

## **STEPPING HILL AREA COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 21 June 2022

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Lou Ankers, Paul Ankers, Grace Baynham, Christine Carrigan, Will Dawson, Oliver Harrison, Oliver Johnstone, Rory Leonard and Wendy Meikle.

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillors Lou Ankers and Rory Leonard were nominated for election to the office of chair of the Area Committee for the period until the next Annual Council Meeting.

For Councillor Ankers - 6

For Councillor Leonard - 2

RESOLVED – That Councillor Lou Ankers be elected Chair of the Area Committee for the period until the next Annual Council Meeting.

Councillor Lou Ankers in the chair

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

RESOLVED – That Councillor Oliver Harrison be appointed Vice-Chair of the Area Committee for the period until the next Annual Council Meeting.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 5 April 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interests were declared:-

#### **Personal Interests**

##### **Councillor**

##### **Interest**

Oliver Johnstone

Agenda Item 15 – ‘Progress on Area Committee Decisions’ – Appendix B as a member of the organising committee of Hazel Grove Carnival which were referenced as receiving funding from the Area Flexibility Funding 2022/23.

Grace Baynham

Agenda Item 6 (i) – ‘Chair’s Announcements’ as an employee of the hospital trust.

## **5. URGENT DECISIONS**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) reported that the Deputy Chief Executive has taken urgent action under the Constitution to make a grant of £300 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget towards the cost of organising a street party for the Queen’s Jubilee on Friday 3rd June 2022 for the residents of Chatsworth Road and a grant of £490 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget towards the cost of organising a street party for the Queen’s Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June 2022, including an event in Poise Brook Park. It was stated that the decision was taken as urgent action as the event was due to take place in advance of this meeting of the Area Committee and as such, the ordinary approval process could not be followed.

RESOLVED – That the action be noted.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **(i) Chair's Announcements**

The Chair invited Councillor Grace Baynham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks and Leisure Services to provide an update in relation to the status of the draft travel plan between the council and the hospital.

Councillor Grace Bayham informed Members that the council had been working with the hospital to review its travel plan over recent months. It was clear that the changes in behaviours seen during and following the pandemic had meant that the current plan did not now reflect the travel patterns of staff. The hospital was therefore commissioning a survey of staff and visitor travel during the early autumn, which would then be used to update the plan. It was reported that Councillor Baynham had raised concerns with senior colleagues on behalf of the Committee as the draft travel plan had been expected by Members at the June meeting and had asked for the hospital to contact Members of the Area Committee to provide an update at the earliest available opportunity

Given the Committee’s concerns around road safety, the Chair requested that a representative of Greater Manchester Police be invited to attend future meetings of the Area Committee to answer questions from Councillors and members of the public in relation to Neighbourhood Policing issues within the area represented by the Stepping Hill Area Committee.

### **(ii) Public Question Time**

No public questions were submitted.

### **(iii) Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

(iv) Open Forum - Stockport Climate Action Now (CAN) Fund Update

Liz Atherton (CSS Manager - Head of Climate Action Now, Stockport Council) attended the meeting and submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) regarding the progress of the Stockport Climate Action Now (CAN) Fund since it launched in November 2021 and providing an overview of how the funding scheme worked, examples of projects already funded by the scheme, eligibility for funding, details of how the fund had been allocated and where, and how Members could help promote the take-up of the CAN Fund.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Given the large amount of funding remaining per ward, it was queried whether the remaining funding would be carried forward into the next municipal year.
- In response it was stated that the funding was agreed a couple of years ago and at that time it was agreed that any money that was not spent in the municipal year would be absorbed into the Stockport CAN budget, however the team wanted to spend as much of the funding available as possible and encouraged applicants to apply for funding. It was reported that council officers and Councillors were currently in discussions in relation to whether the funding should continue in future years.
- Whether there had been much uptake and interest in the higher funding larger schemes.
- Noted the similarities between the Stockport CAN funding and Ward Flexibility Funding which allowed applicants to apply across multiple wards for higher amounts and queried whether this model was being used by the team.
- Given that insulation and energy saving proposals could be funded by the scheme, it was queried whether the fund could be used to support residents struggling by the cost of living crisis.
- In response Members were advised that there were some limitations in the funding in that an individual was unable to apply, and an application could not be for individual benefit or a for profit business, however if a group of residents living on one street wanted to apply for energy saving devices such as radiator reflectors or small saving interventions, they would be eligible.
- Encouraged Councillors to be more proactive in their outreach work based on the information that had been provided.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

(v) Ward Flexibility Funding - Friends of Shahnameh

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted an application received on behalf of Friends of Shahnameh for a grant of £90 (Hazel Grove ward allocation only) towards the cost of a half a day festival on 15 May 2022 'Celebrating Diversity' to help people integrate in the society and come out of isolation, connecting with each other. The festival would be a half a day festival / celebration for over 200 people with talks, music and Q&A sessions, reading poetry in English and Persian, so language barrier in Persian speaking communities will be addressed.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to an application received from Friends of Shahnameh for a grant of £90 from the Ward Flexibility Budget (Hazel Grove ward

allocation) towards the cost of a half a day festival on 15 May 2022 'Celebrating Diversity' to help people integrate in the society and come out of isolation, connecting with each other. The festival would be a half a day festival / celebration for over 200 people with talks, music and Q&A sessions, reading poetry in English and Persian, so language barrier in Persian speaking communities will be addressed.

(vi) Ward Flexibility Funding - Lisburne School

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted an application received on behalf of Lisburne School for a grant of £1,000 (Offerton ward allocation only) towards the cost of purchasing two defibrillators for the Lisburne school sites. All of the 170 children who attend Lisburne have Special Educational Needs and many have serious medical conditions.

Members welcomed the application, encouraged defibrillators and commented on the importance of their availability.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to an application received from Lisburne School for a grant of £1,000 from the Ward Flexibility Budget (Offerton ward allocation) towards the cost of purchasing two defibrillators for the Lisburne school sites. All of the 170 children who attend Lisburne have Special Educational Needs and many have serious medical conditions.

(vii) Ward Flexibility Funding - Renew Stockport - Iranian Community Support

This item was withdrawn due to the applicant withdrawing their request for funding from this Committee.

## **7. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**

There were no development applications to consider.

## **8. PLANNING APPEAL, ENFORCEMENT APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICES**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) summarising recent appeal decisions; listing current planning appeals and dates for local enquiries; informal hearings for planning appeals, and enforcement action within the Stepping Hill Area Committee.

Members noted that the appeal at Hazel Grove Railway Station was dismissed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **9. ARUNDEL AVENUE, HAZEL GROVE**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of

which had been circulated) which sought approval for the construction of and costs to address an anomaly with an existing disabled bay and a dropped-kerb facility.

Members noted that there was an error in the agenda front sheet which referenced that the proposal would be funded from the Area Committee's Delegated Budget (Hazel Grove ward allocation), this was corrected as the proposal would be funded from Stepping Hill ward allocation.

RESOLVED – That approval be given for the construction of a dropped kerb facility to address an anomaly with an existing disabled bay on Arundel Avenue, Hazel Grove, at a cost of £2,000 to be funded by the Area Committee's Delegated Budget (Stepping Hill ward allocation).

#### **10. DROPPED KERBS - CATHERINE STREET, HAZEL GROVE**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) which sought approval for the introduction of lowered kerbs to the entrance to Commercial Road apartments on the eastern side of Catherine Street to aid accessibility.

Members queried why the proposal hadn't been funded by way of Section 106 contributions as part of the planning application for the apartment buildings, however recognised the benefits of the proposal for residents with accessibility issues accessing the nearby shops.

RESOLVED – That approval be given for the introduction of lowered kerbs at the entrance of Commercial Road apartments on the eastern side of Catherine Street to aid accessibility, at a cost of £1,103.15 to be funded from the Area Committee's Delegated Budget (Hazel Grove ward allocation).

#### **11. THE PROVISION OF BULBS TO FRIENDS' GROUPS AND OTHER PARTIES**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on bulb provision to local community groups and for local initiatives.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- That the process in relation to bulb planting wasn't accessible for informal groups wishing to plant bulbs and whether there could be a greater degree of flexibility.
- That the Committee preferred not to make an allocation from its Delegated Budget unless a group approached the Committee separately once the funding was exhausted.
- It was noted that a recommendation within the recent Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Review related to the provision of planters which would be maintained by community groups.

- It was suggested that a report on access to local initiatives relating to beautification outside the district centre be a future topic for consideration at Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee.
- It was stated that while Members agreed in principle with the proposal to provide an element of funding from the Delegated Budget to bulb planting schemes and recognised the benefits, it would be necessary to see the detail of such schemes before funding was committed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **12. PARKS EVENT APPLICATION - SUMMER FUN AT TORKINGTON PARK**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) detailing an application from SKC Leisure to hold a Summer Fun week at Torkington Park from 30th July until 7th August 2022.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- That whilst the event was welcomed, Members had reservations in relation to the length of the Summer Fun week.
- That Committee Members weren't familiar with the applicant and hadn't been consulted by officers in advance of the application.
- Whether it would be appropriate to defer and delegate the consideration of the application pending conversations with the ward Councillors and officers.
- Raised concerns in relation to the expected attendance number stated in the application and the impact that this would have on insurance.

RESOLVED – That the Parks Event Application be delegated to the Chair and ward Councillors pending clarification from the officer and applicant.

## **13. AREA COMMITTEE WARD HIGHWAY SPOKESPERSONS**

The Area Committee was invited to nominate Ward Spokespersons with whom the Director of Place Management could consult on highway maintenance and traffic management matters.

RESOLVED - That the following Councillors be appointed as Ward Spokespersons for highways and traffic issues:-

Hazel Grove Ward	- Councillors Paul Ankers and Oliver Johnstone
Offerton Ward	- Councillor Wendy Meikle
Stepping Hill Ward	- Councillors Grace Baynham and Christine Carrigan

## **14. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) requesting the Area Committee to appoint representatives of the Council to local Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED – That the following councillors be nominated to represent the Council on the Hazel Grove Community Association:-

Councillor Lou Ankers  
Councillor Paul Ankers  
Councillor Oliver Johnstone

### **15. PROGRESS ON AREA COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) updating the Area Committee on progress since the last meeting on decisions taken by the Area Committee and the current position on Area Flexibility Funding.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Thanked Councillor Grace Baynham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks and Leisure Services, for her update in relation to the travel plan, however requested an update report.
- That the Committee had raised in the past that it was felt that the council was not doing enough to hold the hospital to account in relation to their travel plan arrangements.
- Requested that the relevant Cabinet Member with officer support be asked to attend the Area Committee to outline their plans to address this issue.
- That the Chair writes to the hospital to request that the hospital attend Area Committee to address Committees concerns and also request that Members are briefed on this matter in advance of the next meeting.
- Noted the abbreviations within appendix A of the report and requested that a glossary be provided in relation to the Resume of Traffic Issues Progress Report.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.56 pm