



Regeneration and Community Committee Meeting

Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 10am

Meeting held at Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP

Present:

Cllr Laura Harrison (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Debbie Cartwright
Cllr Ann Turville
Cllr Alan Pearson
Cllr Sheila Carwright
Cllr Ron Turville

In attendance from Hednesford Town Council:

Lindsey Smith - Chief Officer

Members of the Public:

There was 3 members of the public present

1. Apologies:

No Apologies

2. Declaration of Interest

No declaration of Interests were raised

3. Previous Minutes

Previous minutes from the Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on 22nd August 2023 were agreed and approved

Proposed: Cllr A Pearson

Second: Cllr A Turville

Agreed: Cllr L Harrison, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr A Turville, Cllr A Pearson

Abstain: Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr R Turville – due to not being present at the meeting in August 2023

4. Public Participation

Cllr L Harisson informed that a member of the public was audio recording the meeting
District Cllr Darrell Mawle provided some additional information regarding agenda item 9 – Parking concerns in Market Street. Following a freedom of information request to Staffordshire County Council Cllr Mawle informed that only 37 parking tickets were issued in 2023. Cllr Mawle has submitted another freedom of information request to establish how often parking enforcement are visiting Hednesford and will share this information when known

Cllr L Harrison informed that there are only 20 enforcement officers for the whole of Staffordshire with their roles split between on and off street parking meaning the officers cannot enforce on street parking if they are scheduled to address off street parking

Member of the public, former Hednesford Town Council Councillor, and former Chairperson of the Regeneration and Community Committee offered a public apology to the current acting Chair of the Committee for their sudden resignation and “dropping Cllr Harrison in it”

5. Election of Chair of Committee

Cllr R Turville was the only candidate proposed for the role of Chair of Regeneration and Community Committee

Proposed: Cllr A Pearson

Second: Cllr S Cartwright

Agreed: Cllr L Harrison, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr A Turville, Cllr A Pearson, Cllr S Cartwright

Abstain: Cllr R Turville

Action: Cllr R Turville was elected Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee

Cllr L Harrison handed over the Chair of the meeting to Cllr R Turville

6. Community Officer Update

An update was given by the Community Officer

Community Support Grant – 13 allocated at a total of £4740.00

Community Officer will be inviting Cllrs to visit the projects throughout the year

The Hub @Pye Green - 400 attendances since Sept 2023. Staying Well attend once a month. Now registered as a warm place and a place of welcome. An external grant application has been made for funding to extend the provision for the remainder of the year

Wellbeing Walk – 156 attendances since Sept 2023. More walks have been requested. 3 walk leaders have now been trained

Volunteer Week – looking to do some joined up working with local groups and raise awareness and profile of volunteer opportunities within Hednesford. Initial contact has been made with groups. Further update to follow

Summer Family Activities – looking to repeat free activities again this summer but dependent on external funding

Social Prescribers – has made links

Vaccination Centre – working with Jo Williams to investigate feasibility of bringing a vaccination clinic to Pye Green Community Centre – further update to follow

7. Young People

Chief Officer informed that there is a consistent message from the community and from partners that the Council are receiving about provision, or lack of, for young people 11-18 years across Hednesford. The Chief Officer shared vision for a dedicated young person's hub in Hednesford, x2-3 detached Youth Workers and social youth activities being made available. External funding would need to be sought.

Before anything can be actioned there is a need to map the current provision for young people across Hednesford and also to consult with young people as to their needs and wants.

Chief Officer requested feedback from the committee if this is something that they wish the Officers to action

Proposed: Cllr R Turville

Second: Cllr L Harrison

Agreed: Cllr L Harrison, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr A Turville, Cllr A Pearson, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr R Turville

Action: Chief Officer and Community Officer to engage with partners and action a mapping of current provision for young people across Hednesford to inform next steps in improving provision for young people in Hednesford

Cllr R Turville thanked the Chief Officer and Community Officer for their progressive thinking

8. Hednesford Street Market

Chief Officer gave an overview and update on the Hednesford Street Market and confirmed the tender had been awarded to Spotty Dog Events and confirmed that a market would be running on 2nd March 2024

Cllr L Harrison enquired what financial impact will the market have for Hednesford Town Council. Chief Officer informed that following the tender that Hednesford Town Council have no financial input beyond supporting in the promotion of the market across the town council social media platforms

Chief Officer informed that the tender is available for Cllrs to view

9. Parking Concerns in Market Street

A lengthy discussion was held about the possibility of relocating the bollards in Market Street to the edge of the footpath to prevent vehicles from parking illegally and blocking access/right of way for pedestrians, as well as difficulties regarding deliveries for businesses. Suggestion was for costs to come from Prosperity or CIL funding.

Propose: Cllr L Harrison

Second: Cllr D Cartwright

Agreed: Cllr L Harrison, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr A Turville, Cllr A Pearson, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr R Turville

Action: Officers to investigate feasibility and costs for relocating bollards to the pavement edge and report back to committee with an update

10. Introduction of Car Parking Charges by CCDC

Cllr A Pearson and Cllr L Harrison provided an update on the decision made by CCDC to impose car parking charges in Hednesford

CCDC passed the decision in cabinet and will impose charges on the station car park and long stay blue bays in carpark behind Poundland. Short stay spaces will still be free for maximum 4 hour stay

Cllr A Pearson, Cllr L Harrison and the Chief Officer met with CCDC on 8th February 2024 and Cllr A Pearson informed that the charges will be happening and that CCDC did not consult with Hednesford Town Council on the matter. Cllr A Pearson informed that the majority of long stay spaces are used by people outside of Hednesford who have to pay for parking at their own train stations and that they bring no financial benefit to Hednesford

A discussion followed regarding the £26,000 Hednesford Town Council contribute to CCTV for the cameras in Hednesford in return for free parking following a historic agreement with CCDC

Cllr L Harrison advised that herself, Cllr A Pearson and the Chief Officer are meeting with a representative from CCTV on 27th February to discuss this further and an update will be available at full council on 13th March

As newly elected Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee Cllr R Turville will also attend the meeting with CCTV on 27th February

Action: Update to be provided at full council meeting on 13th March 2024

11. Hednesford Hopper

Chief Officer gave an update on the extension of the Hednesford Hopper each Saturday between 9am to 5pm on selected bus routes and shared latest figures for use together with a need to promote this wider. Chaserider are issuing a press release.

Cllr L Harrison asked if the offer can be extended to other services and if something other than a QR code can be used as not everyone has access to mobile phone or wishes to use apps

Action: Officers to have further conversations with Chaserider to explore options

12. Litter down railway embankment

Chief Officer advised that have received complaints about the state of littering down the side of the railway embankment (next to Aquarius) and what would committee wish to action. Chief Officer explained that members of the public are unable to access this land due to proximity with railway line

It was suggested contacted Station Adoption Group to see if they have any key contacts that the town council can liaise with

Chief Officer also mentioned complaints about littering down Pit Pony Way now that the road has been reconfigured and re-opened from Greenheath Street, as well as the littering along Broadhurst Green Road.

Action: Cllr A Pearson to speak to Street Cleaning Team re: littering along Pit Pony Way and Broadhurst Green Road. Officers to speak to Station Adoption Group to ascertain if they have any contacts regarding the littering on railway embankment

13. Repairs to fencing in Victoria Street

Chief Officer enquired if any Cllr had contact details for the owner of the land on Victoria Street behind the bus stops following the fencing being pulled down.

District Cllr Darrell Mawle informed that he had contact details and would pass these onto the Chief Officer

Action: Chief Officer to liaise with Cllr Mawle for contact details

14. 60th Anniversary Hednesford Library

A discussion was held about what support Hednesford Town Council may like to give to Hednesford Library regarding the 60th anniversary of the Library at the end of April 2024

Cllr R Turville recommended using the Community Support Grant underspend of £260.00 to support

Propose: Cllr A Pearson

Second: Cllr L Harrison

Agreed: Cllr L Harrison, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr A Turville, Cllr A Pearson, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr R Turville

Action: Community Officer to liaise with Hednesford Library and inform of support from Hednesford Town Council

15. 80th Anniversary of D Day Landings

Community Officer informed that he had been contacted by Regimental Association to see if Hednesford Town Council can support an event they are looking to hold regarding the 80th anniversary and a discussion followed about needing to know more information before a decisions can be made. It was felt that it was important for the town council to support the event

A further discussion was held about the use of the coronation beacon or purchase of Lamp of Light

Cllr R Turville and Cllr A Turville offered to purchase the Lamp of Light if no council funding was available for this

Cllr a Pearson declared an interest as a member of the Staffordshire Regiment

Cllr D Cartwright offered to provide free refreshments on behalf of the Lighthouse Community Café at any event for the 80th anniversary

Action: Community Officer to gain further information and costings from Regimental Association and take the information to full council for a decision on 13th March 2024 due to committee not being due to meet again until April 2024

16. Recommendations for Spend

Cllr D Cartwright enquired about a mural for the wall on the Pizza shop in Market Street and informed that this had been spoken about under the previous administration

Cllr A Pearson advised that the town council cannot spend money on private property

Action: Cllr A Pearson to liaise with district to ascertain if anything can be done of the state of the walls on the Pizza shop

Cllr L Harrison informed that it is important that as Cllrs that all recognise the issues raised by members of the public and liaise with members of the public to understand what needs and issues are

A conversation followed about ownership and responsibilities for land management on the new housing estates. Some confusion exists about whether these are privately maintained or will fall under CCDC responsibility after 5 years

Action; Cllr A Pearson to seek clarity on this issue with Planning at CCDC

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th April 2024 – 10am at Pye Green Community Centre

18. Private and Confidential Businesses

Chief Officer sought clarity on behalf of Hednesford in Partnership as to what the town councils expectations are for the Christmas Light Switch on in December 2024

Chief Officer highlighted that the current grant of £2,500 does not cover all the costs encountered by Hednesford in Partnership

Committee confirmed that they understand it takes a huge amount of time and would like 2024 to be the same as 2023

Action: Chief Officer to liaise with Hednesford in Partnership to request breakdown of costs for 2023, proposed cost for 2024 prior to full council meeting on 13th March 2024 when a further discussions will be held under private and confidential businesses

The meeting closed at 11:57am