

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 12 March 2020, commencing at 10am, at Ingleborough Community Centre, Main Street, Ingleton.

**Present:**

County Councillors Margaret Atkinson, Philip Barrett, Mike Chambers MBE, Michael Harrison, David Ireton, Stanley Lumley, Gill Quinn, Andy Solloway and Richard Welch.

County Council Officers: Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager).

Other County Councillors present: David Chance and Carl Les.

Guest speakers: Mark Hopley of Community First Yorkshire and Paul Varney of the National Lottery Community Fund.

**60. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Robert Heseltine, Stuart Martin MBE, Patrick Mulligan and Robert Windass.

**61. Minutes**

Considered the minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 13 January 2020.

**Resolved -**

- a. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 13 January 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**62. Any Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**63. Public Questions or Statements**

There were no public questions or statements.

**64. Community Access to Alternative Funding Sources**

Considered -

A presentation by Mark Hopley of Community First Yorkshire and Paul Varney of the National Lottery Community Fund.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE introduced the report, noting that committee members had previously expressed interest in understanding why the level of alternative funding secured in the committee area was relatively low when compared to other committee areas.

The key points from the presentation are as summarised below:

- Community First North Yorkshire (CFNY) has a team of 14 people, mostly part time and home based
- There are links with the work of the Council's Stronger Communities Team, the National Lottery and the Two Ridings Community Foundation
- There are four key sources of community funding in the county, as follows: Stronger Communities (County Council); Local Fund (Borough Council); Two Ridings Community Foundation; and the National Lottery Community Fund
- The Heritage Lottery Fund works with community organisations in Masham, Bentham and Pateley Bridge
- The emphasis is upon enabling community groups to work together, rather than be in competition with one another
- Small groups need support to enable them to successfully apply for funding. This is something that CFNY can assist with
- Faith groups often play a key role in some of the more remote and rural areas of the county
- CFNY receives lots of queries about setting up social enterprises
- The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has three funding officers covering the county (North, Central and South)
- NLCF is a non-departmental public body that works for central government
- The National Lottery is made up of 4 different funds: Community Fund 40%; Arts Council 20%; Sports England 20%; and Heritage Lottery 20%. The overall funding is £600 million per year
- Craven and Harrogate districts are 'cold spots' for NLCF funding applications and the average grant size has declined over time. This may indicate that smaller organisations are now applying more frequently for funding
- Within the Community Fund, there are three types of awards available: National Lottery Awards for All (£300 to £10,000); Reaching Communities Fund (£10,000 to £500,000); and the Partnerships Fund (£10,000 to £500,000)
- Often community groups pilot a piece of work through the National Lottery Awards for All fund and then mainstreaming it through the Reaching Communities Fund.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE asked how easy was it for organisations to make an application.

In response, Paul Varney said that the role of the three funding officers was to support organisations to make funding applications and help them navigate the way through the process. The approach was no longer compliance based with applications being received and then either accepted or rejected. Instead, it was about helping funding applications be developed around three key priorities: people; strengths; and connected.

County Councillor Andy Solloway said that a strong community base can be key in acting as a catalyst for action, change and successful funding applications. Often that base was not in place and so communities would not necessarily get the funding that so often they needed.

Mark Hopley said that CFNY worked hard to join up different community groups to encourage them to help one another and work collaboratively.

County Councillor David Ireton asked what a community group had to have in place to qualify to apply for a grant.

Paul Varney said that the bare minimum was for a community group to have a constitution, a bank account and a formal Annual General Meeting. He also said that once a grant has been awarded the community group receives ongoing support to

help ensure that the project is a success. The key here is the relationship with the Local Grants Officer.

County Councillor Michael Harrison asked whether organisations can apply for ongoing funding.

Paul Varney said it was possible to provide medium term funding and that a tapering of the funding could be really helpful in encouraging projects to move to greater independence, reducing the reliance upon repeated rounds of funding.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE summed up the discussions and thanked both Paul Varney and Mark Hopley for such a detailed overview of community funding and how to access it. He said that all of the members of the committee were much better informed and would now be able to share this knowledge with the community groups and initiatives in their patch. He asked that the presentation be repeated in the future with other County Councillors, possibly through one of the monthly Member Seminars at the County Council.

**Resolved -**

- a. Thank Mark Hopley of Community First Yorkshire and Paul Varney of the National Lottery Community Fund for attending and giving the presentation
- b. Mark Hopley and Paul Varney to share contact details of local link officers who are able to assist with funding applications
- c. Consider having a similar item on an agenda for a Member Seminar.

**65. Rural Commission**

Considered -

A report by Daniel Harry regarding the work of the Rural Commission and opportunities to engage as part of their 'call for evidence'.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE introduced the report noting that the commission had been in place since October 2019 and had a remit to independently investigate a number of themes relating to rural life in the county. The commission is accepting written submissions on any of the 6 themes until May 2020.

Daniel Harry asked the members of the committee to discuss whether they wished to put in a written submission as part of the commission's 'call for evidence'. If there was a wish to do so, then a small task group could be convened with the support of Democratic Services.

Committee members noted the links that they had with the commission and their engagement to date.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE suggested that, taking into account the engagement to date, that it may be preferable to await the final report and then respond to that as a committee. This would not prevent individual councillors making their own submissions, if they chose to.

County Councillor Carl Les said that it would make sense to share the report with the Council's five thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the six Area Constituency Committees in the autumn.

County Councillor David Ireton asked how the recommendations of the Rural Commission would be implemented. He noted that many of the issues facing rural communities were well known and had proved very difficult to tackle for many years.

**Resolved –**

- a. Individual committee members encouraged to make a submission to the Rural Commission. No need for there to be a submission from the committee at this stage
- b. The committee to review the recommendations in the final report of the Rural Commission.

**66. Appointment to an Outside Body**

Considered –

A report by Daniel Harry noting the appointment of two Parish Council representatives to the Joint Advisory Committee of the Nidderdale AONB.

Daniel Harry introduced the report and said that as the appointments had already been made, then the role of the committee was to approve them unless any member held any objections.

All present approved the appointments.

**Resolved -**

- a. The appointments were noted.

**67. Committee Work Programme**

Considered -

A report by Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, outlining the committee work programme.

Daniel Harry introduced the report and asked that Members review the Committee's work programme, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the area.

**Resolved -**

- a. That the committee work programme updated as outlined above
- b. That the venue for the next meeting of the committee to be either Pateley Bridge or Bolton Abbey.

**68. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.**

There was none.

The meeting concluded at 11:50am.

DH