the profile of community transport and the profile of volunteer drivers
- Children & Young People - next steps supporting volunteer youth clubs and developing a youth network in Sutton.

Members made the following comments:

- A request for more information regarding priority community transport, Marion Tweed-Rycroft agreed to send this information following the meeting.
- The Executive had recently agreed to fund £350k to upgrade community libraries; anyone can apply for this funding including existing libraries.
- is there any help available for Village Hall heating. Marion Tweed-Rycroft suggested Rural Action Yorkshire may be able to help.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

151. Flooding Update

Considered -

The oral report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services.

Kathy Stevenson (Flood Risk Management Project Engineer, Highways and Transportation (BES)) and Victoria Townend (Advisor Environment Agency – Flood and Coastal Risk Management, Yorkshire Area) presented a verbal report and powerpoint presentation to the Committee updating them on what had been happening in the last months within the Authority and its partner Authorities to improve flood risk management in the Craven area.

Kathy Stevenson advised of the Authority's flood risk management partners - Environment Agency, Highways Authority (NYCC), District Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, Water Companies and Riparian Owners. She explained why it was better for them to work together as flood water paid no respect to boundaries, that flooding can come from a combination of sources and solutions developed in partnership provided holistic risk mitigation as well as driving out inefficiencies.

Kathy Stevenson and Victoria Townend updated the Committee on the range of activities currently happening in the Craven area:

- Environment Agency Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme which comprised of three separate elements:
 - Construction of a flood storage reservoir on Eller Beck upstream and to the north of the A65.
 - Construction of a flood storage reservoir on Waller Hill Beck to the east of Skipton.
 - Installation of flood walls at various locations.
 - Mitigation works.

Victoria Townend advised that Eller and Waller Beck Dams are now completed and grass seeding would begin in the Spring 2017. Installation of the mechanical and electrical equipment had begun and works in Skipton would continue through

to March 2017. This section was concluded with a presentation of drone footage overflying the construction sites.

- North Yorkshire County Council Flood Investigation. This had been prompted by events in December 2015 and focused on the Glusburn, Crosshills and the Sutton in Craven area identifying the different flood sources and their interactions. The aim was to share the initial findings in the New Year. Funding had been allocated to take the South Craven Flood Risk Strategy investigation further with collaborative working taking place between the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire County Council and other relevant agencies to develop solutions to address all sources and their interaction.
- Yorkshire Water Network Review. Yorkshire Water are currently conducting a catchment investigation into the public sewer network in the Skipton area. Using the model of the sewer network, they will look at how it will perform under climate change conditions and with predicted new developments.
- Natural Flood Management. Working with Natural Processes to reduce flood risk which could provide flood risk benefits throughout the catchment and seeking to reduce the flood risk to homes, businesses and infrastructure by implementing a range of measures which work with natural processes to slow, store and filter water, with the effect of altering the hydrology of the catchment.
- Resilience Work:
 - The Environment Agency Flood Warning Service sign up following the December 2015 floods - 2000 households were visited in Skipton and Glusburn, and of these 160 new properties registered.
 - Flood Resilience grant - administered by NYCC. 50 properties have applied for the grant in Craven and £107k approved so far. Examples of measures include flood doors and barriers, sump pumps, walls and bunds, non-return valves on drainage systems.
 - Community Resilience planning - the Emergency Planning Team is working with communities to develop community emergency plans. Many existing plans have been updated this year and new plans were being developed in Cononley, Glusburn, Crosshills, Giggleswick, Kettlewell and Starbottom, Thornton in Lonsdale, Sutton in Craven, Embsey and Eastby, and Farnhill
 - Community Flood groups and Parish Councils looking into specific issues, supported by relevant agencies, across the district.

Kathy Stevenson gave Members the contact details for the Authority and the Environment Agency:

floodriskmanagement@northyorks.gov.uk and
neyorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk

The Committee agreed that it had been a very interesting presentation; they also made the following comments:

- That in the 1970's work was carried out to put funding together to control the water in Skipton; it was now 2016 when the scheme had been completed. He gave his congratulations to a scheme that should keep Skipton safe in future.
- Queried the footpath in Eller Beck which was the main pedestrian route in Skipton; when would the work begin. Victoria Townend agreed to pass this to her project manager who would reply directly.

- Was there a back-up power supply for the Eller and Waller Beck construction? Victoria Townend replied that there would be but she did not have the details. She did not consider there needed to be a large electrical element as it was operating on throttle which was gravity fed. Solar panels were also used.
- Concern for those living upstream. Victoria Townend said that the modelling scheme would include putting no one at risk. She agreed to contact the project manager and he would respond direct. The Chairman asked that any information from the project manager should be sent to the Clerk who would sent out to all Committee Members.
- Questioning the benefit of peak flow levels at Eller Beck. Victoria Townend advised should water be in the same area then it could feed water at Eller Beck. She added that she would ask if this had been looked at during the design stage.
- A Member considered it had been an interesting presentation which showed the beginning of a journey; there was steady progress with all Agencies around the table. He flagged up issues in South Craven where 40 properties had been severely flooded. There was a need to keep on making progress, local people were very worried however he felt there was real progress being made.
- It was refreshing to see Agencies working together to solve a problem. Keep up the good work.
- With the work being completed on ditches and gullies, general flooding was happening on the roads. Kathy Stevenson replied that there was an issue of run-off bringing a lot of material on to the roads and the road had been overwhelmed. She said that Highways carried out a lot of work on drainage and acknowledged that roads can be a conduit for flooding.

The Chairman thanked Kathy Stevenson and Victoria Townend for their informative presentation.

Resolved -

That the oral report be noted.

152. Annual Road Casualties Report

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services inviting the Area Committee to discuss, comment on, and question the content of the Annual Road Casualty Report.

James Malcolm (Area Highways Manager) introduced the report and advised of the County-wide situation; the number of people killed on North Yorkshire's roads continued to fall last year, matching the joint lowest figure since modern records began in 1990. Thirty-one people died as a result of collisions on the county's roads, compared to 40 in 2014 and 51 in 2013. The number of people seriously injured on the county's roads was slightly higher than the previous year, 399 compared to 391. The total number of casualties of all severities in 2015 was 2,316, up three per cent from 2,258 in 2014. Four cyclists were killed in 2015, one more than the previous year, but the number of cyclists seriously injured was down 17 per cent and overall there were five per cent fewer cyclist casualties, despite the continued growing popularity of cycling in the county. The number of motorcyclists killed or injured continued has gradually decline. In 2015, 12 were killed and a further 102 seriously injured, compared to 13 and 104 in 2014 and 16 and 114 in 2013. Three pedestrians

were killed, one fewer than in 2014, and the number of seriously injured pedestrians fell from 39 to 35.

James Malcolm advised in the Craven District, there were 4 fatalities in 2015, all adults; there were 50 seriously injured, an increase of one in 2014. The number of cyclists casualties had increased by 25% to 30 in 2015 from 24 in 2014. Thirteen pedestrians were killed, down from 22 in 2014, and the number of motorcyclists fell from 49 in 2014 to 33 in 2015. The total collisions with pias is 161, a decrease of 16 from 2014 of 177. The total casualties (all severities) is 216, a decrease of 4 from 2014.

James Malcolm explained the casualties by Road User Groups:

Car occupants = 58%

PTW = 15%

Cyclists = 14% and Pedestrians = 6%

HGV = 5%

Others = 2%

James Malcolm advised of road safety education taking place and community engagement in Craven:

- Speed Management. During the year the Craven Road Safety Group progressed 25 Speed Concern enquiries. These resulted in 3 x Speed Matrix sign deployments and 3 x requests for police speed enforcement action.
- Increase in cyclist casualties by 25% from 24 in 2014 to 30 in 2015, which is perhaps to be expected with the growing popularity of cycling but the Authority does not accept any casualties as “inevitable”. Cycling is a priority issue for the Authority and for the 95 Alive Road Safety Partnership and we will provide a string programme of publicity and information for cyclists and to remind other drivers to look out for cyclists. The Authority is also collaborating with cycle clubs and organisations such as Greenhow Hill Way of the Roses Project which was a good example of us all working together to achieve a common aim of improving safety on a very popular route. James Malcolm advised that Café and Guest House owners and cycle shops have been tremendously helpful in distributing information and fliers about the route, along with Sustrans through their route website and the Authority’s own free to download app.
- Bikeability training. Government cut the Bikeability grant funding in year but NYP and NYCC have pledged to make up the shortfall. The PCC has also agreed to do so for next year (2017-18) as well. This is part of the 95 Alive Partnership focus on promoting and actively working towards safer cycling throughout the county in the coming months and year. The Authority have trained 463 Year 5 & Year 6 pupils at 26 primary schools on Bikeability in 2015.
- Motorcyclists. The Authority meet and communicate with thousands of motorcyclists each season (roughly from February to October). There is growing interest in information about routes and potential hazards. The Authority worked with the Fire & Rescue Service to run 6 x “Biker Down” first aid courses at the start of the season. These provide bikers with the basic knowledge and skills they need to provide immediate aid to motorcyclist casualties and enable discussion on how motorbike crashes occur and how riders can avoid those situations. These courses are fully booked with a

waiting list and very well received by the bikers. The Authority have additional funding to run 9 of these courses next spring.

- Older drivers. The Authority have offered Older Driver Refresher Drives, which are popular with residents in other Districts and are currently available free of charge thanks to funding from the PCC via 95 Alive and Public Health North Yorkshire who share our aim to help older people to keep driving and independent for as long as they safely can do so. Seven local Driving Instructors have been trained to provide these refresher drives. The take up of this offer has been very low in Craven compared to other districts so more effort will be made to make this offer more widely known throughout the District by working with GP surgeries and local organisations. James Malcolm asked Committee members to help advertise this in their areas.

Resolved -

That the Annual Road Casualty Report be noted.

153. Highways Update

Considered -

The oral report of James Malcolm, Area Highways Manager, providing an update on current activity and issues in the area:

- Bentham Town Council has been advised that the Beacons would be up and working again in the next 10 days. He explained the cost of installing halo bulbs which may be considered in the future.
- Ongoing gritting.
- Flooding and on-going work clearing drains.
- Capital Programme 2016. James Malcolm advised that the 2017 programme has been placed on the Councils works portal to enable Partners to programme schemes for delivery.
- Tour de Yorkshire would be coming to Craven in 2017 and there will be Highways involvement.
- 3 options currently available on potential funding to widen Conniston Bridge. James Malcolm agreed to send any updates to the Clerk to send to Members. A Member highlighted that Conniston Bridge was on the strategic trans-Pennine route and a possible solution may be to build a track at the side so there is two-way traffic. Craven Area Committee see as a priority in terms of the economy and highways safety. A Member observed that there was a lot of north/south work but little east/west connectivity.

Members made the following comments:

- Trans-Pennine connectivity between Glusburn to Lancashire, could the Committee be updated on progress.
- Thanked for the road surfacing work carried out by Highways at Crosshills.
- Work needed to be completed at South Craven School to alleviate local traffic issues. A Member noted that Craven District Council had started to monitor air quality in the area due to the increased traffic levels and with new building developments. This local development work had impacted on the highway and particularly at the A629 junction which was an accident black spot. James Malcolm responded that Highways needed to make sure that any development work carried out had a significant impact on the area and if this was the case then there was a mechanism in place for payment by the

developers. A Member advised that Bradford Met had secured revenue contributions from developers and he asked for more information to be brought to the next meeting. The Chairman asked for clarification on whether this was a District or County Council responsibility. James Malcolm agreed to bring an update to the next meeting.

Resolved -

That the oral report be noted.

154. Programme of Work for Future Meetings

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) advising of the present work programme for the Area Committee and inviting Members to consider any amendments and/or additional items for future meetings, also to determine the venue for the next meeting.

The Clerk to the Committee advised an additional item of business for the next meeting had been identified regarding an update on the reconfiguration of the Library Service. The Committee agreed to this item being included in the Committee's next meeting.

A Member asked the Committee to consider that a report is brought to the next meeting in regard to Conniston Bridge; the progress made at Members surgeries and the 3 options which had been discussed. Were any of the 3 options viable and likely to go ahead? The Committee agreed to this item being included in the Committee's next meeting.

A Member asked for a report detailing the effectiveness of Locality Budgets; the benefits to the community and to the County Council. The Committee agreed to this item being included in the Committee's next meeting.

Resolved –

That the business proposed for the next meeting on Thursday 9 March 2017 is noted.

That the clerk is asked to check the availability of a venue at Bentham for the next meeting.

The Chairman wished all present a very Merry Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 12:50 p.m.

MD