

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL FURNESS LOCALITY BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Furness Locality Board** held on Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 6.00 pm at Drawing Room, Barrow Town Hall, Barrow in Furness

PRESENT:

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 D Edwards
Cllr L Hall
Cllr K Hamilton
Cllr A Husband
Cllr B McEwan
Cllr B Morgan
Cllr N Phillips
Cllr B Shirley
Cllr D Taylor
Cllr R Worthington

Officers in attendance:

Alison Meadows (Senior Manager - Safe & Strong Communities)
Emma Haughin (Senior Lawyer)
Katie Pepper (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer)

Also in attendance:

Mike Cummings (Cumbria Association of Local Councils)

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

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Assouad and Murphy.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Edwards declared an interest in Agenda item 7 as he was employed by Inspira.

Councillor D Cassidy declared an interest in Agenda item 7 as he was employed by Cumbria CVS.

37. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

39. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Recognising the residents desire for improved speed controls in and around the Newbarns ward and their submission of their comprehensive 20mph zones request how do they move this forward at pace given the potential catastrophic consequences if they procrastinated further?

The committee discussed the question.

It was raised that a letter should be written to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Assets regarding these issues.

Councillor Callister provided the following response to Mr Grisdale –

Westmorland and Furness Council adopted a 20mph speed limit policy in September 2023. We are currently receiving applications for 20mph speed limit schemes through Town and Parish Councils. An application has been received from Barrow Town Council in respect of Newbarns Ward Barrow-in-Furness.

Westmorland and Furness Council are currently working through a prioritisation matrix to score the applications enabling a prioritised list to be presented back to Locality Boards in April 2024. This will enable the first phase of schemes to be agreed and progressed. Subsequent phases will follow as it is anticipated that not all applications will be able to be progressed as part of the first phase.

Following prioritisation there will follow a process of design and consultation with the local community before a Traffic regulation Order (TRO) legal process will be undertaken for the proposed 20mph speed limit scheme. It is necessary to follow to correct process, which is a statutory one to ensure that a legal and enforceable speed limit is put into place.

We thank you for your attendance today and presentation of support for 20mph speed limit in Newbarns Ward.

40. URGENT ITEMS

Councillor Shirley raised his concerns that the Council Meeting Scheduled for 18th January, 2024 had been cancelled and requested the Chair to write a letter to the Leader of the Council raising this issue.

Councillor Hamilton raised the issue of the reception desk at Barrow Town Hall and that they had agreed that one would be set up.

Alison Meadows informed the board that this was currently in the system and the Locality Board would be consulted again regarding this.

RESOLVED: Councillor Callister to write to the Leader of the Council raising the Boards concerns over the cancellation of the Council meeting on 18th January, 2024.

41. SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

The Senior Manager - Safe & Strong Communities presented the Safe & Strong Communities report to the Board.

She stated that the report brought together information from across Thriving Communities. 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.

The Furness Locality Board Draft Plan had been attached as an appendix to the report and set out its priorities based on local issues and opportunities while supporting Westmorland and Furness Council's vision, priorities and values. The Locality Board Plan priorities would be reviewed annually to ensure they reflected community need.

Thematic Working Groups

Since the Locality Board report on 18th October 2023 all four thematic working groups had now held two meetings. The thematic working groups included Furness Locality Board Members who had been elected to sit on the working groups and key external partners who could provide the technical expertise as required.

The priorities for Furness Locality Board were:

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

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

At the meeting of 6th June 2023, Cabinet agreed to delegate a further one-off funding. This comprised £230,400 for Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund,

£100,000 for Strong and Connected Communities Programme, £80,800 Household Support Fund for the Furness Locality Board.

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 £5,000 that benefitted the local area and met local priorities.

Community Thematic Working Groups

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

- Website and staffing to support the Know Your Neighbourhood Project.
- Anti-social behaviour in town centre and considering funding request from 11-19 Universal Funding for Furness Youth Work Partnership.
- Mapping of ward assets.
- Update on Team Barrow.

Furness Locality Board at its meeting on 18th October 2023 agreed that community grants budget, 0-19s budget, 11-19s budget and DWP Household Support Fund would be considered through the Community Thematic Working Group.

Grants up to £5,000 were 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 would be brought as a recommendation to the Furness Locality Board for a decision.

The Community Thematic Working Group had held meetings in October 2023 and December 2023 to recommend and agree grants from its Community Grants, 0-19s, 11-19s and DWP Household Support Fund.

The following grants were agreed from Community Grants under delegated authority.

Armed Forces and Breakfast Club £500

Cumbria CVS Inspiring Barrow Programme £4,992

The following grants were agreed from 0-19s Grants under delegated authority.

Cumbria CVS Inspiring Barrow Programme £4,992

The following grants were recommended for approval at the Locality Board as the amounts were above £5,000 from the budgets outlined.

Furness Education Skills & Partnership Step Up & Play £12,000 – 0-19s budget.

Step Up and Play was a partnership of four schools in Central Ward in Barrow (Sacred Heart, St. Georges, Greengate & Ramsden Infants). The project aimed to ensure that children aged 4-11 in central Barrow, and their families had equity of opportunity to engage with local sports clubs. The project achieved this by helping children attend training, practice and competitions, on a weekly, sustainable, basis. They provide transport and escort to the different local sports clubs, supervise and support the children and then took them home. They arranged links with the clubs, ensure safety procedures are met and liaise with families to demonstrate the long-term benefits of sporting opportunities and culture.

The total cost of the project for 12 months was £36,000 and the partnership was seeking one-third of the cost to run the project for the next 12 months with the aim of raising further funding for 3 years so that they could support the children in the project, for a long enough period of time, to make a good start to achieving their sporting ambitions.

Inspira Food Programme £12,100 – DWP Household Support Fund

Under sovereign Cumbria County Council for Barrow and South Lakeland they funded Inspira through DWP funding for a 6-month pilot project for lunches which provided sandwiches, fruit, crisps etc supplied by a local business. This pilot helped to improve client wellbeing and participation in interviews with local employers and from the pilot in Barrow has demonstrated how successful it had been. Their current funding was due to end shortly and they would like to apply for extension funding to support unemployed adults on the programme to have a lunch until the end of March 2025 which would run in parallel with the delivery of Inspira's pre-employment programmes.

A request for funding from the 11-19 Universal Services budget for Dropzone on behalf of Furness Youth Work Partnership had been submitted. Due to timing of the Community Working Group and the funding amount the request was coming to the Locality Board for consideration. The need for the project had also been prioritised through the Community Thematic Working Group.

Dropzone on behalf of the Furness Youth Work Partnership had submitted a collaborative funding bid of £100,000 to the National Lottery Million Hours. The National Lottery Million Hours funding was to support anti-social behaviour projects and the priority wards of Old Barrow and Hindpool along with Walney were specifically identified by the National Lottery experiencing ASB.

The overall project would support an extra 1325 hours of youth work per year (50 weeks) and young people would be offered weekly sessions over this period. This enabled their detached provision to be increased by 2 hours per week involving partners from Furness Youth Work Partnership. As a collaborative approach this enabled them to increase capacity to target ASB hotspots. Historically secured funding to address ASB had always been small pots and did not enable long-term relationships, trust and programmes to be developed.

Priority Wards Thematic Working Group

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

- Health messages to the community in terms of accessing the right health support.
- Participation in health workshops on key issues of self-harm, respiratory diseases and the effect on people due to the wider health determinants such as poor-quality housing.
- The Working Group had escalated an issue in relation to housing. An update would be provided at the next working group. A briefing on Housing would also be arranged for the full Locality Board.

A key objective from the Priority Wards Working Group was to develop a long term plan for 10-20 years covering all key issues (environment, education, health) identifying and securing resources to implement and regularly update the plan.

Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity

The Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity Working Group had developed an action plan to look with key updates and schemes as follows:

- Highways revenue programme
- Ash Die Back update
- Sustainable Travel & Transport Schemes Members also put forward a list of schemes and these were now being investigated in terms of feasibility and costings and would be brought to a future working group for consideration and funding recommendation.

The following were schemes with quotes submitted to the Working Group and had been recommended for approval at the Locality Board.

- Haggs Scheme – clear vegetation, improve footpath and resurface including repairing the bridge total cost £33,000.
- Biggar Bank to Sandy Gap – improve footpath total cost £67,000.
- Furness Abbey Footway – renew footpath, repair gates and latches total cost £11,172.

An additional funding request from the Community Forest Trusts had been submitted after the meeting of the Working Group and the Locality Board had been asked to consider this request. The Community Forest Trust supported the development of community forestry initiatives. Projects included mitigating climate change through the provision of high-quality green infrastructure.

Community Forest Trust would plant over four thousand five hundred trees / saplings, over approx. total of 4.5 Hectares across three urban sites. They would bring the expertise to select the right mix of broadleaf woodland species, site specific surveys, planting preparation, liaison with volunteers and on-going maintenance to ensure successful survival of the trees. Planting on sites was likely to be in February/March - planting likely to take 2-3 days on each site. Engagement had already started for the Parkview site. The planting process would be completed before the end of the financial year.

All the trees planted were funded by the Trees for Climate funding, provided by Cumbria Community Forest. This application would fund work that responded to the themes of the sites for the planned plantings to increase value and engagement. The organisation had secured funding of £23,500 from the W & F Climate and Nature Partnership Fund and were seeking to secure a shortfall of £11,540 to enable the total project cost of £36,840 to be achieved and the programme successfully delivered.

Education Skills and Economy

The working group had developed an action plan to look at supporting on priorities that were 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

At the Furness Locality Board on 18th October 2023 it was agreed to fund the Christmas Support Project with Project John, Barrow Foodbank, Salvation Army, Spring Mount, Age UK and Furness Multicultural Forum. The Christmas Support project supported the most vulnerable families and individuals with food, toiletries, household essentials, toys, vouchers and warm packs. Referrals were made through a referral form by organisations, Schools, churches, statutory services for the family or individual to be supported as appropriate and referrers can identify those that need support as they would be working with them.

The total funding awarded was as follows.

Total £12,070 – Locality Board Priorities

Total £15,600 – DWP Household Support Fund

The Committee discussed the report.

Councillor Shirley asked if the Police Crime Commission had been asked to contribute to any of the funding.

Alison Meadows stated she would contact the Furness Youthwork Partnership and suggest they request funding from the PCC.

Mike Cummings stated in relation to recommendation 2.8 that he was chairman for Dropzone and they would produce a report for the funders.

In relation to recommendation 2.14 Councillor Burns requested that it be noted that she voted against this recommendation.

RESOLVED: -

- i. To approve the Furness Locality Board Draft Plan.
- ii. To note the status of the Furness Locality Board discretionary budgets and the commitments and expenditure to date.
- iii. To note the updates included in the report including the thematic working groups, partnerships and grant recommendations as outlined.
- iv. To agree to allocate Furness Education Skills Partnership £12,000 for the Step Up and Play Project from the 0-19 budget.
- v. To agree an annual funding request of £12,000 for the Step up and Play Project for the next three years subject to availability of devolved annual budget allocations to the Locality Board.
- vi. To agree to allocate Inspira £12,100 for their food programme from the DWP Household Support Fund.
- vii. To agree to allocate Dropzone £25,042 for the anti-social behaviour project from the 11-19 Universal Fund.
- viii. To agree to allocate £33,000 towards the Hagsgs Scheme from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund.
- ix. To agree to allocate £67,000 towards the Biggar Bank to Sandy Gap Scheme from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund.
- x. To agree to allocate £11,172 towards Furness Abbey Footway from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund.
- xi. To agree to allocate £11,540 towards the Community Forest Trusts from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund.
- xii. To agree to invite the Morecambe Bay NHS Integrated Care Communities Lead onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity.

- xiii. To agree to invite Cumbria CVS District Manager to be co-opted onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity.
- xiv. To agree to invite a representative of BAE to be co-opted onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity.
- xv. Agree to invite a representative of Furness Youth Work Partnership to be co-opted onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity.

The meeting ended at 7.41 pm.