

North Yorkshire County Council

Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee held at Brayton Community Centre on 29th June 2022 at 10 am.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillors Karl Arthur, John Cattanach, Melanie Davis, Stephanie Duckett, Tim Grogan, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Cliff Lunn, John McCartney, Bob Packham, Andy Paraskos, Kirsty Poskitt, Jack Proud, Steve Shaw-Wright and Arnold Warneken

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Mark Crane

Officers:-

James Malcolm (Area Highways Manager); Sharon Fox (Area Highways) and Steve Loach (Democratic Services).

There were two Members of the public present.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

1. Appointment of Chairman

Nominations for Chairman were received in respect of County Councillors Karl Arthur and Melanie Davis. Each nomination was seconded.

Resolved –

That County Councillor Melanie Davis be appointed as Chairman of the Committee until the first meeting following the Annual Council meeting in May 2023.

2. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2022, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Nominations for Chairman were received in respect of County Councillors John Cattanach and Mike Jordan. Each nomination was seconded.

Resolved –

That County Councillor John Cattanach be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee until the first meeting following the Annual Council meeting in May 2023.

4. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked the Committee for her election as Chairman. Members introduced themselves and provided details of their background and experience.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Public Questions or Statements

Paul Emmott Director of Tadcaster Brewing Heritage Centre CIC attended the meeting and outlined the following question/statement:-

“I realise 3 minutes is very short but i will endeavour to explain the excellent progress that has been made in the creation of this major Tourist Attraction for the District, potentially drawing tens of thousands of new visitors to Tadcaster from across the Region and the whole of the UK . These footfalls will have a huge regeneration influence upon the ailing town and will not only provide new opportunities for existing and new businesses in Tadcaster but will provide fresh employment, volunteering opportunities and have a significant social benefit for lonely and older generations across the populace.

Unfortunately the CEO of SDC has on a number of occasions recently, specifically identified that her Council has no capacity to consider any new or ongoing venture and that SDC is entirely focused on meeting its statutory requirements for the next 9 months, hence no assistance has been available to our Community Interest Company for some weeks and despite seemingly having a substantial excess in the regeneration budget it is therefore impossible to obtain any assistance in developing the venture and accessing those funds.

What can be done to move forward this superb opportunity that has extensive backing from the local townsfolk?”

Angela Crossland, Head of Community, Partnerships & Customers at Selby District Council had provided a response to the issues raised in the statement/question, as follows:-

- SDC have been supportive in principle from the outset.
- We offered sound advice on the need for further business case development and as it stands, would consider that the proposal is not ready and still has a lot of research and development to consider. At this stage the level of funding required to develop the project, the actual visitors perceived it could/would attract or timescales to deliver, grow and maintain are unrealistic and much detail remains unclear.
- Our main ask is for Mr Emmott to step back and look at gaining support from sector specialists whose specific expertise are in understanding the feasibility of museum/visitor experiences. At this stage, that would be a relatively low cost in the grand scheme and offer a very clear way forward, from specialists recognised by the creative and cultural industries – which is important when developing relationships with funders.
- Our advice is not criticism, it's borne of years of experience working in the creative and cultural sectors but the more direction we offer, I'm afraid the less it is taken as constructive support.

- Mr Emmott's ongoing responses to officers are clearly frustrated and are now perceived as disrespectful to officers. He does not agree that officers have the expertise or connections we have within the sectors, and sadly we have got to a position where we can offer no further assistance, particularly balanced with high workloads and vacancies whilst we manage the council's corporate priorities.
- The advice given covers the issues fundamental to successfully securing any external funding from bodies. We also have to warn that much funding post-covid is related to supporting people-based projects with less focus on capital spend. So, a brewery experience with people at the heart would no doubt be welcomed, it just needs to be well understood, and less focused on the size of capital investment at this stage.
- Mr Emmott is also seeking a commitment from the council to make resources available when a detailed costed plan for architectural work is submitted (though he is not clear if that is for architects fees or towards the capital costs of the project). Also, to unlock larger investment from SDC he would definitely have to submit further information as we have clearly set out to him in previous communications.
- If the Council want to contribute funding towards the project, then a report would need to go to Executive. That is for the Executive to decide whether they support such a report coming forward for consideration. Officers have not prevented any discussion with Executive. Indeed, Exec members have had the proposal submitted directly to them from Mr Emmott.

Members discussed the issues raised and the response provided, highlighting the following:-

- It was clarified that it was difficult for financial assistance to be sought without a business plan in place, however, initial assistance was required in developing a business plan.
- NYCC could not offer financial assistance in respect of this matter as it fell under the responsibility of the District Council, but advice could be provided. It was noted that when the Council became a Unitary this matter would be considered by the Council. It was noted that some funding had been provided by Tadcaster Town Council, but further funding, or assistance, would be required to produce a business plan.
- A Member raised concerns regarding the response provided by Selby DC as he considered the questions raised to be genuine and not out of the ordinary. He suggested that funding for the feasibility study may be available through the locality budget of the questioner's local County Councillor but a figure would need to be provided.
- It was noted that the issues raised had not been submitted to a meeting of the Full Council at Selby DC, and it was suggested that this approach may provide a different response than had been provided previously. It was recognised that support for the venture would assist the development of a business plan and may help it come to fruition.
- It was suggested that an approach to National Museums may help with the development of the project and a Member stated that he would speak to the questioner, outside of the meeting, in respect of this.
- The questioner stated that he had made several approaches to the District Council but had been advised that they were struggling to meet statutory functions, therefore, assistance for the project was not currently available. It was again suggested that the matter should be submitted to a Full Council meeting at Selby DC, as a public question.
- The questioner's local County councillor stated that she had spoken previously to him about the possibility of a grant from her locality budget and would continue that dialogue after the meeting.
- It was also suggested that an approach to the National Lottery Awards for All could assist with funding for a feasibility study.

It was confirmed with the questioner that he had found the responses to the issues he had raised, useful.

7. Area Constituency Committees - Ways of Working Report

Considered -

A report by Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, North Yorkshire County Council regarding the work of the Area Constituency Committees.

Some of the key points highlighted in the report are as summarised below:

- There are six Area Constituency Committees which are coterminous with the six Parliamentary constituencies within North Yorkshire. Each committee meets formally in public four times a year
- Work to develop a new way of working for the area committees was underway as part of the Local Government Review 'Localities' work stream
- It was envisaged that a series of informal, development meetings will be held which enable councillors to build up their understanding of the constituency area and the new operating model of the area committees in the new unitary authority
- The role of the committee is to improve the quality of life for people in their area by acting as a 'critical friend' to policy makers
- The committee work programme is owned by the committee and support is provided in its development by Democratic Services. The emphasis is upon items that are: relevant; in the public interest; add value; and being scheduled in a timely and efficient way
- There are opportunities for the committee to lead on local scrutiny of a matter that has been identified by one of the Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees.

Members highlighted the following issues during a discussion of the report:-

- A number of Members stated that the Committees should return to the District Council boundaries rather than the current Constituency boundaries, as that would assist the democratic process for issues such as planning and licensing, which are currently services by District Councils. It was suggested that the Committee should refer this matter to the Executive. A Member, whilst agreeing with what was stated, considered that this was unlikely to be changed, he suggested, however, that careful thought had to be given to how the democratic process would be developed for the unitary authority, taking account of the District Council's plans and policies. A Member noted that one of the main issues for making the Area Committees Constituency based had been the attendance of the local MP. However, she considered that his attendance had been very limited. A Member stated that he was against the return to Area Committees based on Districts, emphasising that it was not the current policy of the County Council. He noted that, previously, the Committee had co-opted the MP's assistant to represent him, and report on issues, when he was unable to attend. Should the Committee work together with the County Council it was expected that additional powers would be provided to the Constituency Committees, enabling Members to have a more significant contribution to the services in their areas. Members considered that the introduction of the unitary provided a unique opportunity to develop a meaningful and effective local democratic framework. He suggested that the MP could submit a written report for each meeting, rather than attending. There was a possibility of creating additional, online, meetings to take account of local concerns, a number of which were highlighted as examples. It was emphasised that although changes to the boundary of the Committees

was unlikely to take place now, but these changes could be implemented going forward. It was noted that there were proposals for additional, informal meetings of the Area Constituency Committees, to discuss the development of these. Members debated the issues raised and emphasised the need to feedback issues in an efficient and effective manner to the Executive on how the Area Constituency Committees should be developed and how best to represent the local communities of North Yorkshire.

- Further discussion was undertaken on inviting the MP to join meetings of the ACC and the co-option of his assistant to the former Committee. It was suggested that there was no reason for the co-option, if a written report was to be provided to each meeting by the MP, as the details required by the Committee would be contained within that. A Member contested that the information and knowledge of the MPs representative had brought great benefit to the Committee previously and allowed for a two-way discussion on relevant issues. It was stated that the MPs representative could still attend meetings as a Member of the public should they not be co-opted. It was also suggested that there should be no other co-options to the Committee at this stage.
- A major issue for the Committee, going forward, would be climate change, which should be taken account of in all issues.
- Members discussed the venue for ordinary meetings of the ACC. The preference was for the same venue for all meetings, which was accessible and on a public transport route. It was also suggested that the meetings should be livestreamed to ensure transparency. Issues relating to the booking of external venues for meetings were discussed and it was stated that every effort would be made to meet Members wishes.
- Further suggestions in respect of the development of the Work programme would be made when that issue was discussed later in the meeting, however, it was suggested that it would be beneficial for details from OFSTED and the CQC to be provided. It was noted that the various Scrutiny Committees received data in relation to these and it would be worthwhile requesting area related feedback in respect of this.

Resolved –

- (i) That it be recommended to the Executive that consideration be given to returning the framework for the constitution of Area Committees to that based upon the seven districts, rather than the six Constituencies;
- (ii) That the issues raised within the report, and during the discussion of the report be noted and acted upon where appropriate.
- (iii) That the MP be no longer invited to attend meetings of the Committee, but a written report be requested from the MP for each meeting, proving an update on Constituency issues.
- (iv) That the MPs assistant, Howard Ferguson, be no longer invited to be a co-optee to the Committee.

7. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) regarding appointments to Outside Bodies.

The Clerk introduced the report and stated that following the elections, the Area Constituency Committees were required to make appointments to Local Bodies. These were as detailed in Appendices A and B of the report. Committee members are asked to work through the list asking for nominations, seconders and then moving to a vote, where necessary.

The following issues were discussed:-

- The period of the appointments was clarified as being for 5 years, which was considered to be appropriate as it took time to settle into the role. A re-appointment could be undertaken within that period should the original appointee no longer wish to carry on.
- The Committee has not usually expected to receive reports back from the various representatives on outside bodies, however, should these be received they would be considered accordingly. It was suggested that feedback from the Category 2 Local Bodies would be appreciated, however.
- Members noted that the Constitution would require altering following the implementation of the Unitary Council, as some bodies had both representatives of the County Council and District Council.

Resolved -

That the following decisions in respect of Category 2 Outside Bodies were agreed :-

National Coal Mining Museum for England Liaison Committee –
Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright (Sub - Councillor Jack Proud)

Safer Selby Local Delivery Team –
Councillor Stephanie Duckett (If this body is still meeting)

Selby District Association for Voluntary Services
Councillor Karl Arthur (Sub - Councillor Stephanie Duckett)

That the following decisions in respect of Category 3 Outside Bodies were agreed :-

Criddling Stubbs Educational Charity – Councillor John McCartney

Edward Atkinson Charity (Camblesforth) – Councillor Mike Jordan

Mary Waud Foundation (Cliffe School Charity) – Councillor Karl Arthur

Oglethorpe and Dawson Educational Foundation – to be determined

St John's Catholic School for the Deaf, Boston Spa - to be determined

Wistow Church of England School Charity – Councillor John Cattanach

8. Data Profile for Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee

Considered -

A report by Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, on the data profile for the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee.

The area profile had been produced to enable members to better understand the area covered by the committee. It also enabled members to identify issues that may be worth further consideration by the committee.

A Member stated that he was taken aback by the level of fuel poverty outlined for the area, and considered that the situation was going to get worse, going forward in the short term. He emphasised the need to address this matter.

It was requested that when up to date data was available from the recent Census, and following the proposed boundary changes, that a further report be brought to the Committee.

Resolved –

That the report be noted and a further report be brought to the Committee when the updated data is available.

9. SEND Provision Selby - Selby Special Free School Update

Considered –

An update report from Chris Reynolds, Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources in respect of the current situation regarding the provision of a Special Free School in the Selby area.

Members raised the following in respect of the report:-

- It was noted that the development of the school had been underway for four years and this desperately needed facility should be provided as a matter of urgency.
- Clarity was requested in terms of the use of the new school by those currently travelling long distances from home to access these facilities in other parts of the County, as it had been stated that no offer would be made to attend the new school in this situation. It was emphasised that, where requested, pupils living nearer to the new school, despite having a place elsewhere, should be offered the opportunity to attend to eliminate the long journey.
- It was requested that targets and deadlines be provided in respect of the development of the school, as Members noted that this had yet to go through the Planning stages. It was stated that the public perception was that the development was being delayed because it was in the Selby District.
- A Member stated that he would bring the issue up with the Corporate Parenting Group of which he was a Member.
- Members outlined the history to this proposal and the issues that had arisen in identifying an appropriate location for the school. It was also noted that NYCC had not requested that the school be put in the Selby Local Development Plan despite knowing that the proposals were coming forward. It was considered that the whole process had taken far too long and was now back with the DofE. It was suggested that a letter be written to the DofE, the local MP and the Corporate Director – Children and Young Peoples Services to request details on the current position of the development.
- A Member noted that the proposed site at Osgodby had very little in the way of nearby facilities, and with poor access to the site, it was considered that more appropriate sites would be available in the District. It was considered that the proposal for the school had now been accepted and every effort should be made to get this in place as soon as possible as it was desperately needed.

Resolved –

That a letter be written to the DofE, the local MP and the Corporate Director – Children and Young Peoples Services to request details on the current position of the development, to request that the project be expedited as soon as possible and to ensure that children living in the District were offered a place at the new school.

10. Risk and Resource Model 2022-25 Consultation (Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire) - Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

Considered -

A report by Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, North Yorkshire County Council regarding the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner's Risk and Resource Model 2022-25 consultation.

The report set out the risk in a given area and the Fire and Rescue Service resources in place to address and reduce that risk. The consultation ran from 23 May to 14 August 2022.

The Clerk stated that it had not been possible to invite anyone from the Office for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to attend the meeting to go through the consultation proposals. This was an opportunity, however, to consider how to respond to the consultation.

There followed a discussion with the key points as summarised below:-

- It was suggested that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, together with the Chief Fire Officer be contacted to arrange a separate meeting with Members of the Committee to discuss the details of the consultation.
- Concern was raised that the proposals appeared to leave Selby without any overnight cover.
- There was also concern raised in relation to attendance at Road Traffic Incidents, particularly at night.
- It was stated that the Selby Town centre consultation event had not taken place in the most appropriate location, and it was suggested that dialogue with the Town council would assist with the location of future events.
- Further concern was raised that, despite the rising level of population in the Selby District, the planned fire cover was diminishing. It was emphasised that the appropriate levels of infrastructure and services were required to complement the house building taking place.
- Issues relating to the Fire and Rescue River Recue Boat and not being able to launch it in Selby due to health and safety issues were raised.
- It was noted that the consultation highlighted the need to enhance protection and prevention roles, but this appeared to be at a cost to the fire service cover.
- Although there was no specific mention of Selby within the report the plans to reduce cover within York would have an impact, as remaining services would consequently be required in York, leaving less availability for Selby.
- A Member, also a Member of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel, stated that he would raise the issues highlighted by the Committee, at that forum.
- It was also suggested a representative of North Yorkshire Police, preferably Supt Mark Khan, also be invited to take part in any meeting that was subsequently set up.

Resolved –

That arrangements be made for an additional meeting with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Fire Officer and a representative of North Yorkshire Police, preferably Supt Mark Khan, to discuss the Committee's concerns, with the likelihood that this be held virtually.

11. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing a Work Programme for Members to consider, develop and adapt.

Members discussed how they would like to see the Work Programme developed over the coming year, and following issues were highlighted:-

- Members agreed that formal, scheduled meetings of the Committee should take place, face-to-face.
- It was suggested that local bus services be added to the work programme, taking account of the recent strike action, and the reduction in subsidy by NYCC. The need for efficient and effective bus services as part of the response to Climate Change should be emphasised, and funding for public transport would need to be discussed.
- It was requested that issues relating to road safety (deployment of speed cameras, 20s plenty campaign, potential for the provision of average speed cameras, safer walking routes, etc) be added to the work programme, preferably as one item but with the different aspects discussed separately on one agenda. The 95 Alive team should be invited to assist with the consideration of these issues.
- Co-ordination between Area Highways and the Police would enhance road safety in the area and it was requested that they attend the meeting on road safety to assist with the discussion.
- A discussion on Police priorities would be appreciated and it was suggested that this could be undertaken when the requested additional meeting was organised.
- It was asked that the roll out of electric vehicle charging points in the area be placed in the work programme.
- Other issues for future consideration included:-
 - Cycling and Cycle Routes – consider mixing with cars instead of pedestrians
 - Air quality measuring
 - The future use of NYCC land and buildings following LGR – potential for alternative use

Resolved –

- (i) That the issues highlighted be included in the future work programme and the work programme be adapted accordingly
- (ii) That the proposed Meeting dates for 2022/23, as set out in the report, be approved.

12. Next Meeting

Resolved -

That the next meeting of the Committee be held at 2.30pm on Thursday 22nd September 2022.

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

(i) Anti-Social Behaviour and recent events in the Brayton area

A Member highlighted concerns that had been raised by Brayton Parish Council regarding recent anti-social behaviour and events in the area associated with people from the travelling community currently located on land by the church at Brayton. He introduced a representative of the Parish Council who highlighted some of the issues that had occurred, including:-

Racing horses and traps on main roads around the area causing traffic chaos;
Taking a horse into the local pub and holding an auction for it;
Threatening the temporary manager in the pub when she attempted to remove them.

She noted that travellers had previously stayed at that location, but were now expecting to locate there as they returned from Appleby Fair. The Police had been called in respect of the incidents but had been very slow to respond, with the incidents having dispersed when they arrived. She asked whether legal action could be taken to prevent the incidents from re-occurring.

Members discussed the issue and highlighted the following:-

A lack of official Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by the District Council had resulted in land such as that by the church being used. It was emphasised however that this did not provide those using the sites an opportunity to break the law or act anti-socially. A member noted that Selby District Council had provided two additional sites following a consultation.

A Member outlined the background to this situation, having knowledge as to how the travelling community came to be located on that land, through being invited previously, but appropriate action had not been taken to prevent them from entering the land, and there had been no invite on this occasion. He noted that this had been a difficult situation which had not been helped by the response of the Police. He noted that the matter was being investigated by Selby District Council, who would respond to the Parish Council.

Members noted that many travellers stopped off in areas whilst in transit without problems, however, the situations that occurred should have been dealt with by the Police, who would have been aware that the travellers were located in the area. It was considered that their response to the issues raised had not been appropriate. It was also noted that by-laws could be created to prevent the trotting taking place.

Resolved –

That the issues raised be taken up with the police during the forthcoming additional meeting and through the District Council and the matters of trespass, poor/slow response by the police and the provision of traveller and showmen sites within SDC be added to the work programme.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

SML

