

North Yorkshire County Council

Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Ryedale Indoor Bowls Club, Scarborough Road, Norton on Thursday 28 November 2018 at 10.00 am.

Present:-

County Councillors Val Arnold, Lindsay Burr MBE, Gareth Dadd, Keane Duncan, Caroline Goodrick, Caroline Patmore, Janet Sanderson, Peter Sowray, Helen Swiers, Roberta Swiers and Greg White.

Officers in attendance: Richard Marr (NYCC Area Highways Manager), Ian Marr (Project Manager NYnet Ltd), Dale Owens (AD Health & Adult Services), Melanie Carr, (Principal Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer), Sue Mitchelhill & Hannah Bowls (Business Support Officers).

Apologies: County Councillors Robert Baker and Roberta Swiers.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

16. Minutes of the meeting held 20 September 2018

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Thirsk & Malton Area Constituency Committee held on 20 September 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest at the meeting.

18. Public Questions or Statements

The Committee received one written public question received after the deadline date, from Settrington Parish Councillor Alan Mitchell which the Chair agreed the Committee would accept. The question in relation to Agenda item 6, the Update on Phase 3 Delivery of Superfast Broadband, read as follows:

Please can they (NYnet Ltd) clarify the position of the village of Settrington in relation to the Phase 3 Rollout of Broadband?

To date only one of the BT cabinets in the village has been enabled. We believe that the other cabinet was not enabled because of a spuriously, excessive cost estimate for providing a small power supply to this cabinet. NYnet should be aware that there has recently been an extension to the underground power cable network in Settrington that may be advantageous to bringing power to the second cabinet. The village has been split in two with one half having fast broadband (which we understand is to be upgraded to FTTP) and one half which has to make do with extremely slow broadband. This is not in the spirit of the Governments' promised Superfast Broadband rollout.

19. Malton & Norton Infrastructure Study Findings & Implementation Update

Considered -

The report of NYCC's Area Highways Manager providing an update on the Malton & Norton Infrastructure Connectivity Improvement Study.

Following a brief overview of the work undertaken to carry out the Connectivity Study, Richard Marr, outlined the potential quick wins and the preferred package of interventions identified, as a result of the Study.

County Councillor Lindsay Burr raised concerns about the traffic survey data being collected to compile the required traffic model, and County Councillor Greg White queried where the necessary additional funding would come from, outside of the £600K provided by central Government.

County Council Duncan Keane queried when work on Norton level crossing might be started, and how much of the £600K was still remaining following the not insignificant expenditure on complimentary measures.

Richard Marr confirmed that once the County Council had confidence in the modelling work, the various options would be tested, although a start date for testing had not yet been identified.

In regards to funding, Richard Marr agreed to provide an update on the expenditure to date. He also confirmed that negotiations with Network Rail were underway to encourage them to provide funding for off-track improvements, in light of the increase in trains using the line.

Resolved -

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That an update on expenditure be provided.

20. Norton HGV Restrictions Update

Considered –

The report of the Area Manager, Highways and Transportation providing an update on the ongoing experimental 7.5T weight restrictions at Norton Level Crossing.

Richard Marr confirmed the restrictions had been in place since February 2018 but there had been some initial problems with signage on the A64. Also, that consultation responses would continue to be collected up to 1 May 2019 and a decision on the best way forward would follow. In the meantime monitoring at the Crossing would continue and enforcement was underway.

County Councillor Lindsay Burr provided feedback on the frustration of residents who were concerned about the lack of visible monitoring and the reliance on their goodwill to monitor both the use of Norton Level Crossing by HGV vehicles, and the knock on effects of the restrictions. She also expressed the view that the 51 enforcement actions taken to date suggested that the monitoring was not working effectively.

County Councillor Duncan Keane identified a design flaw in the restriction, in that as a result of the increased number of HGV vehicles waiting in traffic in Castlegate, the air quality issues that the restriction on the level crossing was intended as a response to, were instead being exacerbated. He drew attention to the growing air quality problems

at Butchers Corner, where there was no air quality management order in place. Recognising that clearing HGVs from Butchers Corner was not the purpose of the scheme, he queried what changes could be made between now and May 2019 to improve air quality there.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson confirmed that the backing up of traffic at Butchers Corner was caused by vehicles turning and in regard to enforcement, suggested that cameras should be used.

Richard Marr confirmed that the use of CCTV had been considered but the costs associated with examining the camera 24/7 footage had proved excessive. They were therefore having to rely on the public to provide evidence to Trading Standards, who would be able to provide data on monitoring levels.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd expressed interest in the use of cameras and agreed that as a one off while the data was being collected, the use of cameras should be reconsidered, which the committee supported.

County Councillor Peter Sowray suggested only minimal camera use was required, perhaps a couple of hours, twice a day at key times might be a more suitable option.

County Councillor Duncan Keane highlighted the knock on effects of the trial on villages in other divisions, and noted that CCTV cameras were already in place so the only costs involved would be in the assessment of the footage, subject to the quality of the imagery.

County Councillor Lindsay Burr agreed that air pollution at Butchers Corner was a major issue and thanked the Committee for their support for the use of cameras.

County Councillor Caroline Goodricke reiterated the unintended consequences of the trial on narrow roads in and around villages etc, and suggested that a one way system through Malton & Norton may have to be considered in the future, if all else fails.

Resolved -

- (i) That the information provided and issues highlighted be noted.
- (ii) That data from Trading Standards on monitoring levels be circulated to Committee members
- (iii) That the use of Cameras be reconsidered as a monitoring tool.
- (iv) That a further report be brought to the Committee **before** the end of the consultation period providing a summary overview of feedback to date, so that the Committee can submit their consultation response before the close of the consultation. Report to come next meeting on 13 March 2019.

21. Update on Phase 3 Delivery of Superfast Broadband across North Yorkshire

Considered -

The report of the Project Manager from NYnet Ltd providing an overview of the previous phases, the costs involved, public contributions per phase, and the number of premises now with superfast broadband across the county.

He highlighted some of the issues affecting those premises where superfast broadband had yet to be delivered. For example in Settrington where a decision had yet to be taken about updating one of the cabinets supplying half of the village. He confirmed that the most viable option may be to provide fibre direct to those

outstanding premises rather than fibre to that cabinet. The deployment of new technology enabling fibre to the premise would also result in some of the best connectivity in some more remote locations. Finally, he confirmed that NYnet had started to look at what Phase 4 might look like.

County Councillor Greg White stated that whilst the County Council should be pleased with the rollout to date, there were still instances of residents in some areas where work had already been completed being unable to access superfast broadband e.g. in Pickering. He suggested that NYnet should carry out some auditing to check on delivery in those areas already completed.

In response, Ian Marr confirmed that NYnet did carry out sample checks and would investigate where a cluster of problems were identified or a cluster of complaints received. He also confirmed there were a number of reasons why some residents may not be receiving superfast broadband e.g. demand stimulation or the need to update their package. He confirmed that when a resident had a fault they were advised to contact Openreach first to rule out system faults (in line with standard practice). NYnet would investigate a reported upgrade fault once the possibility of a system fault had been ruled out.

County Councillor Peter Sowray questioned whether it was fair that residents in more rural areas should have to wait to last especially as those properties received the worst services through the old system and Ian Marr confirmed there had been a political decision taken to use the available funding to provide superfast broadband to the majority of more urban premises first in order to be able to successfully apply for additional funding for further phases.

County Councillor Val Arnold questioned whether those premises that were left would ever receive superfast broadband and Ian Marr confirmed that was the aim, but it would require a variation on the delivery, made possible through the use of new technologies. He also confirmed that the average cost of installation was falling as the technology improved, making it cheaper to supply fibre to the premise, thereby making it possible to deliver to those outstanding rural premises.

Resolved -

- i) That the update on Phase 3 be noted
- ii) That a written response to the public question be provided by NYnet Ltd, and that Committee members be copied in for their information.

22. Adult Social Care Green Paper/Funding

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Director, Health & Adult Services providing an overview of the adult social care funding in the county, the challenges posed in delivering adult social care services in the county and details of what might be considered as part of the Government's anticipated Green Paper on adult social care funding.

Dale Owens, Assistant Director highlighted the key funding issues affecting the county, the savings made since 2015 and the further savings planned by 2021. He also detailed the focus on preventative works and the benefits that had brought, and the additional cost to the county council of providing domiciliary care, residential services and transport to those living in rural areas.

Members agreed there would be many across the county who were providing care that the County Council were unaware of. County Councillor Lindsay Burr highlighted some

of the issues with working in the sector and with adult social care apprenticeships, and asked that more consideration be given to the work of carers. Dale Owens acknowledged there were problems with recruitment across the county and outlined the initiatives being undertaken to attract new staff e.g. improved promotion and generating career pathways.

In regard to the funding of adult social care, Members noted that the funding pressure of approximately £4m remained a challenge, in a challenging market. They also noted that fragmented funding schemes created challenges and that the county council was having to use more expensive providers more frequently, with 7 out of 21 residential and nursing homes not accepting the county council's fee rates.

In regard to the LGA consultation on how the system could be improved and the radical measures under consideration for future funding generation, County Councillor Duncan Keane expressed concern at the possible solutions for paying for adult social care in the long term, as outlined in the report, and sought reassurance that the county council would be submitting a consultation response.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd expressed his view that the county council had got its priorities right and should be proud of its funding commitment to the provision of adult social care. However he suggested it was not just about funding, that what was needed was a cultural shift in attitudes about caring for the elderly, and for more multi-generational living. Whilst recognising you can't provide a services without funding it, he suggested it would be extremely unfair to look to council tax to bridge the funding gap

Members agreed some of the more radical solutions were controversial. County Councillor Janet Sanderson suggested means testing could prove more costly down the line and that the county council should lobby for having services properly funded by central government.

County Councillor Greg White suggested what was required was a move towards a professional care giving system that uses local commissioners and volunteers – a more blended delivery of care. He suggested the county council should look to how it could encourage it as it was still less costly to pay a premium to have people looked after at home rather than them going into a residential home.

Dale Owens agreed it was more cost effective and consultation responses showed it was the preferred option. However there had to be a threshold e.g. if two carers and multi visits were required it could prove cost prohibitive, although that would not necessarily a deciding factor. He also confirmed that the county council was looking at commercial opportunities for care delivery across the county and the possibility of having its own agency.

County Councillor Peter Sowray raised an issue with the funding of voluntary services in Hambleton and Easingwold and asked about the transparency of service contracts, and County Councillor Caroline Patmore reiterated his concerns about Easingwold. Dale Owens agreed to provide a written response to the specific query raised.

County Councillor Caroline Goodricke acknowledged it was a hugely complex subject, and that the future funding of adult social care was crucial. She stated her view that funding should be allocated down to Local Authorities from central government as they were best placed to understand the needs of the residents in their locality and had a working knowledge of the providers in their area.

Finally, County Councillor Gareth Dadd proposed a future report to the Committee on the work of the Community Care Association, in order to better understand their role and the role of others in the provision of community care.

Resolved -

- i) That the overview report be noted.
- ii) That the Assistant Director for Health & Adult Services provide a written response to the query raised by County Councillor Peter Sowray on the funding of services in Hambleton and Easingwold and the transparency of service contracts.
- iii) That the Committee receive a future report on the work of the Community Care Association and the role of others in the provision of community care.

23. Thirsk & Malton Area Constituency Committee Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services), providing a work programme for the Committee to consider and adopt.

Members considered the list of proposed areas of work identified but not yet scheduled, and County Councillor Caroline Patmore proposed the addition of the following items:

1. The overnighting of HGVs
2. Use of minor roads in the County by heavy vehicles
3. Mobile phone coverage – black spots – proposals for improvements

County Councillor Duncan Keane proposed a future report on changes in primary care services. The Chair confirmed there had been a recent joint meeting of the committee with the Scarborough & Whitby Area Constituency Committee where a presentation on primary care services was given by the Associate Director of Primary Care from Scarborough & Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group. The Scrutiny Officer agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to all Committee members.

Members also discussed the location for future meetings. The Chair confirmed the previous agreement to hold all meetings in this municipal year at the one location. It was agreed that other venues would be considered for meetings as from July 2019.

Resolved -

- iii) That the Chair and Vice-Chair draft a rolling work programme for the coming municipal year, taking account of the areas of work identified but not yet scheduled and the items proposed at the meeting.
- ii) That the next meeting of the Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee be held at Ryedale Indoor Bowls Club in Norton, on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 10 am.

The meeting concluded at 12:10pm

MLC