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AREA COMMUNITY FORUMS

Notes of the Area Community Forums held in February 2022 by Zoom Webinar

At all three Forums, presentations were made on:-

- Council News
- Proposed 2022/23 spending plans
- Levelling Up Fund for town centre redevelopment
- Climate Change

The presentations and live broadcasts of each Forum can be found at <https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/news-and-publications/latest-news/3523-virtual-have-your-say-february-forums>

- The Leader of the Council, Councillor Purdy, also spoke of the challenges the District Council had had to face in recent times. This included 3 flood emergencies and the Covid pandemic and its effect on services and the delivery of business grants. Also the disruption to the waste & recycling service which had been impacted by the pandemic and a national shortage of HGV drivers. He apologised for the unacceptable service and referred to the independent review which has been commissioned and would be considered by Council 17th February. He assured that ongoing issues were being addressed.

Northern – 10th February 2022

Attendees

Councillors Froggatt (in the Chair), Buttle, Gamble, Hill, Hobson, O'Brien, Purdy & Sutton

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), Steve Capes (Director of Regeneration & Policy), Ashley Watts (Director of Community & Environmental Services), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate & Customer Services), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), Jo Hill (Climate Change Officer), Jason Spencer (Electoral and Democratic Services Manager) Ros Hession (Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer) and Tommy Shaw (Business Support Assistant)

4 members of the public

Issues raised / questions

- In response to the Good News presentation, a **Hathersage** resident commented that settlements on the edges of the district appear to have little input from the District Council apart from verge mowing. Paul Wilson highlighted that the slides were intended as a snapshot and focussed on the comprehensive service delivery across the district. Paul urged for any parishes with projects in mind to contact the District Council to discuss.
- It was confirmed that details of the **District Council's expenditure** would be in the next edition of Dales Matters to be delivered to all households with Council Tax bills in mid-March.
- Cllr Sutton referred to **climate change and what might be done with regard to natural gas caused by animals at the Agricultural Business Centre**. Jo Hill advised that this is something that cannot be directly controlled and her remit was to focus on the Council's own emission controls and this did not form part of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Paul acknowledged that methane is a contributory factor to climate change, but although the District Council own the livestock market, they do not control it. This issue is part of a broader discussion across the UK and is being addressed by DEFRA. The District Council is happy to work with local Ward Members and ABC managers to address particular concerns / issues.

Central 15th February 2022

Attendees

Councillors FitzHerbert (in the Chair), M Burfoot, Hobson, Hughes, Purdy, Slack & Statham

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), Ashley Watts (Director of Community & Environmental Services), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate & Customer Services), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), Jo Hill (Climate Change Officer), Jason Spencer (Electoral and Democratic Services Manager) and Ros Hession (Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer)

5 members of the public

Issues raised / questions

- A member of the public asked about **parking fees for motorcyclists** and options eg nowhere to place a P & D ticket, but presumably can now pay by phone. Is there any way for a motorcyclist being able to prove they've bought a ticket yet? If it gets stolen and they receive a parking fine? The last advice I had was "take a photograph of it". What if I don't have a camera or phone?
- He added that he personally doesn't believe that motorcyclists should have to pay. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Neighbourhoods Team to follow up directly.
- In response to a question, Paul Wilson confirmed that **waste is being recycled** – there had been a period when residents were asked to co-mingle food waste.
- Details, including pie charts, of the **District Council's expenditure** would be in the next edition of Dales Matters to be delivered to all households with Council Tax bills in mid-March.
- Question - Thirteen councils Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Doncaster, High Peak, Kirklees, Lancaster, Leeds, Redcar, Sheffield, Staffordshire Moorlands, Wakefield and York are supporting a **ban on the environmentally harmful practice of grouse moor burning**. Are Derbyshire Dales even debating such an initiative and if not, why not?
- Response - *'Derbyshire Dales District Council does not own any moorland that is used for grouse shooting and therefore has no direct control over the practice of rotational burning. We note that the Peak District National Park's position on the matter is to support recent legislation that prevents burning on protected blanket bogs, except in exceptional circumstances and to work with moorland owners and managers about alternative methods of management in other areas where this protection does not apply. We would be happy to join with the Peak Park in these conversations.'*

- Further question - According to "Who Owns England", Moscar Moor north of Bamford & Hathersage is owned by the Duke of Rutland and used for grouse shooting. By my reckoning, a chunk of this vast 6000 acre grouse shooting moor falls within the Derbyshire Dales.
- Response provided by email - Confirmation that Derbyshire Dales District Council does not own any moorland that is used for grouse shooting. This is not the same as saying that there are no grouse moors in our district. Moscar Lodge is within the district (right at the very north of what used to be known as Outseats) and the understanding of officers is that the estate includes land in the Derbyshire Dales area, in High Peak and in Sheffield City Council's area. None of these organisations have any power to control grouse shooting or the practice of rotational burning on that Estate.

- Question - regarding **waste and recycling**, is food and other recycling being collected again actually being recycled? As this is 1/3 of spending is reducing waste a messaging priority for the whole council's public contact material? Overconsumption is a major cause of the need for emissions reduction and less waste is less waste collection. Due to the budget cost, this is not an issue just for the climate officer's small budget but cross-council.
- Response – confirmation that waste is being recycled – there had been a period when residents were asked to co-mingle food waste.

- Question - can you **explain how the Levelling Up Fund bids will conform to the climate targets** requirements? How many jobs will be created? How will it contribute to reducing carbon emissions?
- Response - All projects have different elements. The Matlock Bakewell Road development is the most advanced and will look to maximise climate change initiatives and fulfil government requirements. It is difficult to say how many jobs will be created as business cases have not yet been finalised. All bids must include measures to reduce carbon emissions.

Southern – 22nd February 2022

Attendees

Councillors Bull (in the Chair), Archer, Donnelly, Hobson, Lees, Michele Morley, Tony Morley and Purdy

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), Steve Capes (Director of Regeneration & Policy), Ashley Watts (Director of Community & Environmental Services), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate & Customer Services), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), Ros Hession (Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer) and Tommy Shaw (Business Support Assistant)

4 members of the public

Issues raised / questions

- Question - An update was sought on the ***Air Quality Action Plan for those areas of Ashbourne*** affected by the Air Quality Management Area declared in April 2021.
- Response – Tim Braund advised of a report to the Community & Environment 23rd February. Derbyshire County Council had now published its cabinet report which would be made more widely available and include a shortlist and an Action Plan will be progressed. Tim acknowledged that the vast majority of issues are highway related so DCC will be the lead, but DDDC will input where able
- Discussion around ***allotment gardens in Ashbourne and a sewerage works*** that includes its own solar farm

Questions submitted and responded to electronically

Waste & Recycling service

- Question - As you are now using your own employees to collect food waste instead of Serco. Have you asked for a refund on the contract fee, as they are not meeting terms of the contract
- Response - Where missed bins are reported, the Council applies the KPI's outlined in the contract and if a round does not operate this is classed as non-service delivery, in both instances the Council would adjust the amount which is paid to Serco accordingly and by following the contract. The Council records the cost of deploying its own resources to ensure they do not lose out financially by doing this.
- Question - It is now a month since our food waste caddy was emptied, when do you propose to resume collections please?
- Response - The Council apologises for the ongoing issues in regards to Food Waste collections, this issue is District wide and something the Council are urgently pushing Serco to improve. The main cause of the impact is staff absences within Serco's workforce which at times has nearly equated to a third of the collection team. That being said the service has been unacceptable and everyone is working hard to improve the current poor service. In addition to ongoing discussions with Serco the Council have also deployed some of its deployed some of its Clean & Green Team to clear up food waste caddies when possible.
- The resident has further contacted to advise that the food caddy has been collected for the last two weeks.
- Question - The Serco Inquiry report was due at the end of 2021. It is now very overdue. When are we going to get it
- Response - The report will be considered on 17th February at an Extraordinary meeting of Council – please find more information at the link below.
<https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/council-a-committee-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/council>
- Question 1 - Have any financial penalties been made against the contractor for non-compliance of the contract, i.e. missed collections etc. If so how much has been recovered over the period from start up.
- Response 1 - The contractor has been charged £27,926 in respect of KPI deductions for the period August 2020 to June 2021. The Council has not paid any invoices for July 2021 onwards.
- Question 2 - What has been the additional expenditure, paid to the waste contractor over the period, from contract start date to financial year ending 2021/2022 and will it be at this level until the completion of the contract
- Response 2 - The only additional payment made on the new contract to date has been a payment of £22,813 for vehicle maintenance in September 2020 when the delivery of new vehicles was delayed (see Council report 12/08/2020).

Road Safety

- Question - For the past several years Old Hackney Lane has become a cut through for vehicles to avoid the A6, which has almost constantly had traffic lights on it. We local residents have been running the local Speedwatch now for 3 years. Each week we log over 200 vehicles an hour, and each week we note up to 25 vehicles breaking the speed limit of 30mph. We have tried talking to Highways re more signage (there is, for example, no 'School' sign as you approach Smedley St), 30mph repeater signs, better signage at the top and bottom of the Lane - all to no avail. We have tried bidding to the PCC for 'Community Speedwatch' signs. We are extremely worried about the children who walk up to school, the dog walkers, the older and disabled people. You may be aware that the Lane only has footpaths on one side and in one place the footpath is 9 inches wide. Buggies have to go into the road. Is there nothing we can do about this before someone gets killed?
- Response - This is not a function that Derbyshire Dales District Council has responsibility for. However, the Community Safety Officer, has provided this response: Speeding is not something that DDDC can deal with directly. The police can if they see it or set up special speed check cars or speed check days. There is a Road Safety Partnership who lead on this type of issue. Due to comments made in the Community Safety resident's survey, statistics in the Strategic Intelligence assessment and the motorcycle fatalities figures for the Dales (we're the highest in Derbyshire), the Community Safety Officer has contacted Vanessa Hall at Derbyshire County Council to see how the Derbyshire Dales Community Safety Partnership can work with the Road Safety Partnership for example, with speed watch groups, signage, campaigns etc

Finance / Spending Proposals

- Question - What is the proportion of DDDC income spent on refuse collection (to the point they had over to DCC) and parks and gardens and other
- Response - The pie chart in the Forum presentation on spending proposals for 2022/23, indicates that 31.8% of our gross revenue (day to day) spending is for waste collection (after the cost of management and other overheads have been reallocated). Proportions for other main spending heads are shown in the pie chart below. Parks and gardens is included in "Clean and Green".
- Without the reallocation of management costs and other overheads, the direct costs of the waste collection service account for 26.3% of gross revenue spending (i.e £4.8m) in our budget proposals for 2022/23.
- However, we receive income from fees and charges and from the disposal of recycling materials; these total £2.6m in our forecasts for 2022/23. So, without the reallocation of management costs and other overheads, and taking into the account the income that we receive for the service, the direct net expenditure of the waste collection service in our budget proposals for 2022/23 is £2.2m (which is 14.3% of our revenue income).