

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL FURNESS LOCALITY BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Furness Locality Board** held on Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 6.00 pm at Drawing Room - Barrow Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr T Assouad
Cllr T Biggins
Cllr D Brook (Vice-Chair)
Cllr A Burns
Cllr T Callister (Chair)
Cllr F Cassidy
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:

Nick Perie (Cumbria Association of Local Councils)

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

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Cassidy and Murphy.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Shirley declared an interest stating he was Manager of Dalton United Football Club.

44. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

45. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

46. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED: - To note that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received in respect of the meeting.

47. URGENT ITEMS

Councillor Phillips raised an urgent item.

He informed the Committee of the planned tree felling at Infield Park and stated that this would have a great impact on the neighbourhood as well as the wildlife.

There were concerns about the lack of consultation with residents and it had been agreed that the felling would be paused and further consultations would be held.

RESOLVED: - The Committee noted the information.

48. SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

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

The Safe and Strong Communities 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.

In the report there were recommendations to agree grant awards from 2023/24 devolved budgets.

Thematic Working Groups

Since the Locality Board report on 10th January 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 could 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 their 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 were emerging. These were:

- Website and staffing to support the Furness for You Know Your Neighbourhood Project.
- Anti-social behaviour in town centre and the Locality Board supported matched funding towards the National Lottery Million Hours Funding Bid.
- Mapping of ward assets now completed.
- BEATS programme – Exercise on Referral – Barrow Forward.

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 Locality Board at its meeting on 18th October 2023 agreed that the Strong Connected and Communities Fund would be considered through the Priority Wards Thematic 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.

Education, Skills & Economy

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

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.

Below is the list since January's Locality Board meeting.

- Update on assets/major projects Furness area.
- Housing Revenue Account
- Parking Reports
- Winter Maintenance/Gritting,
- Active Cumbria presentation attached as Appendix 2.
- Barrow Citizens Advice Bureau

Devolved Communities Budget

The Furness Locality Board budget allocations were detailed in the following table.

Locality Board Priorities	£33,200
Furness Community Grants Fund	£30,000
0-19 Services	£47,596
11-19 Universal Services	£25,042
Strong & Connected Communities Fund	£100,000
Local Sustainable Travel & Transport Fund	£230,400
DWP Household Support Fund	£80,800
Money Advice Service	£57,060
Highways Revenue	£512,000
Community Budget Total	£1,116,098

The Committee discussed the report.

A councillor asked in the 10p swims would also be taking place in Dalton?

Alison Meadows confirmed that this would be reported at the April Furness Locality Board.

It was asked if the Committee could have assurance that they would continue working with Spring Mount.

Alison Meadows advised that they worked closely with Spring Mount and they were keen to support them in Salthouse Pavilion.

In relation to recommendation 2.11, a question was raised as to whether this programme was being monitored so it could be reported back to the Committee.

The Committee were advised that 10p Swimming scheme was being monitored and it would be put as a key project on the action plan.

Relating to recommendation 2.7, it was asked if the Locality Board could look into setting up a Furness Football Foundation.

Additionally in relation to recommendation 2.7, a question was asked if this was to improve the facilities at the park which had been closed as well as looking at additional areas.

The Chair stated they would get an update on the situation and circulate the response.

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

RESOLVED: -

- i) To note the status of the Furness Locality Board discretionary budgets and the commitments and expenditure to date;

- ii) To note the updates included in this report including the thematic working groups, partnerships and grant recommendations;
- iii) To agree to allocate Spring Mount £15,043.00 for the family meal and life skills project from the DWP Household Support Fund budget;
- iv) To agree to allocate Barrow & District Disability Association £5,951.00 for Café activities from DWP Household Support Funding;
- v) To agree to allocate Barrow & District Disability Association £44.00 for Café activities from Priorities Funding;
- vi) To agree to allocate Active Cumbria £59,891.00 for the Football Foundation Playzone from the Strong Connected and Communities Fund budget;
- vii) To agree to allocate Cumbria CVS £32,039 for the Furness for You website staffing costs for one year from the Strong Connected and Communities Fund budget;
- viii) To consider funding a second year for Furness for You Website staffing subject to availability of devolved annual budget allocations to the Locality Board;
- ix) To agree to allocate Furness Media Company £8,070 for the website design, development hosting and costs for two years from Strong Connected and Communities Fund budget;
- x) To agree to allocate Barrow Forward £3,100 for 10p swimming at Barrow Leisure Centre from Priorities Funding;
- xi) To agree to allocate Barrow Forward £3,500 for food to support 10p swimming at Barrow Leisure Centre from DWP Funding;
- xii) To agree to allocate Barrow Forward £11,112 for Fit and Fed swimming sessions at Barrow Leisure Centre from Priorities Funding;
- xiii) To agree to allocate Barrow Forward £20,606.25 for Fit and Fed food provision at Barrow Leisure Centre from DWP Household Support Funding;
- xiv) To agree to allocate £6,740.00 towards Rampside footpath improvements from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding;
- xv) To agree to allocate £2,831 towards replace/repair wooden footpath signs from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding;
- xvi) To agree to allocate £1,000 towards improvements to footpath 602024 from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding;
- xvii) To allocate £1,500 to clear Rating Lane Culvert under footpath 601057 from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding;

- xviii) To agree to allocate £9,120 to replace fencing at Elliscales from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding;
- xix) To agree to validate the Dalton Borderlands two Project Initiation Documents to be worked up and taken forward to develop into business cases.

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm