

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH AUGUST, 2016

Present: Councillor K Younger (Chair) and Councillors, B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, Mrs M R Baird, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn Snr, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Miss S Morrison, K Shaw, C Snowball B Taylor, R Whitehead, K Younger.

Apologies: Councillor, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Burn Jnr, I Paul

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of this Committee and members of the public that in line with the amendment to 'the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960', which came into force in August, 2014, parts of this meeting may be recorded by photographic, video and audio means.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 21ST JUNE, 2016

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

3. PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Miss Kimberley Ingleby, Dementia Advisor, from the Alzheimer's Society to update Members on the Dementia Advisory Service in County Durham.

Miss Ingleby informed Members that she covers the Seaham and Peterlee area. She stated there has been a rising number of people diagnosed with Dementia. Durham County Council commissioned the Advisory Service which employs five people to cover the Durham area following a consultation exercise carried out with people with Dementia and their carers.

Miss Ingleby stated that the service offers advice, support and signposting. Advice offered can be something as simple as what is happening in the local area and what groups are available to attend. Support can be around helping people come to terms with their diagnosis and offering support workers to support people more long term. The Service can also offer support to access homecare and respite. The service also offers signposting to other services available to assist with help with finances if people are suffering financial hardship due to their diagnosis as well as signposting patients and carers to the Durham City Carers Service. Often the Dementia Service will also refer people to services if they are not capable of doing this themselves, if this is in the interest of the people concerned.

Miss Ingleby stated that collaborative working is extremely important to the Dementia Service being successful. Miss Ingleby works closely with GP's, CPN's, Social Workers, Memory Clinics, Safer Homes, Police, Libraries, Day Centres and other organisations to gain advice and support.

Miss Ingleby stated that there has been 283 referrals to the end of July and there have been 250 visits with professionals across the County. Approximately two thirds of the referrals have come from professionals.

Miss Ingleby went on to talk about a personal success she has had with a patient who was diagnosed with terminal cancer along with a diagnosis of Dementia. The patient's daughter was concerned that her mother had become very isolated and was also becoming vulnerable to cold callers. The Dementia Service were able to put things in place to prevent the cold callers and also referred the patient to a Day Centre which she now attends. The daughter informed the Service that her mother was thoroughly enjoying attending the Centre and getting out and about to meet people and her mother was more like her old self. Miss Ingleby stated that this is the type of service which the Dementia Service offers. They do not want people being locked behind closed doors because they are suffering Dementia they want people to live and enjoy their lives as much as possible.

Miss Ingleby stated that the service can be contacted on 0191 3890400 or via email at durhamandchester@alzheimers.org.uk for a self-referral or alternatively drop in sessions will be held in Seaham Library 10.00am-12.00pm the third Wednesday of every month.

At this point Members were invited to ask any questions and the following comments were made:

- (i) A Member questioned whether the service had noticed a link between suicide and dementia especially in men?

Miss Ingleby stated she hasn't experienced anything personally. There is research being carried out but it is still quite new. Miss Ingleby stated she wouldn't like to say there is a link as there is not sufficient research but it is being acknowledged and worked on.

- (ii) A Member asked how the service is interacting with other professionals GP's etc and are they regarding the service as a good support?

Miss Ingleby stated it is about building up a relationship and trust. At first professionals were unsure as to the service's role but following a few referrals and successes this builds the relationship. A few professionals are not interested and Miss Ingleby stated she was unsure whether this was down to a time issue for professionals. On the whole in County Durham professionals are quite good and the service has received referrals from professionals.

- (iii) A Member asked whether people who receive respite can get grants to help pay for this as respite can be quite expensive?

Miss Ingleby stated that the referral for respite goes through Social Care Direct for assessment and they will say how much support a person is entitled to. The Dementia Service can refer people to Durham City Carers who would assist with any grant applications.

At this point the Chair stated that the work the Dementia Service is doing is great and thanked Miss Ingleby for attending the meeting.

Miss Ingleby also stated that the Dementia Service also holds Dementia Friends sessions and that she herself is a Dementia Champion. She asked Members if they know of anyone, organisation, or community groups who would benefit from the service to contact her.

Miss Ingleby left the meeting.

4. CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS

RECOMMENDED the list of conference appointments a copy of which had been previously circulated, be approved.

5. CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS

a) Evaluation Form

The Committee considered the Conference Evaluation Form, completed by the Council's two delegates who attended the Transport Networks – Connecting Communities Conference organised by the National Association of Councillors.

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the reports.

b) NEBOSH General Certificate (NGC)

The Committee considered details of the NEBOSH General Certificate on-line training course which the Deputy Town Clerk was seeking permission to attend as part of his continued professional development.

RECOMMENDED the Deputy Town Clerk to enrol on the training course.

c) NAC Conference Schedule 2016/17

A Member suggested it may be worth looking at the conference's available at the meeting and deciding which conferences the Council would be interested in attending so Councillors can get the dates in their diaries ready for when the conferences become available to book, as often the conferences are slow to be circulated not giving Councillors enough time to decide if they are available to attend.

RECOMMENDED that any Member who is interested in attending any of the conferences contacts either the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk.

d) **The County Training Partnership Future Courses**

A list of training course dates were provided by Stephen Ragg from County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

e) **NAC Regional General Meeting and Conference – Safety for Councillors, The Use of Social Media & The Code of Conduct**

RECOMMENDED if any Member wishes to attend to contact either the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk.

f) **Code of Conduct Training**

Councillors are invited to attend a training course on Standards and Code of Conduct which will be held on Wednesday 21st September 2016 at Horden Parish Council Social Welfare Centre.

RECOMMENDED the Town Clerk to offer Members the opportunity to attend.

6. **EAST DURHAM AREA ACTION PLAN**

a) **Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Priority Group – 19th May, 2016**

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

b) **Board Meeting – 8th June, 2016**

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

7. **VISIT COUNTY DURHAM “THIS IS DURHAM” PUBLICATION**

RECOMMENDED the Council note the publication.

8. **EAST DURHAM CREATES**

A Member informed the Committee that he had attended the From Out a Darker Sea event on 18th August at St John’s Church. He reported that this was a very good performance and the Church was full.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the publication.

9. **MODEL OF THE SEAHAM COLLIER ‘MAUREEN’**

The Committee considered the email communication with regard to the loan of the ‘Maureen’ from East Durham Heritage Group to be placed in the Heritage Centre at

Seaham Marina. East Durham Heritage Group have stated that they could not make good any existing damage to the model. A Member stated that the damage to the model was not extensive and was mostly the mirror inside of the casing which was damaged rather than the model itself.

RECOMMENDED the model of 'Maureen' be offered on loan to the East Durham Heritage Group.

10. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

A Member suggested that the loan of the 'Maureen' could be used as a press opportunity.

RECOMMENDED the loan of the 'Maureen' to be reported to the local press.