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MEETING	FULFORD & HESLINGTON WARD COMMITTEE
DATE	23 NOVEMBER 2015
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN 9 Residents Neil Ferris, Acting Director of City and Environmental Services, CYC Claire Taylor, Community Involvement Officer, CYC

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Aspden (KA) introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that this meeting was a non political committee of the City of York Council (CYC). The purpose of the meeting was to share information about the new Ward Committee system and encouraging ideas about potential funding applications

## 2. PARKING

Neil Ferris (NF), Acting Director of City and Environmental Services introduced himself and said he would like to speak about the parking issues within the ward and the approach taken by CYC.

NF said that it was important to note that it was inevitable that the University would have a parking impact on the surrounding area. The Council had recognized this from the beginning and the University's planning permission included an obligation on the University to carry out regular surveys in the area and carry out more detailed surveys in areas of parking pressure. The University had funded infrastructure improvements (for example the recently-installed double yellow lines on Heslington Lane) and sometimes subsidized the cost of implementing resident parking schemes.

In respect of University Road speed measures had been implemented just after the marathon last year but it had been found that they had not reduced speeds on the road sufficiently. The Executive Member Cllr Ian Gillies has recently instructed officers to install additional measures subject to a 6-month review. CYC were looking at the possibility of using the lay-by as a bus stop. It was because some pedestrians behaved irresponsibly that there was a duty of care upon CYC.

NF explained that in regards to signage and speed restrictions there were problems with enforcement as if the signage was even half a metre out of position then any enforcement could be challenged and from a policing perspective this presented difficulties. Signage needed to be absolutely correctly positioned.

## **Discussion**

- Q Resident raised concerns that the surveying on Main Street in Heslington had been carried out in an unacceptable way. When contractors arrived it was not clear to residents who they were (they had no identification) or why they were there so early in the morning.
- A NF agreed to pass these comments on to the University.
- Q Resident asked what speed on University Road would be acceptable.
- A NF said that this was defined as 85% of users complying with the limit (20mph) and the remaining 15% not more than 10% above the limit.
- Q Resident asked what would happen if the new measure did not sufficiently reduce speed.
- A NF said that in those circumstances it may be necessary to look at changing the limit. The limit must be supported by the road infrastructure. The alternative would be to look at changing the road layout, particularly to encourage pedestrians to use the bridge across the road.
- Q Resident said that often drivers on University Road were very frustrated as they were stuck behind buses which often took a long time for passengers to get on and off. He asked NF why the buses did not use the lay-by which would improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians.
- A NF said that University Road was a challenge. If the speed could not be brought down then CYC would have to look at other physical interventions. CYC were currently looking into the use of lay-bys and it would be interesting to see whether the use of lay-bys had any impact on the speed of the traffic using University Road.
- Q Resident said that some of the rubber speed humps were excessively harsh. Two rubber bumps had been installed a couple of years ago and they were particularly difficult for drivers due to their height.
- A NF said that these bumps were some of the first bumps installed as an experiment and the specification has since been changed to take account of the impact on traffic. CYC plan to change the original bumps to the new rubber bumps but it was an issue of cost. The early rubber bumps were only marginally different from the new standardised bumps and they met the DFT specification for road bumps but they would ultimately be replaced. CYC have a rolling programme for this work but they have to take into account equity of the work across the city.
- Q The issue of parking at the University was raised.
- A KA said he had had a meeting with the University management last week. The University did not like the chicanes and restrictions at Field Lane and would like to have more parking facilities. Residents had to be aware that if these restrictions were relaxed there would be knock on consequences i.e. more speeding.

- Q Resident asked if Councillor Gilles could be encouraged to include in his six month review of the new measures on University Road data on the effectiveness of the cycle track. Having spent so much money on it to improve the safety for cyclists, the cycle path would be expected to be more used than it appeared to be. Such data could inform debate on where actually the cycle path needs to be in the long term.

KA thanked NF for attending the meeting.

### 3. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING AND WARD BUDGETS**

KA gave a presentation on the new Neighbourhood Working model and the ward budgets. How do we want to engage with communities and allocate funding?

Listening to Residents: Ward Committees: -this is a new approach to community engagement through working with local neighbourhoods and the establishment of revised ward committees.

The Council's approach to neighbourhood working aims to empower local residents and to support ward members so that they can:

- Work with local communities to develop local priorities and help deliver on these
- Help empower local communities and devolve more budgets to residents

#### **Ward Committees:**

What are Ward Committees and what do they do?

- tackle local issues in partnership with residents
- improve the Council's accountability to residents
- provide opportunities to influence services

They can do this by:

- Talking to residents on issues affecting the ward and the city
- Prioritising local issues
- Agreeing how to allocate ward budgets
- Supporting local projects that help address ward priorities
- Working with communities to help inform what local services are needed

There are 21 Wards in York.

Meetings will take place up to four times a year with a formal meeting at the beginning of the financial year (Autumn 2015). Further meetings can be in other formats depending on the need of the ward e.g. walkabouts, stalls at fairs, drop-in, consultations etc. This means that a wider range of residents can engage.

#### **Ward Teams**

Ward teams would include Heslington Parish Council and community groups. It was expected that there would be regular Ward Team Meetings but not so many Ward Committee meetings. If any group would like to be part of the Ward Team then they should contact either KA or by Claire Taylor, CYC Community Involvement Officer on 01904 551810 or alternatively email her at

[c.taylor@york.gov.uk](mailto:c.taylor@york.gov.uk)

Ward Teams are led by Ward Councillors, ward-based partners will hold regular meetings to approximately once a month to:

- Set priorities based on data, local intelligence
- Work on projects that address the ward priorities
- Liaise between ward partners (police, estate managers, voluntary groups, businesses, parish council)
- Supported by a ward co-ordinator

### **Devolved Budgets**

This financial year there was £75,000 available for ward funding but under the new system there would be circa £1M available. These are additional budgets to wards in order to create a pot that wards can use flexibly to help to address their priorities and develop community initiatives which benefit local residents and reduce reliance on council services. They are made up of:

General Ward Budget £3393 – this could be spent in two ways.

- Grants for funding projects from this fund should be made via an application form. They can be made from constituted groups and must show a benefit to the local community. Citywide organisations cannot apply to multiple wards
- Alternatively should a group or organisation want to commission a particular piece of work? Or both

Pride in York Fund (one off) £3926 – this money is allocated to wards, based on current grounds maintenance spending and could be used to provide grants to partner, community and voluntary organisations to develop initiatives that benefit the community and help reduce the reliance on Council services.

Pride in York Fund (recurring) £4524 – this fund is to commission projects and initiatives that improve the local environment and street level issues in the ward. It could be spent on council services if the ward wished and is allocated to wards based on a per capita basis.

Community Care Programme £1697

- To support through community activity the prevention or delay of people needing to access formal care packages and statutory support
- Key areas identified which can help achieve this:
  - Reducing social isolation/loneliness
  - Prevention of falls
  - Nutrition
  - Transport
  - Practical support/handyperson services
  - Support for carers

Highways Programme £5655

- Highways improvements
- Reprioritising using local knowledge
- Resurfacing
- Footpaths/PROW
- Cycle way improvements

- Street lighting: improvements to existing lamp standards

Work carried out by CYC will still be happening but this money could be used for a particular challenge locally i.e. a road or a footpath that needed resurfacing – we could match fund or pay for the work to be carried out. It may be decided that it would be better to save the money over four years for larger work projects or alternatively use it for potholes.

### **Budget Discussion**

KA said that there were two deadlines for groups to suggest ideas; the first deadline was the end of November and the second deadline the end of January. He encouraged groups to get their applications in by the end of November as they would have a better chance of getting a grant. The next Ward Team Meeting was scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> November when current applications received would be discussed and recommendations made.

Q Resident asked whether there was still a ward newsletter.

A KA said no there was no longer a ward newsletter where residents could be balloted on spending schemes. KA said that he made recommendations directly to the Director of Communities and Neighbourhood who made the final decision.

Q A group of six residents have for many years carried out annual leaf clearing event. They could be assisted in the effectiveness of their work if they had access to an air blower, if they were to submit a bid application for money for this which fund would it come from?

A Yes they could apply for this funding and it would come from the one-off Pride in York grant. KA said this was a good suggestion and if both parish councils got involved in the bid as well they could share the use of it.

Q A resident expressed concern about the car park at Main Street West that was particularly badly affected by fallen leaves but could only be cleaned at weekends when there were no cars parked there.

A KA said that the specific location could be checked to see if it were on the Council's list of places to clear. If it was not on the list then a request could be made to have it put on the list. If any residents have concerns about blocked gullies or drains please contact him.

KA asked for suggestions for work that need to be carried out locally.

- There was a pothole near The Crescent and near the bottom end of Field Lane near the Church and drainage problems in Common Lane and Long Lane.
- The Parish Council had put in a bid for bench refurbishment
- Heslington Scouts/Cub would be putting in a grant application for the cost of replacing climbing equipment i.e. helmets and ropes which have to be replaced every ten years.
- Community Care Grant – Parish Council to be asked to ask if any groups would like to apply for funding in their newsletter. The same questions to be placed in the church newsletter – resident to email Claire Taylor a contact for this newsletter.

**4. HAVE YOUR SAY**

No issues raised.

Cllr Keith Aspden, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.45 pm].