

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL FURNESS LOCALITY BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Furness Locality Board** held on Wednesday, 17 April 2024 at 6.00 pm at Drawing Room, Barrow Town Hall, Barrow-in-Furness

PRESENT:

Cllr T Assouad
Cllr T Biggins
Cllr D Brook (Vice-Chair)
Cllr A Burns
Cllr T Callister (Chair)
Cllr D Cassidy
Cllr F Cassidy
Cllr A Coles
Cllr K Hamilton
Cllr A Husband
Cllr B McEwan
Cllr B Morgan
Cllr J Murphy
Cllr N Phillips
Cllr R Worthington

Officers in attendance:

Alison Meadows (Senior Manager - Safe & Strong Communities)
Emma Haughin (Senior Lawyer)
Victoria Upton (Traffic Management Manager)
Mo Dooz (Traffic Management Team Leader)
Joanne Marwood (Events and Marketing Manager)
Michelle Doherty (Place Officer)
Helen Houston (Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy)
Daniel Hudson (Interim Senior Manager - Planning Policy)
Katie Pepper (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer)

Also in attendance:

Mike Cummins (Cumbria Association of Local Councils)

PART I ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for Absence was received from Councillor Hall.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Worthington declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 as he was a Councillor for Barrow Town Council.

51. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public not be excluded during the consideration of any items on the agenda.

52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March, 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

53. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Stephen Grisdale attended the meeting and raised the following question to the committee –

Can the Furness Locality Board provide an assurance that;

- Any decision regarding the tree solution for Infield Park will be cognisant of the environmental implications, take account of legal requirements under the Environment Act 2021 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- That any arboricultural work will be carried out in accordance with BS3998 2010 -and any solution will be approved by elected officials following a thorough consultation process with the public?

To support a sustainable solution we expect that:

- There is adequate funding allocated for long term tree maintenance -A Tree Management Plan is put in place to support the environmental aspirations of the council -There is a funded programme to plant replacement trees for all those removed in the Barrow area.
- The council will be more proactive in sharing their reports to help inform consultation with the public.

Councillor Callister provided the following response to Mr Grisdale –

As Chair of Furness Locality Board I am aware that there is a planned public consultation to be held soon in relation to Infield Park. The Consultation will follow the guidelines included in the Duty to Consult guidance for local authorities, this guidance is issued pursuant to S 115 of the Environment Act 2021.

All WAF Council arboricultural work will be carried out in accordance with BS3998.

Furness Locality Board will be presented with the results of the Infield Park public consultation and a report from WAF Network team for the Locality Board to discuss if any works will be carried out on Infield Park.

There is a budget for the Local Area team to use

This Plan was currently being developed by WAF Council Arboculture team.

This type of work would require extra funding. As from 2023 – any tree removed by WAF Network team would be replanted as part of an annual contract.

Any documents or reports held by WAF Council could be obtained by making a Freedom of Information request. This could be made online by searching for Westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk and typing request a Freedom of Information request into the search bar and following the steps provided.

54. URGENT ITEMS

There were not urgent items of business for consideration on this occasion.

55. PRESENTATION - WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS LOCAL PLAN

Helen Houston and Dan Hudson provided a presentation on the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan.

56. 20MPH PRIORITISATION

The Traffic Management Manager presented the 20mph Prioritisation report.

The report set out the background to the 20mph policy, applications received and detailed the prioritisation process undertaken. The outcome of the prioritisation process, and a timetable for delivery of the 20mph schemes across Westmorland and Furness had been set out.

A total of 49 Town / Parish Councils and one Resident Group submitted applications for 20mph schemes. Within some of the 50 applications received, more than 1 location for a 20mph scheme was requested. In total, applications for a reduced 20mph speed limit for 79 locations across the three Locality areas were received.

Barrow Town Council made several discreet applications and, to ensure a strategic approach to expanding on the areas of 20mph speed limits within Barrow Town, separate engagement with the Town Council had begun. As a result, additional areas of the Town had been recommended to extend 20mph coverage, as schemes to be progressed throughout the programme of delivery. These would be listed out within the programme as engagement with Barrow Town Council continued.

Work would begin during 2024/25 on the remaining locations where applications were received, to identify further achievable schemes across the Westmorland and Furness area for delivery in 2025/26 and 2026/27. This would include gathering traffic data, determining appropriate extents, further discussion, and engagement with Town / Parish Councils.

It was moved by Councillor F Cassidy and seconded by Councillor McEwan and;

RESOLVED: - That the 5 schemes for Furness Locality listed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved.

57. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 20MPH SPEED LIMIT TRENT VALE NORTH WALNEY

The Traffic Management Manager presented the Traffic Regulation Order 20mph Speed Limit Trent Vale North Walney report.

The report informed Members of the outcome following the statutory advertisement and consultation of the Order concerning 20mph in North Walney to support the North Walney cycling scheme. 2 representations were received during the 21-day period of statutory advertisement and consultation. The report sought a resolution on the proposed introduction of the Order.

There was a proposed project in place which aimed to develop and deliver a 2.32km LTN 1/20 (Local Transport Note) complaint cycling, walking, and wheeling route on North Walney, Barrow-in-Furness. Commencing at Earnse Bay, the route followed West Shore Road and Trent Vale before going through Vickerstown Park and re-joining the highway at the Jubilee Bridge junction with Walney Promenade.

To facilitate a 0.31km section of 'quiet street' approach on Trent Vale the existing restricted road with a speed limit of 30mph, by virtue of the presence of a system of street lighting, was proposed to be reduced to 20mph. The aim was in slowing vehicular traffic where there was likely to be cyclists in the road.

The Order was proposed to include the connecting roads in introducing a reduced speed limit from the current restricted road 30mph to 20mph to slow vehicular traffic within this whole residential area. The roads were Trent Vale, Thames Road, Tyne Road, Mersey Road, Tees Gardens, Tweed Rise, Medway Road, Southport Drive and Maryport Avenue as shown in an Appendix to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Husband and seconded by Councillor Hamilton and;

RESOLVED: - That the WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS BARROW-IN-FURNESS AND SURROUNDING AREA)(CONSOLIDATION AND PROVISION OF SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 20>< ("the Order"), be brought into operation as advertised.

58. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - PRESTON STREET

The Traffic Management Team Leader presented the Traffic Regulation Order – Preston Street report.

The report informed Members of the outcome following the statutory advertisement and consultation of the Order concerning new parking arrangements on Preston Street, Barrow-in-Furness.

Preston Street currently had a number of “Loading Only Parking Place, Monday – Saturday, 8 am – 6 pm” restrictions. These parking bays were designated many years ago, but today motorists are abusing the use.

It is therefore proposed to replace those at the rear of the Cross Keys Hotel, Portland Walk, Cavendish Street with “No Waiting At Any Time” (double yellow lines).

Implementing a no-waiting at any time restriction would help to reduce congestion and improve the area's amenities.

The “Loading Only Parking Place, Monday – Saturday, 8am – 6pm” restriction on that part of Back Portland Walk/Preston Street, Barrow-in-Furness (behind no.s 5A, 6 and 7 Portland Walk and 21 Preston Street) would be retained.

A copy of the Notice which summarised the proposals was attached as an appendix to the report.

The statutory consultation and advertisement period commenced on 8th March 2024 and concluded on 29th March 2024.

One representation was received in relation to the statutory advertisement and consultation. A summary had been provided as part of the report which was attached as an appendix.

RESOLVED:- That the WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, BARROW-IN- FURNESS) (CONSOLIDATION AND PROVISION OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) ORDER 20>< (“the Order”), be brought into operation as advertised.

59. SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

The Senior Manager – Safe and Strong Communities presented the Safe and Strong Communities report.

The Safe and Strong Communities report brought together information from across Thriving Communities. It presented the 2024/25 devolved budget with recommendations to agree budget allocations, mechanisms for awarding grants and agree grant recommendations from 2024/25 within the devolved budget.

The report included updates from thematic workstreams, in line with priorities, highlight issues, actions and risks and provided an update on the devolved budget positions.

Thematic Working Groups

Since the Locality Board report on 19th March 2024 all four thematic working groups had been meeting weekly. The thematic working groups included Furness Locality

Board Members who had elected to sit on the working groups and key external partners who can provide the technical expertise as required.

The Furness Locality Board Plan had been agreed and the priorities for Furness Locality Board were:

Health & Wellbeing – supporting everyone to start well, live well and age well.

Poverty Proofing – supporting our disadvantaged communities to access and increase opportunities.

Community Working Group

- The working group had developed an action plan to look at delivering on priorities that had been emerging. These were:

- Website and staffing to support the Furness for You Know Your Neighbourhood Project.
- Anti-social behaviour in town centre.
- A key priority for the working group was addressing social isolation with data and community intelligence evidence North Walney and Hawcoat wards experiencing the highest levels

It was recommended that grant requests from Community Grants, 0-19s, 11-19s and DWP Household Support Fund were considered through Community Thematic Working Group. This was due to its cross-cutting areas from children and young people to adults including our 3rd sector partners. In addition, many of the funding applications were likely to be Furness wide and this working group had wide geographical representation of elected members as there would be a minimum of one elected member per ward on the working group.

Community Grants

- Cabinet at its meeting on 12th September 2023 approved the community grants scheme and criteria. The community grants were to support constituted non-profit making organisations to apply for grants up to £5k that benefit the local area and meet local priorities.

Grants from this fund were awarded to groups who were involved in community based projects and initiatives that would benefit the local area. The Community Grants Fund was intended to invest in communities to bring about a positive and lasting change for the benefit of the whole community. Projects and/or initiatives would be assessed on their ability to contribute to the achievement of the Westmorland and Furness Council Plan and locally identified community priorities.

0-19s Grants

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As part of the Furness Locality Board evaluation and in line with the Locality Board plan; it was proposed that a Looking Back to Look Forward workshop was held. This would enable members to look at projects, priorities, and how funding was targeted in 2023/24. This would then inform 2024/25 projects, priorities and would follow on from the Community Power Session held with New Local.

Through the Community Working Group it had been agreed that an update was provided on the community and 0-19 grants that had been awarded in terms of beneficiaries, additional funding drawn down. This would be fed back through the Community Working Group and part of the Locality Board report in July 2024.

11-19 Universal Services Grants

Universal Services budget was available to provide universal open access services for 11–19-year-olds. It was recommended that the same criteria be applied as the 0-19s grants budget.

Household Support Fund

This enabled the Locality Boards for discretionary spend within the HSF criteria to meet immediate needs and help those who were struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials. This targeted local support could be used to: support households with the cost of energy, e.g., insulation of hot water tanks, fitting draft excluding to doorways, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. Support households with the cost of food and water bills, essential costs related to energy, food and water, and with wider essentials costs. Support housing costs where existing housing support schemes did not meet this need. Support disabled people and those with caring responsibilities in their area.

The Locality Board was due to receive a further £50k Household Support Fund which would be in accordance with that which the relevant Director will sign off on the ODR. The Household Support Fund was to be expended within 6 months. Decisions would be taken by the Locality Board but in times when expediency was required, the Senior Manager, Safe and Strong Communities seeks delegated decision making for grants up to £5K in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Dalton Leisure Centre

Furness Locality Board had supported both Barrow and Dalton Leisure Centres with the 10p Swimming Initiative during February half-term. The initiative was also supported across Westmorland and Furness Council through South Lakeland and Eden Locality Boards.

In the Furness locality the funding enabled children to swim for 10p and receive hot food/packed lunch after the swim. The feedback had been extremely positive with full uptake on places offered. People that would not normally access Leisure Centres had taken advantage of the offer. It can be demonstrated there had been an increase in social connections, physical activity and healthy eating.

Members had recently approved the same initiative for May half-term in Barrow Leisure Centre. Members were asked to consider repeating the initiative in May half-

term providing the same offer of 10p swim and food in Dalton Leisure Centre. The cost would be the same as during February half term £7,650 with £4,500 recommended from Priorities funding and £3,150 from DWP funding. This would allow opportunities to undertake further evaluation, additional benefits and opportunities.

Priority Wards Working Group

The working group has developed an action plan to look at delivering on priorities that are emerging such as:

- Health Plan to address health inequalities to support the action plan.
- Get Ready for Winter – Two events to be held in Central & Hindpool wards joint third-sector and statutory partners to provide residents with practical and holistic support.
- Football Foundation Playzone – Expression of Interest approved to look at proposal of developing a playzone in the priority wards.Furness
- The BeWell Events utilising the Harri Bus in supermarket car parks had evidenced the numbers of people who are socially isolated. The main wards of social isolation are North Walney and Hawcoat. This would be picked up through the Community Working Group.

Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity

The Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity Working Group had developed an action plan to look with key updates and schemes. In addition to the various highways and sustainable travel and transport schemes being discussed the working group was also looking more strategically at wider assets for Furness to be a destination area and to inform the Local Plan.

Sustainable Travel & Transport Schemes

The criteria for local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund was to support the development of local sustainable travel and transport schemes, including footpaths and rights of way, cycling, school streets and community transport. The fund would help improve public health and the environment by reducing congestion, air pollution, carbon emissions and supporting healthier lifestyles.

It was recommended that schemes that meet the criteria for the local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund were considered through the Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity Working Group.

Education, Skills & Economy

The working group had developed an action plan to look at supporting on priorities that are emerging. These were:

- Welfare and transition across Primary and Secondary Schools.
- Data evaluation around senior school qualifications, further education retention and young people not in education, employment or training.

- Long-term sick.
- Benefits system.

The Working Group had received the above updates and would now look to identify key priorities to take forward.

Informal Briefing Sessions

– In addition to the Locality Board meetings and thematic working groups it was agreed there would be informal briefing sessions to receive timely updates and presentations. There were further informal briefing sessions planned with key partners and directorates.

Devolved Communities Budget

– The Furness Locality Board budget allocations were detailed in a table in the report.

UKSPF Cultural Grants Panel.

– Two successful funding bids were submitted to the Uk Government Shared Prosperity fund. One application was for £100,000 to deliver grants to improve the events and festivals offer across Westmorland and Furness. Small grants would be offered internally or externally to small organisations requiring funding to improve the quality and functionality of the event festival. The objectives for this fund was to support 10 organisations to improve events and festivals, provide 22 organisations with non-financial support to improve their events and festivals offer, support 10 amenities and facilities and reach 1000 people with the project benefits.

The other successful application was for £200,000 for Arts Culture and Heritage to improve community involvement in existing cultural, creative and heritage organisations, enhance current facilities, increase wheelchair access and footfall. Funding would be offered internally or externally to small organisations requiring funding. The objectives for this fund would be to improve 8 culture or heritage assets, support 7 events, make 50 m2 of land wheelchair accessible support or step free and create 10 facilities. Grants funding in the Barrow area would be used for capital and revenue and grants in Eden and South Lakes would be used for capital only.

A grants panel consisting of Council Officers and one member from each locality was required to make transparent decisions on grant applications. The first virtual panel meeting was scheduled for Summer 2024. It would depend on the number of applications whether both funds are considered in one panel meeting or there were two separate ones.

– Members were asked to nominate one member to sit on the Panel which would look at Events and Festivals grant applications and Arts Culture and Heritage applications.

Councillor Husband Nominated Councillor Burns

The Board agreed that Councillor Burns be appointed to sit on the UKSPF Grants Panel.

RESOLVED: -

- I) To Note the status of the Furness Locality Board discretionary budgets and the commitments and expenditure to date;
- II) Note the updates included in the report including the thematic working groups, partnerships and grant recommendations as outlined;
- III) To allocate £30,000 to Community Grants budget with £20,000 coming from General Provisions Funding and £10,000 coming from 0-19s budget;
- IV) To agree the mechanism for awarding Community Grants;
- V) To agree the allocation of £47,596 to 0-19s Budget;
- VI) To agree the mechanism for awarding 0-19 Grants;
- VII) To agree the mechanism for awarding 11-19 Universal Service Grants;
- VIII) To agree the mechanism for awarding the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) Household Support Fund;
- IX) To agree the mechanism for awarding the Community Planning (Growth Bid) Funding;
- X) To agree that decisions on budget allocations and grants from the General Budget, Community Grants, 0-19 Budget, 11-19 Universal Service Grant and the Household Support Fund of up to £5,000 are delegated to the Senior Manager, Safe and Strong Communities, with the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair of Furness Locality Board and relevant ward member(s). Any approvals for amounts above £5,000 will be brought as a recommendation to the Furness Locality Board for a decision;
- XI) To agree the mechanism for awarding the Sustainable, Travel and Transport Fund which was delegated to the Director of Thriving Places with the Chair of the Locality Board for the relevant schemes;
- XII) To agree to allocate Dalton Leisure Centre £4,500 for children's 10p swimming at Dalton Leisure Centre from Priorities Funding;
- XIII) To agree to allocate Dalton Leisure Centre £3,150 for food to support children's 10p swimming at Dalton Leisure Centre from DWP Funding;
- XIV) To agree to allocate Barrow Citizens Advice Bureau £57,060 towards Money Advice Service;

XV) Agree to nominate Councillor Burns to sit on the UKSPF Cultural grants panel.

The meeting ended at 7.12 pm