

WERNETH AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting: 2 December 2024
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Angie Clark (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Rosemary Barratt (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Rachel Bresnahan, Joe Barratt, Mark Roberts and Sue Thorpe.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 28 October 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. 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 interest was declared:-

Personal Interest

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Angie Clark	Agenda Item 4 (vii) – 'Ward Flexibility Funding – Sustainable Living Romiley' as she was associated with, but not a member of Sustainable Living Romiley.

3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced that the council had been selected to be part of the Government's Design Code Pathfinder Programme. Following a competitive procurement process, the council had now selected its preferred consultant and work had begun on the project. One of the key aims of the design code project was to 'reduce opposition to new development, by empowering local communities to set standards that they expect all new development to meet, by winning hearts and minds.' To achieve this aim the project would include a series of engagement exercises with local residents and stakeholders to gain their views. This was scheduled to take place over the coming months and would include a mix of in-person and online events.

The Chair announced that the Romiley Christmas light switch-on would take place on 7 December 2024 following a postponement from 23 November 2024 due to adverse weather conditions.

It was also announced that the Woodley light switch-on had taken place on 30 November 2024 where the Christmas tree was blessed by the Reverend Andy Bull, presents were given out and St Mark's School Choir sang.

(ii) Public Question Time

Members of the public were invited to put questions to the Chair on any matters in the powers or duties of the Area Committee, subject to the exclusions set out within the Code of Practice.

No public questions were submitted.

(iii) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

(iv) Open Forum

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance reported that no organisations had indicated that they wished to address the Area Committee as part of the Open Forum arrangements.

(v) Ward Flexibility Funding - Civic Hall Indoor Bowling

A representative of Civic Hall Indoor Bowling attended the meeting and requested that the application for Ward Flexibility Funding be withdrawn.

With the consent of the Area Committee this item was withdrawn.

(vi) Ward Flexibility Funding - Hurricane Cheerleaders

A representative of Hurricane Cheerleaders attended the meeting and submitted an application for a grant of £1,000 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget towards the cost of hosting and insurance for a Community Family Fun Day and artisan market for the residents of the local community, the proceeds of which would go towards installing a sprung floor for the Hurricane Cheerleaders team.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to an application received from Hurricane Cheerleaders for a grant of £1,000 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget towards the cost of hosting and insurance for a Community Family Fun Day and artisan market for the residents of the local community, the proceeds of which would go towards installing a sprung floor for the Hurricane Cheerleaders team.

(vii) Ward Flexibility Funding - Sustainable Living Romiley

A representative of Sustainable Living Romiley attended the meeting and submitted an application for a grant of £304.95 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget towards the cost of running a Green Week during February half term 2025 aiming to promote sustainable activities within the community and an appreciation of the local environment.

Members commented that this application would be better suited for the CAN Seed Fund.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

(viii) Ward Flexibility Funding - Romiley Little Theatre

A representative of Romiley Little Theatre attended the meeting and submitted an application for a grant of £1,000 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget towards the cost of two LED stage lights.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to an application received from Romiley Little Theatre for Ward Flexibility Funding for a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of two LED stage lights.

5. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

There were no development applications to consider.

6. PLANNING APPEAL, ENFORCEMENT APPEAL AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICES

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) listing any outstanding or recently determined planning appeals and enforcements within the area represented by the Werneth Area Committee.

It was noted that the High Hedge Remedial Notice on Green Croft was an ongoing issue because the hedge needed to be cut down in stages.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. DEDICATION OF A NEW HIGHWAY ON LAND OWNED BY THE COUNCIL LINKING COMPSTALL ROAD AND FOOTPATH 18BR

A representative of the Director of Place Management submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) requesting the Area Committee to consider whether to dedicate a Highway with public rights for pedestrians and cyclists over land it owned in Romiley, as shown marked A – D on the plan at Appendix 1 of the report. This route was considered a safe route to school for pedestrians and cyclists.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:

- The path was a key route to school for those living on the Cherry Tree estate.

- It was felt that the proposal provided a balanced approach for current users.
- In response to a question about any costs associated with the proposed highway dedication, it was reported that there would not be a cost as the path was already established.
- In response to a question about whether trail bikes and horse riding would be allowed on the highways, it was reported that the council can specify who uses a pathway. This pathway would be owned by Highways and managed by the Neighbourhoods Team which deals with antisocial behaviour, including that related to vehicles.
- The inclusion of this pathway on the dedicated rights of way map would help to protect it from future development.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the dedication of a Highway with public rights for pedestrians and cyclists over land owned in Romiley, as shown marked A – D on the plan at Appendix 1 of the report.

8. ROMILEY DISTRICT CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

With the consent of the Area Committee this item was withdrawn.

9. PROGRESS ON AREA COMMITTEE DECISIONS

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress since the last meeting on decisions taken by the Area Committee and detailing the current position on area flexibility funding. The report also included the current position on the highway and traffic management delegated budget.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- The funds remaining within the Ward Flexibility Fund, CAN Seed Fund and CAN Catalyst Fund were noted. Members encouraged residents to apply for funding.
- Members noted that the vehicle operated sign on Werneth Road was now in place and operational; it was hoped that the sign would be effective in slowing down traffic on the estate.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.44 pm