



# Minutes

## Community Engagement Forum (Central)

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Venue: Barlow Village Hall, Barlow

Date: Wednesday 14 September 2016

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: District and County Councillors

None

Co-opted Members

Anthony Wray (Chair), Melanie Davis, Margaret Bantoff, and Michael Dyson.

Apologies: Councillor C Lunn

Officers present: Paul Varney, Programme Manager (Groundwork), Carole Williams, Community Officer, (Selby District Council (SDC)), Chris Watson, Assistant Policy Officer (SDC), Michelle Dinsdale, Policy Officer (SDC), Sharon Fox, Highways (North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)), Wendy Muldoon and Grace Lawes, Emergency Planning (NYCC) and Janine Jenkinson, Democratic Services Officer (SDC).

Public: 2

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### 1. OPEN SESSION

The open session had consultation tables from North Yorkshire County Council Highways (NYCC), Community Officer, Selby District Council (SDC), Policy Officers (SDC) and Emergency Planning, (NYCC).

## **2. FORUM MEETING – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced, Katrine Bay Madsen, Green Doctor (Groundwork) and Wendy Muldoon, Emergency Planning (North Yorkshire County Council).

In addition to the items on the agenda, the Chair wished to discuss Police attendance at CEF Forum meetings. He reported that due to resource pressures, it had not always been possible for the Police to attend the Central CEF Forum meetings, and as an alternative he suggested that if the Police were unable to attend, they provided the meeting with a written update. The Democratic Services Officer agreed to forward the request to the Police.

Paul Varney, Programme Manager (Groundwork), addressed the Forum, and explained that Groundwork had been chosen to administer the Tesco Bags of Help project. The project was a local grant scheme whereby the money raised from the government's 5p bag charge was used to fund a large number of local projects to create or improve outdoor spaces in communities' across the country.

The Programme Manager reported that each month three local community projects would be awarded a grant based on the number of votes received. Attendees were encouraged to visit the website, vote for a project and submit projects in their local areas.

## **3. ENERGY SAVING – GREEN DOCTOR (GROUNDWORK)**

Katrine Bay Madsen, provided the Forum with a summary of the work carried out by the Green Doctor organisation. She explained that the Green Doctor service provided home visits and advice to help households use less energy, keep warm and save money. The Green Doctor home visits usually took an hour and provided information as well as installing small energy efficiency measures.

The Green Doctor organisation provided information and advice on the following:

- Switching suppliers
- Applying for the Warm Homes Discount
- Grants for insulation and central heating
- Energy bills and fuel debt
- Behavioural changes to reduce costs
- Managing heating control

The Green Doctor organisation also installed simple energy-saving measures including:

- Energy-efficient light bulbs
- Draught excluders
- Reflective radiator panels
- Pipe lagging
- Hot water tank jackets

- Water saving devices

In response to a question regarding eligibility, attendees were advised that the service was free of charge, however subject to eligibility criteria. In general, those eligible were people on lower incomes, older people, and people with medical health issues. People could contact the Green Doctor service directly or make referrals on behalf of others.

Attendees were encouraged to make a referral for anyone they thought could benefit from the use of the service offered by the Green Doctor.

#### **4. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN – NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Wendy Muldoon, Emergency Planning Officer (NYCC) reported that communities across the District were being encouraged to develop a Community Emergency Plan.

The Emergency Planning Officer explained that a Community Emergency Plan was a tool used to prepare for the emergencies that could affect a community. Attendees were informed that the emergency services would always have to prioritise those in greatest need during an emergency, and therefore a community may need to rely on its own resources to minimise the impact of an emergency, before the emergency services arrived.

The Emergency Planning Officer explained that a Community Emergency Plan was designed to identify:

- A coordination/meeting point (e.g. village hall).
- Short-term safe refuge places for people displaced from their homes.
- Emergency volunteers.
- Useful emergency equipment.
- Vulnerable people in the community.
- Useful emergency contacts.

The Emergency Planning Officer explained that a template document and assistance producing a plan was available to all communities throughout the District.

The Chair thanked the speakers for attending the meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.20 p.m.