

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

10 August 2015

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Councillor Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Allan Barclay, Steve Gibbon, Peter Jackson and
Brenda Loynes

Also Present: Councillor Sylvia Tempest

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Clare Clark, Head of Community Safety and Engagement
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

14. Apologies for Absence

None

15. Declarations of Interest

Councillors James and Barclay declared a personal interest in Minute 17.

16. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015

Received

17. Proposal to Create a Community Orchard on the Rift House Estate *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek the support of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on a proposal to create a Community Orchard located to the west of Masefield Road on the Rift House estate within the Manor House Ward.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported on the background to the work of the Rift House Community Action Team, a local voluntary organisation based in the Manor House Ward and the proposal to create a Community Orchard located to the West of Masefield Road. Plans for the Community Orchard would include the planting of apple, plum and pear trees.

It was proposed that the Community Orchard would be developed using Section 106 funding (Green Infrastructure) from the Eskdale Road development and that assistance in creating the Orchard would be provided by HBCs Horticultural Team. If the plans for the Orchard were approved, planting would be undertaken in autumn/winter 2015. Mature fruit trees approximately 6ft in height would be planted at 5m spacing and to mitigate against vandalism and theft the trees would be located on the land to the North and East of the site. The Committee was referred to the financial, risk and legal considerations of the proposals as set out in the report.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the report queries were raised in terms of how any incidents of vandalism or theft would be managed. The Chair highlighted the benefits of the scheme and indicated that the main aim was to address food poverty and strengthen community involvement.

With regard to the risk and financial implications, a Member sought clarification regarding the accuracy of projected annual maintenance costs associated with the project to which the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods provided assurances that the annual maintenance costs would not exceed £2,000.

A member of the public queried the feasibility of schemes of this type being rolled out in other areas of the town. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that whilst additional schemes would be

considered, budget pressures were an issue. The Committee noted that Section 106 funding was being utilised for this scheme which had made the scheme possible. It was suggested that any individual requests be raised with the Head of Community Safety and Engagement direct following the meeting.

Decision

That the proposal to create a Community Orchard to the west of Masefield Road on the Rift House Estate be approved .

18. Ward Member Budgets and Civic Lottery (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee of the final outturn for 2014/15 in relation to Ward Member Budgets and the Civic Lottery.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the Neighbourhood Services Committee with the final outturn for both Ward Member Budgets and the Civic Lottery during 2014/15. Appendix A to the report highlighted that during 2014/15 £144,274 Ward Member budget funds had been approved with £7,056 remaining unspent. A breakdown of projects supported by Civic Lottery funding, along with the remaining balance for each Ward Member was detailed at Appendix B.

Following a review of the Ward Member budget and the Civic Lottery approval process by this Committee in March 2015 from April 2015 the Civic Lottery budget had been merged with the Ward Member budget. Civic Lottery remaining balances from 2014/15 had therefore been merged with the 2015/16 Ward Member budget allocations and information on expenditure post April 2015 would be presented to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in future as a Ward Member budget report only.

Decision

The Committee noted the following:-

- (i) The 2014/15 outturn for the Ward Member Budgets Programme.

- (ii) That £7,057 remained unspent from the 2014/15 Ward Member Budget allocations, which had been carried over into 2015/16.
- (iii) The 2014/15 outturn for the Civic Lottery Programme.
- (iv) Civic Lottery remaining balances, which had been merged with the 2015/16 Ward Member Budget allocations.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Chair reported that the next meeting originally diared for Monday 24 August had been rescheduled and would now be held on Monday 7 September 2015 at 10.00 am.

The meeting concluded at 11.15

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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