

North Yorkshire County Council

Craven Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Craven Area Committee held on 8 February 2018, commencing at 10.00 am, at Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton.

Present:-

County Councillors Richard Welch (Chairman), Philip Barrett, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton, Patrick Mulligan, Gillian Quinn and Andy Solloway;

Co-opted Members: Councillors Alan Sutcliffe, Marion Swales and David Taylor

Officers: Inspector Geoff Crocker (North Yorkshire Police), Alice Gill (Business Support), Avril Hunter (HAS Locality Head of Commissioning), Steve Loach (Democratic Services), James Malcolm (Area Highways Manager), Caroline Townsend (HAS Commissioning Manager) and Marion Tweed-Rycroft (Stronger Communities Delivery Manager - Craven).

There were six members of the public present.

Apologies for absence were received from Co-opted Members Hazel Chatwin, Veronicka Dancer and John Waterhouse.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

41. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

42. Any Declarations of Interest

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan declared an interest in the North Yorkshire Police update report and he left the meeting while the item was being discussed.

43. Public Questions or Statements

Mrs Sylvia Merrett submitted the following public question:-

“I have attended a number of the Castleberg public consultations and whilst aware that the CCG are in discussions with NYCC HAS about the two options, I am not aware of any presence of any NYCC HAS representative at the consultations for the public to talk to directly. Please can I be advised as to what NYCC’s current position is with regards to their involvement, particularly with Option 2 and Limestone View?”

It was stated, in response, that Mrs Merrett would be provided with an answer to her question, with Members of the Committee copied in to that.

44. Craven Mental Health Plan

Caroline Townsend (HAS Commissioning Manager) and Avril Hunter (HAS Locality Head of Commissioning) presented a report that provided details of planned arrangements for how North Yorkshire County Council and other partners could work together to ensure there was a co-ordinated approach to mental health and wellbeing strategy planning and delivery in the Craven District Council area.

It was explained that the development of the arrangements had been identified due to the area being covered by two different all-age mental health strategies, and in respect of other issues that were particular to the Craven population.

The proposals detailed in the report had been developed through consultation with Local Authority, and Clinical Commissioning Group, officers, and other partners, including the Craven Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum.

The report highlighted how the Craven District was covered by two different all-age mental health and wellbeing strategies; the North Yorkshire Mental Health Strategy 2015-2020 (Hope, Control and Choice) and the Bradford District and Craven Mental Health Strategy 2016-2021.

Cross referencing both strategies had identified that they addressed the same key priorities which were in line with the National Strategy and Policy and the latest evidence-base. However, each strategy had its own governance structures and delivery plans. In order to ensure that there was a co-ordinated approach to planning and delivery of both strategies it was proposed that the arrangements detailed in the report be actioned and monitored through mental health strategy governance structures.

Caroline Townsend highlighted the following in relation to the report:-

- ◆ Proposed arrangements for planning and delivery.
- ◆ Joined up governance and communication between strategies.
- ◆ Development of VCS mental health and wellbeing provision.
- ◆ Summary of the current mental health and wellbeing provision was provided as an Appendix to the report.
- ◆ Actions included the involvement of the Airedale/Wharfedale/Craven CCG in the North Yorkshire County Council HAS VCS Mental Health Services Commissioning Review, to develop the future commissioning approach, to review the development of VCS provision, and to consider opportunities to help link people better to mental health and wellbeing support.
- ◆ Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT).
- ◆ Autism Strategy.
- ◆ Local data and intelligence.
- ◆ Monitoring of arrangements.

It was noted that the details would be considered by the County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee towards the end of April 2018.

It was also noted that Morecambe Bay CCG would be contacted to discuss details of their Mental Health Strategy, which was currently being developed, to see how that could co-ordinate with the other Mental Health Strategies for the area.

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

- ◆ It was asked how people suffering from mental health issues were made aware of the services available. In response it was noted that the strategy was aiming to develop the awareness of the availability of the services throughout Craven and to have a joined up approach to the provision and delivery of those services ensuring easy access for people with mental health issues.
- ◆ It was clarified that the mental health wards at Airedale Hospital were still available for patients.
- ◆ It was suggested that the report indicated that there was a great deal of provision within the area, but without the necessary co-ordination it was wondered how people were appropriately signposted to that provision and how people were referred to the specialist care they required. In response it was stated that the various areas where people reported to, in relation to mental health problems, such as GPs, clinics, etc., had details of specific services and were able to direct people to the most appropriate service for their needs, however, the aim was to ensure that a co-ordinated approach was being undertaken throughout the Craven area to benefit everyone in requirement of those services.
- ◆ Issues around the development of data and statistics in relation to mental health were discussed and clarified.
- ◆ A Member noted the commissioning of Foundation Housing for those with mental health issues, but noted that a major social housing provider in Craven was Yorkshire Housing and asked about the provider's links to that organisation. In response it was noted that Foundation Housing worked closely with Yorkshire Housing to offer support to people with mental health issues. It was acknowledged that the support service was based outside Craven, however, those links assisted in delivering the services required.
- ◆ The close working with the Carers Resource, which now had new premises in Skipton, was welcomed by Members.
- ◆ It was reiterated that work was to be undertaken alongside Morecambe Bay CCG to co-ordinate the provision of mental health services in areas of North Yorkshire that were not covered by the Mental Health Plan for North Yorkshire County Council and the Airedale/Wharfedale/Craven CCG. It was noted that issues in relation to coverage in Bentham and the specific difficulties related to locations around Bentham would be developed through this co-ordination with Morecambe Bay CCG.

Inspector Geoff Crocker, North Yorkshire Police, commented on the delivery of mental health services from a policing perspective. He emphasised that Crisis Care Services were excellent for the Craven area with the overlap of services working particularly well. He considered that the provision of follow-up mental health services were not as effective as Crisis Care, which, in some cases, led to people suffering further difficulties and having to return to Crisis Care. He considered that this required addressing to avoid Crisis Care becoming overburdened.

He also noted that Foundation Housing works closely with Yorkshire Housing to support people with mental health issues.

Craven's Stronger Communities Delivery Manager, Marion Tweed-Rycroft, commented on the issues raised. She noted that the Craven Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum linked into the provision of services in the area. The Forum was made up of statutory and voluntary sector organisations who commissioned or delivered services in the Craven District. The Forum met on a quarterly basis and provided details online or face to face.

In terms of the comment earlier in the meeting that there appeared to be a lot of provision in Craven she emphasised that this was not necessarily the case, as many of the services highlighted in the Appendix to the report were funded on a short term basis, through Stronger Communities, and were often not self-sustainable. This was an issue that required addressing through the development of the strategy.

She also highlighted the issues in relation to north-west Craven and the difficulties for Bentham, and the villages surrounding Bentham, and noted that work was being commissioned to take account of that situation.

Resolved -

The proposed arrangements and monitoring plans detailed in the report be approved by Members and their comments be submitted into the co-ordination arrangements, going forward.

45. North Yorkshire Police - Update regarding Policing in Craven

Inspector Geoff Crocker introduced the report which provided a crime overview for the area highlighting recorded crime statistics, with comparisons to previous years, and information in relation to anti-social behaviour, stop/search and staffing.

The following issues were highlighted:-

- ◆ There had been some difficulties in providing appropriate data due to issues with the computer system. Inspector Crocker stated that the next report would provide the appropriate figures.
- ◆ The Inspector highlighted discussions that had been held at recent meetings involving County Councillor Solloway and the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to stop/search.
- ◆ A particular problem for the area at the moment was the theft of quad bikes, with 45 stolen in recent months, from the Craven area, 11 of those being in January. He highlighted the issues relating to those thefts and emphasised that efforts were being made to address the situation.

Following the initial report the following issues and points were raised:-

- ◆ In relation to the theft of quad bikes a Member noted that where keys had been left in the ignition this caused difficulties with regards to insurance claims and every effort should be made to ensure that this factor was addressed.
- ◆ A Member welcomed the supply of the data indicating areas where crimes had been committed, within Craven, and found these details particularly useful.

- ◆ Inspector Crocker stated that this would be his last meeting of the Area Committee, as his last day with North Yorkshire Police would be on the date of the next meeting.

Members wished Inspector Crocker well for the future and thanked him for his contribution to Area Committee meetings.

Resolved -

- (i) That the thanks of the Area Committee to Inspector Geoff Crocker for his contribution to the Area Committee and service to the Craven District, be recorded; and
- (ii) That the report be noted.

46. Annual Road Casualty Report

James Malcolm, Area Highways Manager, introduced the report and invited Members to comment and question the content.

He highlighted the following in respect of the report:-

Countywide Details

- ◆ The number of people killed in North Yorkshire was at the lowest number since modern records began (28).
- ◆ The number of people killed in York and North Yorkshire was at the joint lowest number since modern records began (33).
- ◆ Ten deaths occurred in collisions involving a vehicle with an excessive or inappropriate speed causation factor.
- ◆ Five deaths occurred in collisions involving a driver or pedestrian impaired by alcohol.
- ◆ The overall number of people seriously injured was similar to last year but more powered two-wheelers and pedal cyclists seriously hurt and fewer car/taxi occupant, pedestrians, other vehicle types and goods vehicles.
- ◆ The total number of casualties and the total number of collisions both fell by 2% and 1% respectively.
- ◆ There were three less cyclists killed (one compared to four in 2015) and fewer seriously injured, up six (minus 11%). Overall there were 17 fewer cyclist casualties (minus 8%) despite the growing popularity of cycling in the county.
- ◆ On average there were 16 fatalities, 147 seriously injured and 558 slightly injured people over 50+ each year in North Yorkshire.

Craven

- ◆ Four people were killed on Craven's roads during 2016 - all adults - this compared to four adults in 2015 and a baseline average of five per year for 2011 to 2015. All who died were powered two-wheeler riders.
- ◆ The number of killed or seriously injured was 56, an increase from 54 in 2015 and a slight increase on the baseline average of 49.
- ◆ The total number of all casualties reported to the Police was 237, a 10% increase on 2015 and a 6% increase from the baseline.
- ◆ There were no children killed or seriously injured casualties, three less than the previous year and two below the baseline average.
- ◆ The number of cyclist casualties had reduced by 30% from 2015, which was also below the baseline average of 24.
- ◆ Pedestrian casualties increased by 77% to 23 in comparison to 2015.

- ◆ The number of powered two-wheeler casualties had increased by 21% to 23 in 2016.
- ◆ A total of 180 road collisions that resulted in someone being injured were reported to the Police in 2016, 19 more than 2015.

The report provided details of road safety education and community engagement including events organised with local school children, driving instructors, motorcyclists, cyclists and older drivers.

Details were provided in relation to speed management taking place in the Craven District.

Details of the collision cluster sites for Craven were provided as an appendix to the report.

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

- ◆ A Member referred to the collision cluster site locations in respect of the A59/Heslaker Lane Junction, Skipton. He suggested that when an investigation was carried out that consideration should be given to the layout of the junction, as drivers were attempting to overtake stationary traffic in the turning lane, which was causing collision issues. He suggested that double yellow lines or no overtaking lines should be provided there.
- ◆ In relation to the collision cluster site location at the A629 Skipton Road/Cononley Lane Junction, Farnhill, it was noted that the situation had been much improved of late, following the works carried out there, and although the junction was still dangerous the reduction in incidents was welcomed.
- ◆ A Co-opted Member referred to the possible resurrection of a Gargrave Bypass and possible £100m upgrade to the A65 and suggested that, should these initiatives come to fruition, there would be a need for these to be co-ordinated appropriately. In response the Area Highways Manager stated that he was aware of some cross-border work being considered in respect of the issues raised by the Co-opted Member, however, he stated that he would provide an after-meeting note, via the Clerk, to Members, to provide a full update on the current plans for those locations.
- ◆ A Member noted that South Craven School did not appear to be included as one of the schools that had been provided with road safety engagement and, noting that this was a particularly large school in the area, wondered why that was the case. The Area Highways Manager stated that he would obtain a response to the Member in relation to the issue that he raised.
- ◆ In response to a question from a Co-opted Member the Area Highways Manager stated that any details, in respect of anecdotal evidence from local constituents in respect of the cluster sites, would be welcomed and should be provided to the local County Councillor or the Area Highways Office.
- ◆ A Member noted the large increase in casualties relating to motorcycle incidents and asked what could be done to address that. In response the Area Highways Manager highlighted the actions that had been taken throughout the Craven District in response to the rising casualty figures relating to motorcycling, including additional signage, drop-in events, press coverage, face to face meetings, etc. He emphasised that appropriate speed in terms of road layout was a major consideration in the majority of incidents involving motorcyclists and that issue could only be addressed appropriately by the motorcycle riders themselves.

- ◆ A Member referred to issues at the A65 Coniston Cold Bridge and it was noted that options from the feasibility study were still being considered and an update would be provided to Members very shortly
- ◆ A Member noted how, year on year, road casualties caused a great deal of concern for local residents and he noted that the condition of roads appeared to be deteriorating, due to a lack of funding available to local authorities. He suggested that a lack of maintenance costs lives and there was a need to ensure that this was undertaken appropriately. The Area Highways Manager stated that inclement weather conditions could cause road surfaces to deteriorate far more quickly and that this winter had been particularly difficult in terms of the particular location referred to. The concerns with regard to the particular location identified by the Member would be alleviated as it is in the programme for coming financial year to have the carriageway area resurfaced, with a far more appropriate resurfacing material than the previous wearing course material used by the then Highways Agency, which has now greatly deteriorated.
- ◆ A Member referred to the large number of motorcycles that continued to travel up from Hawes to Horton-on-Ribblesdale and into that area. He noted that events had taken place to hold discussions with the motorcyclists and also highlighted some inappropriate reporting that had taken place in a motorcycling magazine in respect of how the area was thought of in terms of motorcycling. Contact had been made with the representatives of the magazine during the event and, hopefully, no such headlines would reappear.
- ◆ A Member raised concerns that restrictions were limiting the places that speed restriction cameras and monitoring equipment could be placed. He noted that criteria in relation to the availability of street furniture, having no appropriate place to position cameras, not undertaking monitoring on one-way streets, etc., limited where these could be placed. He suggested that current technology must be available to overcome these limitations. The Area Highways Manager explained why some of the criteria were in place, which limited the use of speed monitoring equipment, however, he stated that he would submit the Member's concerns to those responsible for the speed management protocol, so that they could consider these.

Resolved -

That the report, and issues raised, be noted.

47. Stronger Communities Progress Report

The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager for Craven, Marion Tweed-Rycroft, presented her report, highlighting the following:-

Compass in Cumbria - Development for Craven Area

Compass was an online collaborative and referral platform for the voluntary sector. This was currently operational in Cumbria (Age UK South Lakes) and was being developed for Craven. A presentation was provided highlighting the following in relation to the initiative:-

- ◆ The online resource enabled effective collaboration between the voluntary sector.

- ◆ The website provided details in relation to the following:-
 - events diary
 - bulletin board
 - voluntary roles
 - job opportunities
 - resource centre
 - organisations.
- ◆ This differed from North Yorkshire Connect in that it was internal for the voluntary sector and allowed them to communicate and link more effectively.
- ◆ A practical demonstration was provided highlighting how easy it was to use and add information.
- ◆ A demonstration was provided in relation to the resource centre available on the site which allowed controlled information to be exchanged between voluntary organisations, through a protected procedure. It was noted that some support would be required for some user groups to be able to use this facility.
- ◆ The specification for the Lead Organisation to implement Compass in Craven had been written by the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager and it was noted that the closing date for submissions in relation to this was 9 February 2018. Development of this would be undertaken jointly between South Lakes Age UK, the Lead Organisation and the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager.

In relation to a question regarding moderation of the site it was noted that this would be undertaken by the lead organisation when the platform was up and running.

Achieve Projects

- ◆ Loneliness and isolation.

A working group had been operating at Sutton-in-Craven, which was high on the loneliness “heat map” developed by Age UK.

Groups from various sectors were working together on this project.

Sutton-in-Craven Parish Council were holding drop-in sessions, prior to their meetings, to allow those in the community to have an informal chat. This allowed communication on events taking place in the area to be undertaken.

Various representatives of the statutory and voluntary sector would be going into the Sutton-in-Craven community shortly to talk to people about their experience of living in the area. The information gained would be used to address gaps in provision and also make referrals where appropriate.

As the approach to this was developed and improved, it would be rolled out to other areas high on the “heat map”. It was recognised that different approaches may be needed for different areas.

A list of the high risk areas was available.

- ◆ Community development work in North Craven

The Delivery Manager outlined the work that was being undertaken in North Craven in respect of transport and health.

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

- ◆ A Member asked how high risk areas, in terms of loneliness and isolation, were identified. The main criteria were outlined as being lone pensioner households, low income, low access to services, living on their own and living away from family. It was noted that the risk factors were compounded in later life.
- ◆ The initiative to tackle loneliness and isolation was welcomed by a Member, however, he noted that many areas of North Yorkshire were covered by the County Council's "no cold calling zones" and he wondered how the direct approach of the initiative could be overcome in such areas. It was stated, in response, that the door-knock event would be well publicised in the area prior to this taking place and it would be carried out by partners well regarded in local communities, such as the Fire and Rescue Service, so as not to alarm people in respect of this.
- ◆ A Member asked the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager her opinion on the voluntary sector in Craven presently. In response she stated that, generally, she felt that it was under developed due to a comparatively sparse population which made it difficult for organisations to develop in size and on a sustainable basis. Other challenges included reductions in grant funding and legislation changes. She noted that many groups did good work, locally, and had extensive local knowledge which assisted people in those locations. Unfortunately, because of size and limited capacity many of the local groups were unable to compete in tender situations against larger organisations from outside Craven. This was significant as although the external organisations had capacity to undertake the work, and operated on a sustainable basis, they did not always have the necessary local knowledge.

She noted the operations of the Carers Resource which she recognised as being a good organisation, with good capacity, that was meeting the needs of the people in the area. She also noted how some local groups were fiercely independent, which made working together to address issues difficult on occasions.

She emphasised that there were a number of challenges to addressing these issues and it was hoped that the development of the Compass referral platform, outlined earlier in the meeting, would provide that opportunity.

- ◆ A Member asked how loneliness and isolation issues were being addressed in the more rural areas of Craven. The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager outlined a number of events that were taking place in rural areas, including the World Café Events, which enabled local organisations to highlight the services they were providing to local people. She noted that these had been undertaken in Settle and South Craven and shortly an event would be undertaken in the Grassington area. She stated that she would meet with the local Member to discuss how this would be delivered.
- ◆ A Member noted that Craven was seen as an area of contentment in terms of people living there, and it was wondered whether this position affected the workings of the voluntary sector, particularly in respect of obtaining volunteers to assist with projects. In response it was stated that many of Craven's local communities were renowned for looking after their own residents, with a great deal of community spirit in place. She noted, however, that isolation could be a significant problem, which impacted on the voluntary sector, in terms of people coming from outside of those local communities to settle there, as often,

they were less accepted, leading to isolation. She emphasised that this was a huge topic which could be the subject of additional reports to the Committee in future. She noted that, in terms of volunteers, there was a healthy position in Craven with many people volunteering to assist local organisations and she highlighted the development of local libraries as being a good example of this.

In respect of this a Member asked whether there was a danger that the numbers putting themselves forward as volunteers to assist with groups had peaked and it would be much harder to obtain volunteers in future. The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager stated that this could be a potential issue, going forward, and appropriate strategies would need to be put in place to ensure that this did not become problematic. She noted that the voluntary organisations working in local communities very independently would be a challenge to this situation.

- ◆ Members highlighted the services that had been able to continue to operate thanks to the volunteers coming forward, including at Ingleton, the operation of the library, the swimming pool and the tourist information centre. Members noted the great work that volunteers were undertaking in their local communities and asked for their thanks to be recorded, to those volunteers, for delivering much needed services in their local areas.
- ◆ A member of the public raised a concern regarding the need for Data Protection Officers, in line with forthcoming regulations, and wondered whether each voluntary organisation, no matter what size, would need such an officer for them to be able to continue to operate. In response the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager stated that she would require more information to give a definitive answer on this matter, but was aware that not all organisations would need a Data Protection Officer, as those services could be obtained from external sources to operate on their behalf. She noted that training for the voluntary sector was to be delivered at Belle Vue Mills, Skipton on 23 February 2018 and many of these concerns would be addressed through that event. As information in relation to this matter was developed this would be shared with voluntary sector groups.

Resolved -

That the report, and issues raised, be noted and the thanks to volunteers, assisting with the operation of much needed services in the Craven area, be recorded.

48. Kildwick Level Crossing - Roundabout Grid Locking

Local Member, County Councillor Philip Barrett, highlighted a number of concerns in relation to this issue, stating the following:-

- ◆ The situation was affecting all villages in the South Craven area and was a particular problem for those working in the area.
- ◆ Around 29,000 vehicles per day were travelling along the affected route, which was resulting in huge delays at the roundabout in view of the level crossing being closed so frequently.
- ◆ An increase in the number of trains and the amount of traffic was compounding this issue, which was leading to grid locking at the roundabout, which in turn led to inappropriate driving in that area.
- ◆ The situation was becoming untenable and he considered that further contribution from North Yorkshire County Council was required.

- ◆ The knock-on effect for Kildwick and the local villages from this situation was now unmanageable.
- ◆ He suggested that a solution for both modes of transport was required, recognising that routes for both trains and vehicles to operate alongside each other, but so that they were not causing each other unnecessary delay, were required.
- ◆ He emphasised the need to undertake assessments as soon as possible and options to be drawn up as a result of those assessments so that the situation could be addressed.
- ◆ He emphasised that unless action was taken quickly the whole area would grind to a standstill.
- ◆ Other Members concurred with the details provided by County Councillor Barrett providing anecdotal evidence of journeys they had undertaken along the route and the delays they had encountered.
- ◆ Members suggested there was a need for the involvement of the Department of Transport as well as North Yorkshire County Council to ensure that appropriate funding could be found for a solution to this matter. Members noted that transport schemes in the South of England were being fully funded and felt it appropriate to approach local MPs so that appropriate representations could be made in respect of achieving funding for a project. County Councillor Barrett noted that he had made contact with the local MP previously, but there had been little progress made subsequently.
- ◆ It was emphasised that North Yorkshire County Council only had one representative on Transport for the North, and the majority of schemes supported through that related to urban areas.
- ◆ It was also noted that the issue was particularly complex because of the negotiations that were required with Network Rail and it was suggested that further progress on this should be developed through the appropriate County Council Officer, Graham North.
- ◆ It was suggested that to build a case for a bridge over the railway to accommodate traffic this would have to identify significant economic benefits for the area, which could prove difficult. It was noted that traffic continued to increase and, unfortunately, the infrastructure was not capable of dealing with that increase.
- ◆ The Area Highways Manager noted that it would be difficult for Network Rail to reschedule train times, however, further conversations could be undertaken to determine whether there could be more efficiency applied to the barrier being closed. To provide a bypass to the railway line an over-bridge would be required, which would require large retaining walls. A cost/budget analysis would be required in relation to that provision and a further project on obtaining the necessary funding for that would have to be undertaken. He stated that he would discuss the matter with the Corporate Director.

Resolved -

That Members' concerns regarding the severe problems being encountered at Kildwick Level Crossing for traffic using the nearby highways network, including grid locking on the approach roundabout, be raised with the County Council's Executive, the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services and local MPs, with a view to arranging for appropriate assessments to be carried out at that location, and on the nearby highways network, to determine the effect this was having on the area and to consider an appropriate solution, together with the provision of funding for that, to try and eliminate this ever increasing problem.

49. Highways Update

The Area Highways Manager, James Malcolm, provided an oral update on highways issues in the Craven District, including the following specific issues that had been requested by Members prior to the meeting:-

Parish Portal - Reporting of Potholes via Town/Parish Councils

A Member had noted comments from a recent Parish Council meeting that they were encountering problems with reporting potholes through the system and asked other Members whether similar concerns had been expressed at other Parish Council meetings. Members stated that there appeared to be satisfaction with the system and no other concerns had been outlined.

The Area Highways Manager expressed his satisfaction that the system appeared to be working, generally, he noted that any issues of concern could be reported directly to Area Highways.

It was noted, by Members, that there were a number of online forums available for reporting potholes and it was asked whether any of these were effective. In response the Area Highways Manager emphasised that for appropriate action to be taken in the area concerns regarding potholes should be reported through the North Yorkshire County Council systems, including Customer Services, Parish Portal and Area Highways Office.

It was suggested that the Area Highways Office provide Parish Councils with a reminder of how to use the Parish Portal to determine whether this was working effectively for them. The Area Highways Manager noticed that the Area Office had been in touch with Parish Councils recently to determine if there were any significant issues in the area that they required addressing and whether the portal was working effectively for them.

It was noted that issues reported via the County Council's official Facebook pages would be picked up and reported by the Customer Services Team.

A Member indicated that her local Parish Councils had been very complimentary about the Parish Portal and the action that had been undertaken following reports through that system. The Area Highways Manager stated that he would pass on the compliments from the Parish Councils.

Effectiveness of this year's Winter Gritting

Members commented that, overall, the service had been excellent.

It was noted, however, that on three occasions black ice had caused severe problems in the area particularly on hilly access roads to estates in the Skipton area, where a number of problems had been reported. It was also noted that the pavement gritter

had, unfortunately, not been operational on two of the occasions when black ice had occurred. It was acknowledged that black ice was very difficult to control in terms of winter gritting.

The Area Highways Manager stated that he would take account of the concerns raised. He emphasised that the black ice problems that had occurred resulted from freezing rain, which was very difficult to treat. He stated that the Met Office advice indicated that pre-salting had little effect on black ice and salting after this had occurred had no effect. He noted that freezing rain occurrences were very rare and it was unfortunate that there had been three such occasions during this winter period.

A Member referred to the number of local communities that had gritted their own streets using the grit boxes provided and asked that it be ensured that the grit was replaced accordingly in acknowledgement of the service they had undertaken. In response the Area Highways Manager noted that a second fill of grit boxes was undertaken as a matter of course, however, requests could be made for these to be refilled, when they were empty, through Customer Services.

Other Highways Issues

- ◆ Various options were being developed following a feasibility study on the A65 and these options would be brought back for comment at the Area Committee.
- ◆ Monitoring of the situation at Kex Gill continued. There had been some marginal movements over the winter period but nothing that was of particular concern at this stage. It was acknowledged that, eventually, slippage would reoccur and in view of that a longer term scheme continued to be developed. Appropriate local groups, including WSP and AONB, were involved in the discussions around a possible scheme and it was expected that a preferred route would be developed shortly. It was expected that the scheme would cost in the region of £40m-£50m dependent upon the route chosen. A local contribution of £4.5m would be utilised.
- ◆ The Tour de Yorkshire would be passing through the area again on Sunday 6 May and the Area Highways Team would be assisting with the co-ordination of that event. It was noted that some resurfacing and repair work would be brought forward in view of that event.
- ◆ A Member asked whether any progress had been made regarding the junction on the A65 which had been the subject of the presentation of a petition at the previous meeting of the Area Committee. In response the Area Highways Manager stated that the Coroner's report in relation to the accident that had occurred at the junction had not yet been completed and, therefore, a report could not be brought to Committee at this stage. He stated that an update would be provided when everything was in place in relation to that matter.

Resolved -

That the report and updates provided be noted.

50. Future Meetings

Steve Loach, Democratic Services, presented the report of the current work programme for the Area Committee and invited Members to consider any amendments and/or additional items for future meetings. Members were also requested to determine the venue for the next meeting.

Resolved -

- (a) That the work programme be noted;
- (b) That the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 31 May 2018 be held at Bolton Abbey Village Hall, Bolton Abbey.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.

SL/JR