

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee held at Selby District Council Offices, Selby on 29 March 2019 at 10.00 am.

**Present:-**

**Members:-**

County Councillors Richard Musgrave (Chairman), Stephanie Duckett, Mel Hobson, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Cliff Lunn, Don Mackay, Chris Pearson and Cliff Trotter; together with Co-opted Member Howard Ferguson.

**Officers:-**

Hannah Bowles (Business Support), Tom Jenkinson (Stronger Communities), Judith Kirk (Assistant Director - Education and Skills, CYPS), Fiona Dowson (The Bridge, Tadcaster), John S Lee (Strategic Planning Officer, CYPS), Steve Loach (Democratic Services), Liz Meade (Stronger Communities) and Cerys Townend (Inclusion Officer, CYPS).

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Apologies:-**

Apologies were received from County Councillors Karl Arthur and Andy Paraskos.

---

**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

---

**29. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman noted that there had been responses received in relation to the issues discussed at previous meetings on fly tipping (from the Secretary of State following a letter from the local MP, Nigel Adams) and from Harrogate Borough Council in relation to issues raised around planning informatives/conditions ensuring that appropriate infrastructure was provided at the time of a new build, to incorporate connection to superfast broadband. It was noted that these responses would be circulated to Members following the meeting.

In relation to the issues raised on fly tipping a Member considered that more action was required to catch perpetrators at the time of the tipping, with more CCTV in place. It was noted that, recently, Selby District Council had invested in mobile CCTV and it was hoped that this would help to address that issue.

The Chairman noted that this would be his final meeting as Chairman, with appointment of Chairman expected to take place at the next meeting of the Committee. He thanked Members and the Clerk for their support during his time in the Chair.

It was noted that Vice-Chairman, County Councillor Andy Paraskos, had been ill, and had recently spent a period of time in hospital. It was agreed that a letter be sent from the Committee wishing him a speedy recovery.

### **30. Minutes**

#### **Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **31. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **32. Public Questions or Statements**

There were no questions or statements submitted by members of the public.

### **33. Schools, Educational Achievement and Finance**

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service informing Members of the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Selby and Ainsty Constituency Committee area.

Assistant Director - Education and Skills, Judith Kirk, Strategic Planning Officer, Education Services, John S Lee and Inclusion Officer, Cerys Townend attended the meeting to present the report and assist Members with their discussion of the issues raised.

They presented a report, highlighting the following:-

- ◆ Local educational landscape
  - 15 primary academies and three secondary academies within Selby and Ainsty Constituency area.
  - Academy conversion rates slightly higher within area than county.
  - Summary of schools status as of March 2019.
- ◆ School standards
  - School Ofsted judgements.
  - 94% of primary schools judged good or outstanding.
  - 83.3% secondary schools judged good or outstanding.
  - Three schools currently judged requires improvement and two judged inadequate.
- ◆ Attainment overall
  - Early Years Foundation Stage profile.
  - 75.9% of children achieved a good level of development improving on 2016 figures.

- ◆ Key Stage 2
  - 65.4% of children achieved the expected level or above in reading, writing and maths combined.
- ◆ Key Stage 4
  - Average attainment 8 score - 46.3 - measures progress from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school - Selby and Ainsty area same as national average but below North Yorkshire average.
  - Percentage achieving Grade 5 or above in English and maths - 45.2%.
- ◆ Key Stage 5
  - A Level average points score per entry - 31.5 - marginally below national and North Yorkshire averages.
  - Not in education, employment or training - 845 young people in Year 11 in January 2018 - only three (0.36%) not in education, employment or training after leaving school.
- ◆ Fixed-term and permanent exclusions
  - Fixed-term exclusion incidents - 2018/19 Autumn Term - 140 of 997 children subject to a fixed-term exclusion. The most common reason was “persistent disruptive behaviour”.
  - Constituency area had 16% share of total schools population in North Yorkshire but only a 12% share of fixed term exclusions in 2017/18.
- ◆ Permanent exclusions
  - 2017/18 - 15 in Selby and Ainsty of 103 in North Yorkshire - 15% of North Yorkshire total.
- ◆ Local authority response to exclusions
  - Reducing exclusions an ongoing priority for the Council recognising negative impact of such outcomes for young people - series of actions identified.
- ◆ Special educational needs and disabilities
  - Around 6.6% (185) of all County Council funded Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) placed within schools in the constituency, however, there was currently no Special School in the area. Most common needs for children with ECHP in the area were Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) - 30% - and social emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) - 18%.
  - 15.4% (1291) of all children recorded as SEND support were from schools in the constituency - most common needs for children receiving SEND support were moderate learning difficulties and speech, language and communication needs.
- ◆ School finance - schools in financial difficulty - countywide position - as of March 2018

- 54 schools with accumulated deficits totalling £4.4m.
  - Increase of £1.9m from 17/18.
  - Deficits range from £1k (small primary) up to £968k (special school).
  - Average primary school deficit was £23k.
  - Average secondary school deficit was £338k.
  - Of 59 schools, 29 predicting that position would deteriorate.
  - 23 schools would improve their position but only 13 would get back into surplus.
- ◆ School projections - based on 18/19 start budgets
- 223 LA maintained schools projecting in-year deficit.
  - 26 schools move from surplus balance to deficit balance by March 2019.
  - Nearly 20% of LA maintained schools in deficit - projected to rise to nearly half by 2019/20 and two out of every three by March 2021.
  - Indications from revised forecasts received to date were that there would be some improvement in the overall position.
- ◆ Funding
- Concern around overall quantum of funding given cost pressures.
  - North Yorkshire secondary schools placed 122 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding.
  - Primary schools and secondary schools receive much lower funding per pupil compared to other areas.
  - Concern over impact of high needs financial pressure on school budgets.
  - Sparsity and lump sum funding potentially reduced from £325k to £175k.
- ◆ Schools in financial difficulty - Selby and Ainsty
- Based on revised budgets December 2018 - 35 primary schools and 3 secondary schools.
  - 2018/19 - 9 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2019 - 24% of schools in Selby/8 primaries and 1 secondary - total value of deficit £564k.
  - 2020/21 - 20 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2021 - 53% schools in Selby/19 primaries and 1 secondary/total value of deficits = £1.5m.
- ◆ Planning school places
- Schools sustainability.
  - Largely influenced by three factors - falling rolls/school standards/financial difficulty.
  - Eight closures in the county over the last three years with one in the constituency area.
- ◆ Collaborative working
- Two or more schools working together to the mutual benefit of their pupils with the overall aim of improving outcomes for all.
  - Four federations in Selby and Ainsty area - each of federations were two maintained schools with a single Governing Body and Headteacher.

- ◆ Pupil rolls - current and future
  - County Council has statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places available for every child under Education Act 1996. For this purpose they group schools together into planning areas in accordance with requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
  - County Council are carefully monitoring pupil growth from new housing providing new school places in areas of growth such as Selby and Ainsty.
  - Recent schemes included wholly new primary academy at Staynor Hall in Selby and large scale expansion to Athelstan Primary School in Sherburn in Elmet and at Thorpe Willoughby Community Primary.
  - Other projects:-
    - Barlby Primary area - additional capacity to be added at Barlby Community Primary and Barlby Bridge Community Primary - longer term additional capacity also provided on Olympia Park development potentially through relocation expansion of Barlby Bridge Community Primary.
    - Selby Primary area - County Council working with Ebor Academy Trust plan a potential expansion of Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy - also recently provided additional capacity at Selby Community Primary - further housing allocations likely to lead to the need for another new primary school in the town.
    - Sherburn Primary and Sherburn Primary outer areas - additional capacity planned at Sherburn Hungate Primary Academy and being explored at other local schools.
    - Boroughbridge Primary outer area - proposed new settlement in Green Hammerton/Kirk Hammerton area - require new primary provision on the site and the expansion of Boroughbridge High School.

Following the initial presentation Members discussed the report and a number of issues and points were raised as follows:-

- ◆ It was noted that there were plans for a Special School to be built in the Osgodby area of Selby District and it was asked what were the timescales for that development. In response it was stated that the plans were in place, however, it was early in the process as yet and a provider for the facility was currently being sought, therefore, there were no timescales to disclose at this stage. Members welcomed the approval of the development and the benefits that it would bring to the Selby area not least in providing sustainable special school facilities and ensuring that children did not have to travel great distances to access those facilities.
- ◆ A Member highlighted the current problems faced by schools in terms of funding coming in and their deficit position and noted that extra pressure was being placed on them with the large amount of housing developments taking place, particularly within the electoral division around Sherburn in Elmet. He also raised concerns regarding Sherburn High School, which he considered to have poor facilities and was in much need of upgrading to take account of the additional children coming into the area. He asked, with limited budgets, how these matters were being addressed. In response it was noted that efforts were being made to enhance the primary school provision in the area, as outlined earlier in the presentation and should it be necessary this would be

further enhanced through the expansion of existing schools or the provision of additional facilities. Close monitoring of the situation would continue. It was accepted that Sherburn High School was an aging building and the Member noted that this was originally a temporary building provided following a fire at the school but had been in place for around 50 years now. It was noted that the provision of updated facilities at schools was proving difficult due to the current financial situation.

- ◆ Members noted that the current deficit situation for schools was resulting in reductions in staff, which in turn was leading to more disruption within classrooms, which led to disruptive behaviour and exclusions. In response it was emphasised that the issue did not relate solely to finances and numbers of staff, but also to staff having the correct knowledge and training to establish appropriate relationships with children with additional needs. The strategic plan for schools sought to address that situation.
- ◆ A Member noted the difficulty being faced by parents in her area, with one school proving more popular than the others due to Ofsted reports, many parents being unable to obtain places for their children at the nearest school, due to that. She noted that an expansion of the Staynor Hall School would be welcomed by the local community to enable more local children to be accommodated there. In response it was stated that there was a potential for that to take place as the Ebor Trust had indicated that they were open to the expansion of Staynor Hall School. The issue around parents choosing the school was noted, and that this had a knock-on effect for the other schools in the area. The Member emphasised that it had been easier in the past when children simply went to their nearest school.
- ◆ It was noted that there had been a large number of smaller, ad-hoc developments taking place within the Selby District, which made it difficult for planning for school places. The larger housing developments could be taken account of, however, the smaller developments also had an accumulative, knock-on effect. It was stated, in response, that it was difficult to determine what effect smaller developments would have on school places, however, work continued within the District to ensure that schools were expanded effectively to take account of the additional numbers of children generated by the cumulative housing developments. In relation to this it was asked whether community contributions from housing developments were being utilised to enhance school facilities. In response it was noted that, previously, Section 106 funding had been obtained from developers to provide appropriate infrastructure in areas, however, in recent years, Selby District Council had adopted CIL and work was taking place alongside the District Council to determine how this funding could be utilised and what it could be used for. A Member noted in terms of CIL that a proportion would be provided to North Yorkshire County Council, Parish Councils and the District Council for them to determine how to utilise in respect of local infrastructure, which included schools.
- ◆ Concern was raised with regards to the report stating that pupil rolls were falling, as this was not the case in the Selby District, with school rolls expanding at a great rate due to the large number of housing development taking place in the area and Members emphasised that this was likely to grow substantially, going forward, with local schools being full to capacity and pupil rolls continuing to rise. A Member considered that forward planning should have taken place ensuring that appropriate school places were in place to take account of the housing development. In response it was acknowledged that some schools were seeing larger numbers on roll, however, this was not the case for all and,

for various reasons, numbers were falling at some schools in the area, although the majority of schools in the Selby District were seeing growth in terms of numbers. It was noted that the Staynor Hall site had been developed in such a way that the site could be enlarged to accommodate additional numbers, but that had not yet been developed to ensure that existing schools remained sustainable.

- ◆ A Member raised concern that schools appeared to be entering into a deficit position despite planning ahead extensively and wondered how this had happened. In relation to this the Chair indicated that he was “staggered” in respect of the finances provided to schools in this area as opposed to other parts of the country. In response to the issues raised it was stated that school funding was based on a national funding formula, with a number of factors taken into account including urban v rural, deprivation, etc. It was stated that details of the breakdown of how funding was distributed would be circulated to Members. Examples highlighted in the report indicated the difference between funding per pupil provided in North Yorkshire compared to Hackney in London. The Co-opted Member stated that he would bring to the attention of Nigel Adams MP the issues highlighted in terms of the disparity of funding for different areas in terms of schools. He would also highlight the deficit position of a number of schools.
- ◆ A Member noted that her local primary school had received a national award and wondered how good news from local schools was shared with everyone else. It was noted that schools worked directly with the County Council’s Communications section to ensure that issues such as that highlighted were shared throughout the county and the local area. It was noted that there was some fantastic work done by schools and that it was important that this was highlighted throughout the county. Members welcomed this emphasising the need to ensure that local communities were informed of the good work being undertaken by their local schools.
- ◆ In relation to schools facing deficit it was noted that the County Council worked extensively with those schools on their finances with a view to addressing their deficit.
- ◆ A Member highlighted the current position re the building of homes, highlighting the building taking place in the Harrogate District, in terms of that part of the constituency area, and noted that many homes could now be built within a matter of days, which in turn, could place a significant burden upon the existing infrastructure for school provision.
- ◆ A Member referred to the quality of teaching, in terms of children being disruptive and suggested that poor quality teaching led to that position, on many occasions, and he wondered whether action was taken to ensure that poor teachers and poorer teaching methods were being taken out of the system. In relation to this it was emphasised that the quality of teaching was paramount to all schools and was reflected in their policies and procedures, therefore, schools did take action to address concerns. Alongside schools working to address this matter Ofsted also undertook inspections to ensure that appropriate quality levels were being met. It was also noted that the County Council was reviewing its strategy towards Pupil Referral Units with a view to enhanced pro-active work being undertaken, alongside schools, to provide early interventions, ensuring that young people could remain in school, rather than being moved to other facilities. It was noted that within the report, the strategy was outlined, it was noted that within the Selby District, a small

number of schools provided the majority of exclusions and extensive work was taking place with them to address the situation.

- ◆ Noting the issues raised by the Co-opted Member earlier in the meeting Members emphasised the need for the issues regarding the disparity in funding for schools around the country to be brought to the attention of local MP, Nigel Adams and for the issue to be raised with Central Government.
- ◆ It was asked how the County Council interacted with academies and whether there was a continued strong move towards academisation in the area. In relation to those issues it was stated that the County Council worked extensively alongside academies, with a number of factors involved with the schooling of children remaining with the local authority, for example safeguarding. Partnership working was in place to ensure that children in whichever educational setting were being educated appropriately and effectively. In terms of the number of schools converting to academies it was noted that this had slowed down extensively and there was no expected upsurge in the near future. The majority of schools under academy status were now within multi academy trusts and work was undertaken alongside them where school expansion was being considered.
- ◆ The Chairman highlighted that 83% of the six secondary schools in the constituency area were rated as good or outstanding, however, none of these was rated as outstanding and he asked what was being done to ensure that the schools were moving towards that categorisation. In response it was noted that many of the schools had not been the subject of an inspection for a period of time, therefore, they were likely to be inspected in the short term. It was emphasised that the Ofsted framework was challenging, but it was expected that, going forward, there would be outstanding secondary schools in the constituency area. It was noted that a number of the schools had outstanding judgements in certain categories, but had not been judged outstanding overall. As stated it was expected that this would change going forward, but currently, the secondary schools in the constituency area remained good.

#### **Resolved -**

That the presentation of the report be welcomed by Members, its contents noted, and actions indicated be undertaken accordingly.

#### **34. Stronger Communities - School Readiness and Community Showcase**

Considered -

The report of the Stronger Communities Team providing Members with information about the contribution of the Stronger Communities Programme to the priority area of school readiness and community support for families and young people, and to showcase the work of a key delivery partner organisation in the Selby and Ainsty Constituency Area; The Bridge Project, Tadcaster.

Tom Jenkinson and Liz Meade (Stronger Communities Delivery Managers for Selby District and Harrogate Borough, respectively) presented the report with Fiona Dowson of The Bridge presenting the community showcase.

Highlights of the report were provided as follows:-

- ◆ The focus was on school readiness in terms of children at the end of reception/start of Year 1 and the assistance provided, through Stronger



Communities, in assisting children to be in a position to be able to start school confidently and effectively.

- ◆ Stay and Play groups - details were provided of the extensive provision of stay and play groups in the area and the part that they played in promoting school readiness. Details of the support offered to the various groups were outlined. It was noted that a number of smaller parent led groups did not require funding from Stronger Communities, but did need publicity and communication, with Members being able to assist in relation to that. It was also hoped that more groups would utilise the North Yorkshire Connect website to enable parents to find a network of stay and play groups in their locality.
- ◆ A number of local schemes were also supported through the County Councillors' locality budgets.
- ◆ Libraries are a significant contributor to the development of language, communication and literacy skills for young children and, again, Stronger Communities had been heavily involved in the development of library services to facilitate those activities, particularly in community run libraries, throughout the area.
- ◆ A number of other community assets support school readiness including the provision of children's play areas and the Selby Discovery Trails which encourage physical activity and a spirit of enquiry. Various projects were supported by Stronger Communities to encourage school readiness.
- ◆ A number of other groups help to support school readiness and ensure that children remained school ready through their early years including youth groups, cadets, etc. Support from Stronger Communities, and Community First Yorkshire through the community infrastructure funding was utilised to benefit the provision of these groups and organisations.
- ◆ Social groups were also in place to assist children with disabilities, particularly learning disabilities and autism.

#### The Bridge Project, Tadcaster

Fiona Dowson of the Bridge Project highlighted the following:-

- ◆ The project has been in place since 2002, but had changed its name to the Bridge Project in 2016.
- ◆ The project works with families from 0-19 and held sessions, supporting school readiness, twice per week.
- ◆ The school readiness sessions involved parents, carers and pre-school children and assist with skills such as communication and language through various activities. These sessions enable peer engagement and 1-1 sessions with parents/carers/children who were less confident
- ◆ The sessions are well attended, particularly the drop-in session.
- ◆ Evening groups are held for 0-11 year olds and their parents, which involved a variety of activities. These sessions benefit the younger children with their social skills through mixing with the older age groups.

- ◆ The project also operates an open youth group, which worked alongside PCSOs and the Youth Justice Service to provide a non-judgemental safe place for teenagers, a number of whom were from areas of deprivation. The project ensured that they kept engaged with schools and education.
- ◆ It was noted that a number of the groups operated from Manor Farm in Tadcaster.

Following the initial presentation Members discussed the reports and the following issues and points were raised:-

- ◆ The Member in whose electoral division the Bridge Project is based stated that he had received a large number of positive reports about the project and welcomed the positive news delivered to the meeting in relation to this.
- ◆ It was noted that the building where the Bridge was based was being transferred to Tadcaster and Rural CIC from North Yorkshire County Council, which would provide a good opportunity for both organisations.

(County Councillor Richard Musgrave declared a personal interest as a former Director of Tadcaster and Rural CIC.)

- ◆ It was noted that the project has received good support and advice from Stronger Communities, with particular assistance being provided around the charity status of the project, governance checks and administrative assistance, which were essential for the development of the project. It was noted that the support is ongoing and additional support has been provided by Community First Yorkshire, and North Yorkshire Youth, particularly in relation to training.
- ◆ It was noted that the project provides a self-esteem package for young people which assists greatly in terms of behavioural support. There was a specific package for young girls called "I'm the girl I want to be" which was utilised to try and prevent low self-esteem.
- ◆ A Member asked how outcomes were measured in terms of the projects delivered. In response it was noted that, in many instances, it was difficult to measure outcomes, however, feedback was sought through questionnaires issued to project users and the feedback was evaluated. It was emphasised that the majority of projects involved long term solutions so were difficult to measure quickly other than the effect they had on the young people involved. It was noted that Stronger Communities also collected data in relation to projects to try and determine the impact that they had and worked alongside Community First Yorkshire and Skyblue Research Ltd in relation to that. It was also noted that the Stronger Communities Service was externally evaluated to determine what benefits they have brought to local communities through the projects they had supported. This assisted in identifying relevant projects for specific areas and in targeting resources.
- ◆ It was asked whether support was provided for small community groups who were assisting with projects linked into the Safer Communities' priority outcomes, particularly those based in small outlying villages, where communications may be limited. In response it was stated that Stronger Communities aimed to assist such enterprises and that information provided by local Members was vital in identifying where that assistance was required. Members were encouraged to provide details to Stronger Communities' Officers where they believed that assistance could be provided to the smaller

community groups, particularly where they were finding it difficult to become established.

- ◆ Reference was made to the success of the Children's Literature Festival which had been organised in Selby and how that had been supported with Stronger Communities funding.
- ◆ Issues around supporting young people into employment were discussed. It was noted that Stronger Communities provided support to school clubs, however, it was difficult to provide direct support in terms of young people moving into employment.

#### **Resolved -**

That Tom Jenkinson and Liz Meade be thanked for their presentation on the work of the Stronger Communities Section, Fiona Dowson be thanked for her presentation on the Bridge Project, the contents of both being noted and the action outlined within local communities being welcomed by Members.

### **35. Area Constituency Committee Work Programme**

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing details of the Work Programme for the Area Constituency Committee to consider, develop and adopt.

Members were invited to provide issues that they would like to see included in the Work Programme to ensure that should there be any slippage in the Programme that items could be progressed and considered at subsequent meetings.

Members outlined the following issues that were in the Work Programme that they would like to see considered at forthcoming meetings:-

- ◆ HGV overnight parking on NYCC highway network.
- ◆ Economic development.

In relation to the HGV parking issue it was noted that this was a particular problem for the area that appeared to be getting worse. It was noted that there were several hotspots in the constituency and Members were encouraged to identify any from their division. It was suggested that a multi-agency approach was required to this matter. It was noted that a proposal had been submitted to Selby District Council to try and address this situation, but currently, there had been no progress on this.

In terms of economic development it was noted that this issue had been addressed at previous meetings, with separate presentations having been provided, but these did not appear to be co-ordinated, therefore, it was requested that a follow-up on this be put into the Work Programme.

**Resolved -**

That the Work Programme be noted, the additional items identified be included in the Programme and any further issues considered appropriate by Members for inclusion in the Work Programme be submitted to the Clerk.

**36. Future Meetings**

**Resolved -**

That the next meeting of the Area Constituency Committee be held on Friday 14 June 2019 at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am

SL/JR