



Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel

Date: Thursday, 4 January 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Location: Brampton Community Centre

Present: Cllr R Dobson (Chair), Cllr J Mallinson (Vice-Chair), Cllr G Mitchell, Cllr M Mitchelson, Cllr T Pickstone and Cllr B Wernham

In Attendance Director of Public Health and Communities
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Community Development Officer
Cumberland Network Manager
Assistant Director - Highways and Transport
Senior Manager - Community Services

22 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Dr H Davison.

23 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were submitted.

24 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED – It was agreed that items in Part A be dealt with in the public and the items in private to be dealt with in Part B when the public and the press are excluded.

25 Public Participation

There were no questions or representations received from members of the public.

26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 be approved.

27 Tyne Valley Railway Presentation

The Chair welcome Mr Chainey, Chair of the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and Ms Forsythe, Tyne Valley Community Rail Officer to the meeting.

Mr Chainey and Ms Forsythe gave a presentation covering: who the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership were; what is Community Railway; the Four Pillar strategy; partner organisations and stakeholders; the Partnership's resources; and a number project that the Partnership had been involved in.

In considering the presentation the Panel raised the following questions and comments:

A Member commented that a number of residents had raised concerns in relation to not feeling safe when attending Brampton Railway Station, he asked if any action could be taken?

Mr Chainey recognised the issue and outlined a number of safety measures that Northern Rail was incorporating into its stations including CCTV and ticket machines.

The Panel discussed the lack of direct bus connection to Brampton Railway Station and the importance of integrated public transport to both residents and visitors to the area. It was vital that any incidents that occurred were appropriately reported for example to the police.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the relationship between service providers and Network Rail, Mr Chainey advised that there were some weaknesses in the existing railway structure, he hoped that the creation of the new GB Railways would address those matters.

At the invitation of the Chair, Ms Forsythe gave an overview of a day the Partnership had undertaken with partners at Wetheral Station in March 2023 where a number of works had been undertaken including; painting and repairing windows, gardening, and rubbish removal. Ms Forsythe emphasised the importance of partnership working in such activities. Mr Chainey provided an overview of the history of the station.

The Chair commented that the Tyne Valley Community Railway was a wonderful piece of infrastructure with considerable potential. Indicators suggested that increased service provision was better for residents, and he considered that the Panel was able to effectively publicise the service.

The Chair thanked Mr Chainey and Ms Forsythe for their presentation.

RESOLVED – That the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership presentation be noted.

28 Investing In Our Neighbourhood

The Community Development Officer submitted a report which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to the Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive.

The report made a series of recommendations in relation to the approval of grant applications received, and to agree an authorisation process for investments not exceeding £1,500.

The Community Development Officer had circulated and updated summary of all investments and balance of budget to the Panel which contained an updated remaining balance of funds of £22,605.

A Member asked what would happen to any monies not allocated or spent by the end of the financial year?

The Senior Manager responded that the matter was an Executive Decision, she anticipated that any remaining funds would be carried forward into the new financial year, but that had not been confirmed.

RESOLVED – That the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel:

1) Approved an investment of £6,600 from Longtown ward and panel wide allocations to Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre towards project management of refurbishment of the centre as detailed in appendix 1.

- 2) Approved an investment of £2000 from Belah and Stanwix ward allocations to AGE UK Carlisle & Eden towards a pilot as detailed in appendix 2.
- 3) Noted an investment of £1,487 from Corby & Hayton ward allocation to Hayton Parish Council towards improvements at Heads Nook village hall as detailed in appendix 3.
- 4) Noted an investment of £1500 from panel wide allocation to Brampton & District Red Squirrel Group towards purchasing critical equipment as detailed in appendix 4.
- 5) Noted an investment of £300 from panel wide allocation to Rotary towards a Technology Tournament as detailed in appendix 5.
- 6) Noted an investment of £1,134 from panel wide allocation to ICAN Wellbeing towards wellbeing sessions as detailed in appendix 6.
- 7) Noted an investment of £835 from Corby & Hayton ward allocation to Parochial Church Council of Cumrew towards installing water at St Mary's Church as detailed in appendix 7.
- 8) Noted an investment of £1,080 from Corby & Hayton ward allocation to Castle Carrock & Geltsdale Parish Council towards purchasing a gate for a community field as detailed in appendix 8.
- 9) Noted an investment of £500 from Corby & Hayton ward allocation to Cumwhitton Parish Council towards improvements at Cumwhitton village hall as detailed in appendix 9.
- 10) Noted an investment of £330 from Houghton & Irthington ward allocation to Houghton village hall improvements as detailed in appendix 10.
- 11) Noted an investment of £700 from Longtown ward allocation to Bewcastle Hub towards purchasing items for the hub as detailed in appendix 11.
- 12) Noted an investment of £630 from Wetheral ward allocation to Scotby Pre-School towards purchasing a baby changing table as detailed in appendix 12.
- 13) Noted an investment of £1000 from Wetheral ward allocation to 1st Wetheral Brownies towards a residential as detailed in appendix 13.
- 14) Noted an investment of £1500 from Wetheral ward allocation to Scotby village hall towards improvements as detailed in appendix 14.

29 Highways and Transport Board Update

The Panel received the minutes of the Highways and Transport Strategic Board held on the 10 November 2023.

Discussion arose on the format of the Highways and Strategic Transport Board with Members noting each of the Community Panel Chairs and Vice Chairs attended the Board to raise matters identified by their respective Panels and considering the effectiveness of that approach. A Member suggested that the Panel write to the Board to seek clarity on the process.

Members further considered how matters determined by the former Cumbria County Council's Area Committee(s) that were in abeyance.

The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport commented that it was important that all previous matters determined by the former county council be captured in order for a way forward to be developed.

The Director of Public Health and Communities advised that he would liaise with the Assistant Director on the matter following the meeting with a view to developing a process for those matters.

The Chair suggested that once the items had been collated, the Panel may decide priorities based on the identified issues.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Highways and Transport Strategic Board held on 10 November 2023 be noted.

30 Highways Matters

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director of Highways and Transport and the Cumberland Network Manager to the meeting.

Considering a question Member regarding the possibility of creating 20mph speed limit areas near schools, discussion ensued on the wider issues associated with the implementation of traffic regulations including: public support; driver behaviour; cost and enforceability; and action and activity being taken on the matter by other local authorities. Members further identified particular spots within the Panel area that in their view would benefit from the reduced speed limit.

The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport advised that a paper would be submitted to the Highways and Transport Strategic Board (“the Board”) on 31 January outlining a policy for 20mph speed limits.

At its inaugural meeting, the Board had approved a review of all Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) in Cumberland over a four year period, the Assistant Director of Highways and Transport indicated that he would circulate the review timetable to Members. TROs had a cost associated with them and were required to be in place for the creation of either a 20mph speed limit or zone area.

In relation to the TRO Review, a member sought clarification as to whether it was necessary for a Ward Member to wait until such time as the review of their area was being carried out before identifying matters that would be the subject of a Traffic Regulation Order.

The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport responded that it was feasible to identify potential areas of work, but that implementation of any such works was not likely to be conducted until the allotted review time due to the associated significant costs.

The use of Parish and Town Council funding to support the Council in its highways work was explored by the Panel, wherein a number of examples of such activity in other areas of the country were highlighted.

A Member asked what influence the Council had with the Highways Agency, he referred to issues that had been identified on the A689 and the unclassified Brampton to Longtown road?

The Highway Network Manager responded that the Council was able to make reports to the Highways Agency and that there was regular liaison between the two organisations. Were any Member to have an issue with an area of the highway for which the Highways Authority was

responsible, if they brought the matter to her attention, she would ensure it was passed on appropriately.

The Chair sought an update on the road closure in place at Cairnbridge Embankment, noting that it was having an adverse impact on both residents and businesses in the area.

The Highway Network Manager responded that Council was working with the landowner and that the matter was currently subject to legal process. An update would be communicated to Members in the future when the matter was further progressed.

The Chair further raised that he had been conducted by a large number of residents in his ward in December 2023 to complain that gritting services which they had previously received had not been provided during the cold weather.

The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport explained that the former Cumbria County Council had in 2019/20 reviewed its gritting routes to ensure full compliance with the Highways Act Code of Practice which required the treating of routes in the Strategic Network to be completed within 2.5 hours. In 2020, the routes were agreed by Cumbria County Council's Cabinet, following which a route optimisation exercise was carried out: 2023/24 was the first winter in which the new routes had been implemented. As part of that review process consultation had been carried out with stakeholders including Parish Councils.

Going forward it had been agreed that the addition of routes to the gritting programme may be agreed by the relevant Portfolio Holder. Moreover, a review of the gritting programme and the route optimisation process would be carried out with the Portfolio Holder.

A number of Members expressed concern that the consultation conducted on the amended routes had not been sufficient.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Assistant Director of Highways and Transport circulate to the Panel the Review of Traffic Regulation Order timetable to the Panel.

31 Community Panel Update

The Community Development Officer submitted the Community Panel Update report. She gave an overview of the responses to the consultation activity on the Panel's draft priorities.

The next scheduled event for the Panel would take place during the Spring in the north of Carlisle, venue to be confirmed, and would help the Panel to develop its Neighbourhood Investment Plan.

A number of members of the Panel commented on the successful, well run community network event which had previously taken place.

RESOLVED – That the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel:

1) Noted the Community Panel Update report.

2) Agreed the draft priorities set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report: Community Facilities and Support; Environment; and Highways.

32 Future Agenda Items

The Panel's Forward Plan of Items was submitted for consideration. The Community Development Officer suggested that, were members minded to add further items to the agenda they may wish to consider reports that related to the Panel's priorities. The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport suggested that the Panel may wish to receive a report regarding Bus Improvement Plans. Members indicated their agreement.

In relation to the Panel's priority of Community Facilities and Support, the Chair requested that a mapping exercise of the existing community facilities including green and open space within the Panel area be carried out.

The Senior Manager Community Services commented that the mapping exercise was a potentially large piece of work. On that basis it may be prudent that the mapping work be carried out and the results circulated to the Panel members as a written response after which consideration could be given to how the Panel wished to take that work forward. The Committee indicated its assent.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Panel's Forward Plan of Items be noted.

2) That a report on Bus Improvement Plans be received at the March 2024 meeting of the Panel.

3) That the Community Development Officer conduct a mapping exercise of the existing community facilities with the Panel's area, including green and open space and circulate the finding to the Panel.

The meeting finished at 8.05 pm