

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Tuesday, 5 July 2022 at 10.30 am at Community Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

Mrs A Burns
Mr F Cassidy
Mr D English

Mr W McEwan (Vice-Chair)
Mrs H Wall
Mr MH Worth

Also in Attendance:-

Ms E Dobson	-	Community Development Assistant
Mr M Dooz	-	Traffic Management Team Leader (Barrow)
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mr D Houston	-	Senior Manager - Health and Care Integration
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs A Meadows	-	Community Development Officer
Ms M Pearce	-	Library Customer Manager (Barrow)
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Ms S Tiribocchi	-	Community Development Officer
Mrs V Upton	-	Local Area Network Manager South Lakelan

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Rebecca Robson, Senior Officer, Women's Community Matters attended for agenda item 6 – Barrow Women's Community Matters (minute 19 refers).

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr B Shirley.

15 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mrs A Burns declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 – Barrow Women's Community Matters (minute 19 refers) as she was a Trustee of Women's Community Matters.

16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business.

17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (1) Mr Alexander made the following statement regarding the Safer Streets Initiative at Askam Village School:-

I found the whole experiment to be flawed at this site from the start.

The legal site notices left on lampposts on Lots Road states section 3 being exemptions to the order for motor vehicles, 3(e) it does not state to whom the contract is binding to only that it's "for school transport purposes", a parent/guardian fits this criteria in transporting a child to school with a verbal contract to do so, similar to a taxi or bus, section 3(f) states similar but with no need for a contract, "for the conveyance of persons, goods or burden to or from premises situated within or accessible only from the zone" that would again apply to any parent/guardian as the school is only accessible from within the zone. I also noticed that in section 3(g) with regards to disability access it clearly states that access is for "pupils attending St Patrick's Primary School within the zone" of course it should be Askam Village School, this clerical error should have been picked up before the notice was served.

On the first day of the order no signs were in place to direct traffic with regards of the road being a cycle and pedestrian zone; only a temporary red road closed sign and a County Council employee stood by it. I found this to be discriminatory as in fact the road was and is not a closed road only an ETRO cycle and pedestrian zone with exemptions; also Alexander Place which was effectively made the diversion had a lit up sign fall down at a speed bump/road narrowing measure due to corrosion and this should have been picked up before the ETRO.

The signs eventually went up and were placed in different locations to the stated zone, the new road junction sign is about 40ft away from the junction and Duke Street signage is closer to the junction than stated originally by about 30ft, as the zone does not include the whole of the designated parking on Lots Road, also no days are mentioned for the zone only times.

Police officers later took the place of the County Council employees that held the temporary road closed signs, even with the correct signage in place and of course the road was never closed but only a pedestrian and cycle zone with exceptions; an elderly resident from the pensioners bungalows at Whinfeld Place was forcibly prevented from parking in the designated parking area by a police officer even though he met the exemptions and was parking before the stated zone. This continued for about a month before they abandoned falsely stopping road users with exemptions, however the

temporary road closed signs carried on being placed at the junctions by the school employees and a local councillor sometimes at the Duke Street junction blocking the crossing island walkway. Cars and heavy goods have been seen to illegally enter this junction from the wrong side of the road whether they are exempted or not. Mrs Upton a Council worker witnessed this herself with me on 11 March and stated she had seen another do the same before I attended and while we were speaking an ambulance taxi mounted the pavement at the crossing and drove to get around the temporary road closed sign - luckily no children were using the crossing at the time.

I have witnessed chaos upon Duke Street, Sharp Street, Beach Street, Alexander Place and New Road due to this ETRO pushing the traffic onto the surrounding residential streets and children struggling to cross Duke Street and Alexander Place where at one point there is less than a 2ft wide pavement across from Wakefield Street junction. Lots Road has always been a main artery into the village, with a wide sweeping junction at Duke Street, which was narrowed and a crossing island added restricting heavy trucks, coaches and buses which now mainly take the narrower Alexander Place route, and those that do use the Duke Street junction tend to mount the pavement at the crossing.

I would recommend that you abandon this ETRO at the earliest instance you can before a child is injured due to it, there were no concerns by residents or parent/guardians before the freak accident that occurred a few years ago, since then I have recommended to Councillor Shirley for railings at the school gates which have since been implemented and for bollards along the school front down towards Duke Street something similar to Dalton's Market Street. I would see this as better use of public money in the long run compared to wasting money on signs that most people will ignore once you make the ETRO permanent and remove the illegally placed temporary road closed signs, as on days the temporary road closed signs had not been in position it was like no restrictions were in place, and having the temporary road closed signs during the 6 month trial period has in my opinion given false representation this of course was the intention.

- (2) Ms Alexander made the following statement regarding the Safer Streets Initiative at Askam Village School:-:-

I would like to give my argument against the Experimental Traffic Order that has been trialled on Lots Road outside Askam Village School from November 2021 until April 2022.

As a parent, my main priority is to ensure my children walking to and from school are as safe as possible and any scheme or safety measures implemented should aim to reduce the risk of an accident. I believe that the level of risk has increased after the implementation of the scheme.

Lots Road was previously used safely to drop off and pick up children, people walked on the pavement and were aware of passing cars. By stopping

people using this road it has pushed more cars onto the main roads and side streets, where our children walk to school, giving less visibility for children crossing the roads. It has encouraged people to walk in the road on Lots Road thinking the road is closed.

Mr Dooz advised me that the main aim of the scheme is to prevent the School Street being used by through-traffic or by parents parking. He also advised that School Street is to make the school run safer, healthier and more enjoyable for the whole community. Mr Dooz stated some parents may feel frustrated at first, but will, over time, find ways to adjust their daily routines. Your proposals are to encourage people to walk to school, this is not possible for all parents as the majority drop their children off on their way to work. As this is an Infant and Junior school the majority of children cannot walk to school by themselves and are still having to be dropped off by an adult.

As explained in the Cumbria County Council's Strategy for the Safer School Street Scheme: "Cumbria County Council are introducing several School Street initiatives, around the county to help reduce air pollution and keep children safe from traffic". This strongly contradicts, considering the acceptance of 52 dwellings directly opposite the school which will create the potential of an additional 100 vehicles passing the school. This will naturally increase air pollution as the Controlled Zone access to Lots Road between New Road and Duke Street by the residents of the housing estate will not be in force.

The corner of Wakefield Street onto Alexander Place is dangerous anyway with a very narrow pavement on one side and no pavement on the opposite side, but your initiative is now sending work vans, lorries, school buses up here where children are trying to cross and have limited view. Askam does not have the right infrastructure for all these new houses and extra vehicles that this brings.

I believe these plans have in fact put our children in more danger. I believe there was nothing wrong with the previous set up, albeit we wouldn't disagree to some extra measures to keep our children safer outside school.

I have spoken directly with Mr Dooz on two occasions outside of the school and have to say I am disgusted at the lack of Council workers that were in attendance during the said 'trial period'. You brought in a potentially dangerous scheme and hardly showed any faces throughout the whole trial. Mr Dooz advised that the Council would undertake a range of measures to monitor and assess the School Street, which included surveys to measure how children are travelling to school before and after implementation. Can I ask what research you did prior the implementing the trial and what data do you have this to compare to?

Adding to the trial of the scheme was the start of a new building site across from the school who initially made access next to Rankin Hall. I witnessed on several occasions wagons and lorries parked on the pavement and pulling in

and out when children were walking on the pavement, pushing children/parents onto the road to walk. Vehicles were parked on lowered curbs (on double yellow lines) over a crossing where our children should be able to cross safely.

Throughout the trial period there were still a number of cars ignoring the pedestrian zone signs or a lot hadn't even noticed them. Please also be aware these signs do not state 'Monday to Friday' or 'Term Time Only'. The sign on the lamppost at the end of Lots Road near to New Road is too far down the road and cars have already committed to the route before they get to the sign, this would then mean doing a dangerous manoeuvre in reversing back towards the junction.

At the beginning of this initiative the police were present at drop of and pick up times stood by red temporary 'ROAD CLOSED' signs, which then continued to be put on the road by the school staff. The trial was completely flawed by using these temporary signs as the traffic was not a true reflection, so any data you have collated whilst these signs were being used should be disregarded.

The red 'road closed' signs at the Duke Street/Lots Road end created more danger at the crossing as this was actually blocking the left lane meaning exempted vehicles were forced onto the other side of the road or turning illegally at the crossing.

A lot of children (and parents) now walk and run into the road believing the 'road is closed'. It is not a closed road as many vehicles are exempt under your terms! Before this initiative everyone walked correctly on the pavement.

I have witnessed last week parents telling people in cars that the road is closed and then those vehicles dangerously reversing or doing a 3-point turn when our children were leaving school. I have also witnessed parents/carers stood in the middle of the road to 'make a point' to oncoming vehicles that the road is closed, when indeed it is not.

The road is a Pedestrian and Cycle zone between the designated times, which in an ideal world would be a great idea if there wasn't a long list of exempted vehicles and 2 brand new housing estates! I would be fully 'for' a closed road if it was actually closed but this has just created so much more danger.

I don't think 'School Street' should be brought in; you have created more problems in doing this. However, I do think the Council should look to provide a lollypop person at the crossing, add more speed bumps by school, possibly adding bollards lining the pavement. I think it's the least that can be done considering the danger in allowing 2 new housing estates on the same street as the school.

The Chair gave the following response:-

Thank you for presenting your statements today to Barrow Local Committee regarding the removal of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order on Lots Road, Askam. The School Street aims to make the school run safer, healthier and more enjoyable for the whole community, as well as for children travelling to school; not to penalise parents. School Streets are normally implemented on a trial basis using an Experimental Traffic Order to enable all aspects of the scheme to be considered, including comments from residents, local businesses and the school before a decision is made on whether to make the scheme permanent or not be made permanent.

Local Officers and the local Member have had a lot of dialogue with Askam School and Governors over the last few months and have taken into account all the feedback received during the first six months of the Experimental Order being in operation. The item regarding this matter will be considered at this Local Committee meeting and a decision made regarding making the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order Permanent or not.

The Chair informed Mr and Mrs Alexander that the matter would be discussed later in the meeting and invited them to stay to listen to the debate.

18 MINUTES

With reference to minute 10 – Barrow Area Planning Report regarding the footpaths around Cows Tarn Lane the local Member for Walney North was advised that the work to clear the vegetation on the link path between the two main footpaths would begin imminently.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19 BARROW WOMEN'S COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Committee received a presentation from Barrow Women's Community Matters which gave an overview of the services which they provided, the number of people they supported together with details of the impact and recovery of the current pandemic.

Members were informed that service delivery last year cost just less than £1m and it was hoped that more sustainable funding would be available in the future to meet the increasing demands.

The Committee, whilst acknowledging the financial pressures, welcomed the changes and developments within the Organisation which included an increase in resources, improved processes, increase in contact options, bespoke digital recording system, increase in activities and increased partnership working.

A discussion took place regarding the effects of the cost of living crisis and members were informed that future planning was being undertaken, it was anticipated that the Service would provide pre-prepared meals to help reduce utility costs for individuals.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, expressed their thanks and appreciation for the invaluable work undertaken in the community by Barrow Women's Community Matters.

20 DOMESTIC ABUSE

Members received a detailed presentation on domestic abuse which provided an update on background, data and current activity.

The Committee was informed of the impact abuse had on children, noting the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 imposed a duty in relation to victims of domestic abuse which included children.

Members were informed that approximately 45% of Children's Social Care open cases featured domestic abuse; an independent scrutineer was commissioned to evaluate and recommend improvements for Children's Services responses to domestic abuse to develop and strengthen practice around this, with support social workers obtaining a better understanding around this matter. Officers explained risk assessments were being reviewed with safety planning which linked in with the approach and exploration of patterns of abuse were part of the training undertaken.

The Committee noted that data for Barrow showed domestic abuse in families where children were living had increased year on year and it was suggested that the increase over the last three years may be due to the pandemic.

A discussion took place regarding the data received for domestic abuse in each area, highlighting the strong correlation with deprivation. It was agreed that data regarding domestic abuse contacts into hubs for each electoral division would be circulated to members.

Members were informed that a review was being undertaken as to how Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) received and triaged referrals to ensure this was an effective mechanism.

A discussion took place regarding early help and members were informed that whilst additional funding was required for this partners had recognised the need to work together to reduce referrals to the hubs.

The Committee received an update on the other workstreams which included a review of personal, social, and health education support, CEASE Programme, review of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, Operation Encompass and Therapeutic Support.

A discussion took place regarding an increase in domestic abuse. Officers explained that awareness had been heightened which had seen an increase in referrals, whilst highlighting that there was also a likely increase in incidence of domestic abuse linked with the wider social economic situation as well as other contributory factors such as mental health and addictions.

The Committee raised their concerns regarding the increase in domestic abuse and the effects this had on the limited resources available. Officers acknowledged the concerns raised and explained that as part of the review of the Victims Bill additional funding might be available with regards to community support for domestic abuse.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the presentation.

21 DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS CAPITAL APM BUDGET 2022/2023 - ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO TRAFFIC SCHEMES

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which sought approval from the Barrow Local Committee to agree the proposed Traffic Schemes as part of the Annual Package of Measures (APM) budget for 2022/23.

The Committee noted the proposals included:-

- Town Centre - Crellin Street, Fell Street and Preston Street Parking Review Variation Order 45
- North Scale - Traffic Management Measure
- Ulverston Road, Dalton, Barrow - 40 and 30mph Speed Limit
- Speed Review in Barrow & Furness Area
- Askam Primary School Safety Measures
- Ireleth St Peter's Primary School - Ireleth Road, Barrow - School Safety Measure
- St Paul's C of E Junior School, Hawcoat Lane - School Safety Measure
- Cliffe Lane & Quarry Brow, Barrow-in-Furness - Traffic Management Measure
- Lindal-in-Furness- 20mph Speed Limit
- Red Oak Avenue - Parking Restriction.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the priority list and a number of concerns were raised regarding the criteria used to determine their inclusion on the programme.

Members acknowledged that the schemes regarding the Town Centre - Crellin Street, Fell Street and Preston Street Parking Review Variation Order 45 and North Scale - Traffic Management Measure had been considered by the Barrow Highways Sub-Group. It was agreed that all future proposed schemes should be considered initially by the Sub-Group.

The Committee discussed the need to address 20mph speed limits in residential areas. Members raised their concerns at the national view that this was self-enforced and not enforceable by the Police. Members drew attention to a communication with the Chief Constable who had stated that Police would enforce 20mph if speeding was persistent in a particular area.

RESOLVED, that the specific schemes to be delivered as part of the Annual Package of Measures (APM) budget for 2022/23 (as shown above and detailed in Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.

22 BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave details of the discussion and recommendations of the Highways Advisory Sub-Group (HASG) for the Barrow area which met on 8 June 2022.

(1) Minutes

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2022 be noted.

(2) Review of Traffic Regulation 2020/21 Variation Order No 42 Proposal

RESOLVED, that, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (which are more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of the report to HASG), agree that The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) (Order 2001) Variation Order (No. 42) 20><, be brought into operation as advertised, EXCEPT for the following:

- (i) the proposed “No Waiting at Any Time” restrictions on Biggar Village, Rawlinson Street, Calder Green, Warwick Street, Rear Ramsden Street and Hardy Street, Barrow-in-Furness be omitted from the made Order.

(3) School Streets Initiative – Askam Village School, Experimental Traffic Regulation Order

RESOLVED, that

- (a) having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of the report to HASG), and having also taken into account the representations which were received during the 6 month statutory objection/consultation period, agree that The

County of Cumbria (Askam Village School, Askam, Barrow in Furness) (Pedestrian and Cycle Zone) Experimental Order 2021 not be made permanent for Askam Primary School on Lots Road, Askam in Furness;

- (b) agree to some improvements to signs and lines being carried out to highlight the presence of the School, especially if the Experimental Order is withdrawn, as former traffic volumes return to Lots Road at school times.

23 BARROW CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER VARIATION ORDER NO 44 DUKE STREET - HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE (HSHAZ)

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the responses received to the statutory consultation and advertising of the traffic regulation order, The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) (Order 2001) Variation Order (No. 44) 20><, (referred to at paragraph 3.1 of the report) (“the Order”) which proposed restrictions for Duke Street and Buccleuch Street in Barrow as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) scheme.

During the course of discussion the Chair advised all Shadow Authority Councillors to discuss any issues with the current County Councillor and informed members that training on HIAMS would be provided in the future.

RESOLVED, that having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of the report), the County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) (Order 2001) Variation Order (No. 44) 20><, be brought into operation as advertised.

24 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

The Committee considered a detailed report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which brought together information from across the Community teams including Community Development, Archives and libraries, and provides an update on work and agreed activity since the last meeting of the Committee.

Members were informed that the Barrow Town Deal Community Hubs and Earnse Bay continued to be a major area of work. It was explained that actions were underway to develop a monitoring and evaluation plan which would outline the key milestones, project expenditure, outputs and outcomes which the project would be held accountable to meeting, and would provide a baseline to determine the impact of this work.

Members noted that following the decision at Local Committee regarding the allocation of the 2022-23 Environment Fund work had been undertaken to identify potential sites for the planting for pollinators scheme and the Local Committee would be kept updated.

The Committee received a positive update regarding Children and Families Partnership. Members were informed that the Group had been refocussed and met monthly with constructive discussions taking place with health partners to develop a pro-active forward plan.

A discussion took place regarding the referral process which had been identified using existing agency support alongside any additional financial support to ensure that families or individuals received the right support and looked at the root cause of the issues and prevention going forward. Members were informed that to date £54,000 had been allocated to provide support for the 191 referrals which had been received.

Members were also informed of the 'Make a Change' project which was a pilot initiative in the town centre. It was explained this engaged with young people over a 12 month period to listen, learn, understand and provide activities to encourage them to become involved and influence future town centre activities and developments that met their needs.

The Committee was informed this was being led by Cumbria County Council and delivered in partnership with Barrow Full, Barrow Raiders, Barrow AFC, Horizon Music and supported by various youth providers. It was explained the partnership was supported by Barrow BID, Barrow Police, Cumbria Fire & Rescue and Barrow Borough Council.

Members received a detailed and positive update on the Love Barrow Families (LBF) – Brisbane Park Satellite Hub. The Committee was informed that in order to support LBF to set up and develop a satellite hub there was a request for £25k start-up costs which comprised £15k from 0-19 Service Grants and £10k from Community budgets. It was explained this was subject to the licence being agreed by Cumbria County Council and LBF and completion of all service and maintenance checks.

The Local Area Manager explained that the project met the Council Plan priorities and local priorities in ensuring children were kept safe and that families emotional and physical wellbeing was supported. Barrow Local Committee was, therefore, asked to consider £15,000 funding from its 0-19 Services grants and £10,000 from Community grants for Love Barrow Families for a satellite hub project at Brisbane Park Annex.

Members received an update on the Right2Work which was a Community Interest Company (CIC) set up by The Oaklea Trust whose aims were to promote young people's personal and social development and enable them to have a voice, influence and place in their communities and society as a whole.

The Local Committee noted that the CIC provided needs-led emotional, social and practical support to families where a child/young person had additional needs, anxiety or depression or learning and/or physical disabilities or those disengaged. It was explained that through targeted interventions this supported young people with career choices and preparation for adulthood.

Members were informed that the CIC was applying for funding of £11,088 which would provide support for 12 young people in the Barrow area; noting the schools that they would work with would be Furness Academy, Walney School and George Hastwell.

The Local Area Manager explained that in order to support young people Barrow Local Committee was, therefore, asked to consider funding six places at a cost of £5,544 from the 0-19 Services grants for Right2Work CIC.

The Committee was informed that Cumbria County Council had agreed to allocate Cost of Living funding to each local committee to help local food organisations on the purchase of food supplies over the coming months to alleviate increases in the cost of living, rising inflation and fuel prices. Members were informed that £18,100 would be allocated for Community Support and £26,800 for Food Purchasing and the Local Area Manager would provide further details in due course.

The Committee received a positive update from Barrow Library Customer Manager and noted that the Library and Archive Centre continued to be busy working on a range of activities and projects outlined in the report.

Members were informed that Barrow Library had celebrated Diversity Month in June showcasing new book collections, Barrow library staff had taken part in the Furness Pride event, Wordsworth Trust had delivered Rucksack and Rhymes and Springtime Gardens stories and craft sessions for younger customers during half term holidays, a Take Back event hosted by Cumbria County Council's Waste Management Team had been supported to allow local people to return aids for daily living, support to local refugees and asylum seekers continued and the Queen's Jubilee had been the main feature with the all the libraries in the group offering Royally Good Activities leading up to the day and into June

Members were informed that Ellie Dobson, Community Development Assistant, was leaving the Authority. The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked Ellie for her support and wished her well for the future.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the request for £15,000 funding from the Local Committee's 0-19 Services Grants and £10,000 from Community Grants for Love Barrow Families for a satellite hub project at Brisbane Park Annex (detailed above and in paragraphs 4.69-78 of the report) be agreed;

- (3) £5,544 from the Local Committee's 0-19 Services Grants for Right2Work CIC towards supporting the young people's project (as detailed above and in paragraphs 4.79-91 of the report) be agreed;
- (4) Mrs A Burns be nominated as the Local Committee's representative on the Young People's Multi-Agency Partnership Programme.

25 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no updates from members serving on outside bodies on this occasion.

26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Friday 16 September 2022 at 10.30 am in the Community Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm