



**Whitehaven
and Coastal**
Community Panel

Date: Thursday, 20 June 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Location: The Beacon Portal, The Beacon, Whitehaven

Present: Cllr G Minshaw (Chair), Cllr G Troughton (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Hawkins and Cllr J Forster

Also Present: Glenn Anderson (Co-Opted Member)

In Attendance Area Planning Manager (x2), Local Area Network Manager and Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)

38 Appointment of Chair

Councillor Hawkins moved and Councillor Forster seconded that Councillor Minshaw be appointed as Chair.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Minshaw be appointed Chair of the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel for the 2024-25 municipal year.

Councillor Minshaw thereupon took the Chair and welcomed everyone to their first meeting of the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel.

39 Appointment of Vice Chair

Councillor Hawkins moved and Councillor Forster seconded that Councillor Troughton be appointed as Vice Chair

RESOLVED – that Councillor Troughton be appointed Vice Chair of the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel for the 2024-25 municipal year.

40 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Emma Williamson and Joseph Ghayouba, and also from Tamsin Beattie (Community Development Officer), Nik Hardy (Assistant Chief Executive) and Alan Burns (Co-Opted Member)

41 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

42 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any items of business on this occasion.

43 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 14 March 2024.

44 Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners Update

The Chief Executive of the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners (WHC) provided the Panel with background information on the harbour, such as it being one of 54 trust ports within England and being a non-profit with half of the harbour's revenue coming from car park charges and the rest via grants and partners. And she also provided the Panel with a verbal update on ongoing projects. These projects included The Edge, the Hub, the brown water in the harbour, upcoming festivals and the funding grant received to improve the Rum Story. The Chief Executive of the WHC highlighted the aim of the WHC is to improve the footfall between the harbour and town centre, as well as being aware of the challenges of being an isolated community and working with the community to take advantage of amazing opportunities.

A Member noted the previous negative complaints regarding The Edge from residents and queried whether the rooms in the Edge would be for groups. The Chief Executive of the WHC empathised with the negative comments received, commenting that they had related to worried regarding the project being partially built and the disabled access blocked by the building materials, which the progress made on the project has removed some of those worries. Regarding the rooms, the Chief Executive of the WHC explained that the rooms would be a mix of individual and family rooms that are all quirky and two thirds are accessible, with the aim to encourage those participating in festivals and Coast 2 Coast (C2C) to stay local.

A Member asked about improvements in the links from the harbour to the town centre and noted the small notice regarding the brown water. The Chief Executive of the WHC highlighted that sign posting and way marking as solutions alongside changing the culture for the high street to encourage more people to spend time in the town centre. The Chief Executive of the WHC also noted that the size of the notices for the brown water would be temporary, with bigger signs and further information due later in the year.

A Member queried the funding available for maintenance of Millenium Projects, such as the wave and the Hub, and wondered what help would be available to improve footfall to the Rum Story. The Chief Executive of the WHC explained that funding was available for new projects, rather than maintenance, so the WHC would be thinking smarter and outside the box to refurbish assets the harbour already has. Regarding the Rum Story, the Chief Executive of the WHC noted that the WHC are limited on what they can do due to the shared alleyway but that the Rum Story new manager has ideas which included using sounds at the entrance to intrigue possible visitors.

A Member noted past and possible future tourist opportunities on the harbour which included the Maritime Festival and trips to the Isle of Man. The Chief Executive of the WHC explained that due to updated health and safety laws, festivals as large as the Maritime Festival are no longer possible on the harbour, especially considering the current struggles for hosting the smaller festivals. Regarding trips to the Isle of Man, the Chief Executive of the WHC noted that costs and the weather prevented the previous trips from continuing but that discussions would

be taking place to see if such trips would be viable in the future or if other opportunities, such as visits from cruise ships, could be added to the WHC calendar.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive of the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners for the update on behalf of the Panel.

RESOLVED – that the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners verbal update be noted.

[The Chief Executive of the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners left the meeting at 18:38]

45 Highways & Transport Strategic Board Meeting Minutes

The Local Area Network Manager as the Highways Representative, as requested by the Chair, provided the Panel with highlights from the minutes which related to the Panel area, with a specific focus on the Health and Safety Update with new initiatives, the Capital Programme update, Active Travel Infrastructure Planning update, the Highway Skid Policy, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Weed Spraying and the 20MPH Speed Limits and Zones Policy.

Members had a discussion regarding the 20MPH Speed Limits and Zones. They queried the procedure for parishes requesting a 20MPH Zone, whether the zones would be outside schools and what was being done to enforce those zones. The Local Area Network Manager explained that any parish who could log an enquiry for a 20MPH zone on the active report system or alternatively email the appropriate officer. He also noted that a common-sense approach is in place for putting 20MPH zones in place, with zones placed outside of all schools, and also explained that for areas where speeding zones need enforced, plans will be devised with options presented to the Strategic Board for approval and schools consulted where appropriate.

A Member noted that there was a lack of education around the difference of highways cutting and amenity cutting for the public which the Local Area Network Manager hoped to address in the future, to explain the difference between the two and the limitations in place regarding time and funding.

A Member queried the progress of the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). The Local Area Network Manager explained that the cycle had been amended to a four-year cycle for all of Cumberland and would provide a schedule for each panel member with a six-month TRO schedule for their area.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Highways and Strategic Board meeting held on 22 April 2024 be noted.

46 Co-Opted Members

The Area Planning Manager provided the Panel with an overview of the Co-Opted Members report and highlighted the induction that all Co-Opted Members would receive, alongside the IT equipment they would be provided with.

Members discussed how impressed they were with the Co-Opted Members during the interview process and their excitement of having those Co-Opted Members in attendance as part of the Panel.

RESOLVED – that,

- a) The contents of the report be noted.

- b) Glenn Anderson and Alan Burns be formally invited to join the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel as Co-Opted Members until March 2025.
- c) Those named in resolution B be formally welcomed to the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel.

47 Community Panel Update

The Area Planning Manager provided an overview of the Community Panel Update report which updated Members on activity in the Community Panel area and included the Panel's priorities, the Family Hub now being operational, the deep clean of Lowther Street and King Street, the Whitehaven Tidy Town Committee Meeting, Operation Respect Mirehouse, Great Big Green Week, Co-Opted Member recruitment, the Library Service and the Cumberland Climate and Nature Strategy.

Members requested an update from the Wildlife Trust on activities within the Panel area which the Area Planning Manager agreed to speak to the Community Development Officer (CDO) about organising.

Members requested further information on how information is being shared with Councillors, how to access the library app and if anyone had attended the Whitehaven Tiny Town Committee on behalf of the Panel. The Area Planning Manager noted the request and agreed to speak to the CDO for them to provide the Panel with the additional information requested.

A Member noted that an amendment was required for paragraph 3.22 as it was not the Chair and Vice Chair who participated in the Co-Opted Member interviews, but rather the Chair and Councillor Hawkins. The Area Planning Manager agreed to amend the paragraph accordingly.

RESOLVED – that,

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The requested update from the Wildlife Trust be provided either at the next formal meeting or during an informal meeting.
- c) The requested additional information be provided by the CDO.
- d) The information in paragraph 3.22 be updated accordingly.

48 Investing in our Neighbourhood Report

Members received a report which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to this Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive. The Area Planning Manager informed the Panel that there were 4 Community Investment Applications for either approval, disapproval, or deferment.

The Area Planning Manager also noted the other recommendations within the report relating to the Panel priorities and Neighbourhood Investment Plan.

The Panel discussed the priorities and action plan to add a local footprint to the priorities and noted that the 'Local economy that is thriving and benefits everyone' had no spend against it for 2023/24. The Panel agreed to the following:

- a) Setting up a Network Event on Environmental Development
- b) Setting up a Network Event on Economic Development
- c) Mapping emergency response volunteer groups to know what is available within the Panel area
- d) Setting up monthly catch-ups for the Panel (both Councillors and Co-Opted Members), the CDO and Area Planning Manager.

Members requested that more work be done to publicise the work done by the Panel and have those who have had applications approved provide feedback at a future meeting. The Area Planning Manager agreed to follow up with CDO and the Communications Team to complete both actions.

A Member asked for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation provided to the Panel at a previous informal meeting on Play Parks which the Area Planning Manager agreed to circulate to Members.

A Member queried the differences in costs between the Summer Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) providers. The Area Planning Manager explained that each provider offered different activities and the cost depended on the activity, the number of people able to participate and how many days the activity lasted for. She noted that the total cost per child was similar and offered to provide a breakdown of the expenditure via email to Members.

RESOLVED – that,

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The Neighbourhood Investment Plan and the included priorities be noted and continue to be reviewed at each Community Panel meeting.
- c) An amount of £4,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Proud and Diverse Cumbria towards the 2024 Pride on the Harbourside event.
- d) An amount of £4,266 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Distington Club for Young People towards the costs of a craft project for young people to make cushions for the club.
- e) An amount of £2,602 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Bransty Community Group towards purchasing benches, planters and soil for a new community garden and towards purchasing community notice boards.
- f) An amount of £1,562 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Sandwith Village Group towards purchasing a new community notice board and towards plants and bulbs for community planting days.
- g) The four actions relating to the Panel Priorities be actioned accordingly.
- h) The requested additional information and requested meetings be actioned accordingly.

49 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – that the date and venue of the next scheduled meeting of the Whitehaven and Coastal Community Panel will be on 4 September 2024 at 6pm and held in St Bees Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 7.49 pm