

NIDDERDALE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the Executive Group meeting
Held on Thursday 26th July 2018 at 10am
at Nidderdale Plus Office, Pateley Bridge

1 Present: Cllr Stan Lumley (Chair); Paula Newson Smith (Nidderdale Plus); Cllr Tom Watson (HBC); Cllr Victoria Oldham (Washburn Valley); Heather Garnett (AONB JAC);

In attendance: Debbie Grassam (Nidderdale Plus); Rupert Douglas (Sustrans);

Apologies: Cllr Chris Skaife (Pateley Bridge town council); Keith Tordoff (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade); Cllr Michael Harrison (NYCC);

Malcolm Margolis and Martin Weeks (Harrogate District Cycle Action)

2 Minutes of the last meeting (31st May 2018) were considered and agreed. Matters arising:

Communication/Broadband – DG said that HBC is working with NYCC and others to look at improving digital connectivity and they are asking residents and businesses to complete the following survey so they can understand the quality of current broadband coverage. www.harrogate.gov.uk/hcbbroadband

Improvement work at A59 Kex Gill – SL provided a detailed update regarding work at Kex Gill. In summary:

- The road is now open with a single lane of traffic.
- Over 300 people came to the recent public meeting at Norwood Hall where the proposed new route was communicated.
- Plans are going to plan and on target.
- From Skipton, the existing route of the road will be used and sweep around the sand quarry and then branch off around Blubberhouses. Stability tests are still being done and construction has to be in the most stable place.
- From Otley, it is intended that the very steep approach to the A59 is moved to be a level approach with 3 lanes. It will be a 3-lane road on the inclines on both sides of the hill.
- Hardisty Hill will not be affected.
- At the small junction of Hall Lane, the junction will be moved slightly to the left.
- The entrance of Thuscross car park will be altered to make it safer. This will interrupt the existing bridleway, so a new one will be needed with an underpass.
- Some watercourse stability works will be necessary to direct existing streams and watercourses to appropriate places.
- The works will cost approximately £35 million and it will be up to 5 years of work.
- The environmental process and the engineering process will run parallel with each other. It is hoped that by 2020 the road construction can begin.
- Noise impact will also be considered by WSP who have been contracted.
- There is ongoing discussion about how the road will be aligned to the environment i.e. left open or tree lined.

- Consideration is being given to cyclists and there is good representation from rambles and equestrian interests also.

Issues raised at the previous meeting re: potential drug problems in Pateley Bridge.

VO said she had spoken with Paul Elgar, Pateley Bridge Auction Mart regarding concerns of possible drug issues in their car park. He said there had been a recent break-in and they were looking into CCTV. TW said he had reported concerns to Southlands car park and toilet manager and he has updated KT that the appropriate Officers have been informed.

DG said that, as per her update on the last Minutes, CS had followed up NSP Executive concerns at the last Nidderdale Safer Neighbourhood meeting and Steph Jones, NY Police was going to speak with KT regarding the matter. DG said that, having held a Safer Nidderdale meeting yesterday, Steph Jones confirmed she had met with KT and that the issue has now been dealt with. DG said that at the Safer Nidderdale meeting she had discussed the NSP concerns regarding parent awareness relating to drug misuse and was told that awareness events have been taking place at Nidderdale High, but unfortunately parent attendance is low. DG will call the Head in the Autumn term to discuss and see how we can work to encourage parents to attend awareness sessions.

DG said that she met with North Yorkshire Horizons recently and they have started holding drop-in sessions fortnightly at Feastfield GP surgery, Pateley Bridge. The next session is today – 1.30-4pm. It was agreed that this is a positive move, but as SL stressed, it is also important that we are careful not to blow the situation out of proportion. SL also added that issues relating to crime should only be covered by the NSP on a ‘notification and communication’ basis.

Nidderdale Plus & HBC – Quality of Life survey - PNS said that most of the surveys have been delivered to residents in Nidderdale and results would be collated after the closing date of 14th August. These results will be fed back to the group and all parish councils in due course. The data could form part of the Wider NSP meeting.

PNS confirmed that Nidderdale Plus has now received its replacement **community car** on another 3-year lease from NYCC and feedback from volunteer drivers and passengers is very positive. Publicity about the car is to follow.

Pateley Bridge in Bloom 2018 – SL said that the judging day seems to have gone well and the results are due in September.

3 Nidderdale Greenway Proposal

RD highlighted a newly released confidential report on the Nidderdale Greenway – Dacre Banks to Pateley Bridge. DG will circulate this Report to members of the Executive, in strictest confidence with these Minutes. RD stressed that the document was an initial draft and there were still gaps to fill.

RD said he had fed back TW’s concerns regarding parking issues at Dacre Banks and these were covered in the plan – and RD will contact TW and keep him in the loop.

There was a discussion regarding the optimum surfacing to use for the benefit of all possible users – as well as considering issues such as cattle grids and gates and associated problems.

There needs to be consideration about any future maintenance work needed and possible costs of this.

The camber of the track needs careful thought and water run-off.

VO said that emergency access needs consideration and gave the example also of the procedure for if a horse goes down on the track.

VO suggested that Defra should be consulted – landowners may be in receipt of payment claims on their land for possible farm animal grazing, which could be affected if fencing is needed on the track. The farmers could lose money if the land can no longer be used for agricultural purposes.

There was a discussion regarding landowners and difficulties contacting some landowners and also of ascertaining who certain landowners are. It was agreed that whilst this work is taking place, the proposal is extremely sensitive.

RD will be having discussions with Penny Noakes, NYCC, Public Rights of Way and will report back in due course.

4 Nidderdale Sunday Bus service

Paul Chattwood had been going to present an update to the meeting. However, he was unable to attend and therefore he forwarded a document updating the Executive which DG had circulated prior to the meeting. This was considered, and it was agreed by all that overall it was very good news that the services were being well used.

It was felt though that the numbers using the Brimham Rocks route was disappointing. DG said she would feed this back to Paul. DG said she wonders if Brimham Rocks and Fountains Abbey were offering any incentives for bus use to the attractions e.g. discount for entry on presentation of a bus ticket. DG will contact Justin Scully, Manager of both attractions and will also speak with Paul about his links with Justin.

PNS said she would be interested in the uptake of people on the guided walks as this seemed a very interesting initiative.

VO said that Washburn was referred to as Washburndale instead of Washburn Valley on all DalesBus literature. DG said she would feed this back to them to amend.

5 Constitution/membership

SL said that he had met with PNS and DG prior to this meeting and the Constitution has been amended slightly and in particular the make-up of the Executive group has been reduced back to its original format. PNS added that we can still co-opt members of parish councils as appropriate. TW added that if we decide to co-opt, it should be one from each Ward. After discussion, it was agreed that DG would further amend the Constitution for 4.1 to specify Pateley Bridge and Upper Dale; Washburn Valley; and Nidd Valley, in relation to the Elected member for each District Council Ward (currently SL, VO, and TW respectively) and Pateley Bridge and Nidd Valley, in relation to the Elected member for each County Council Ward (currently SL and MH).

DG suggested that to keep all parish councils in the loop, Minutes could be circulated to all. This was agreed and that parish councils can raise any issues with the Executive and can request to attend Executive meetings if they wish for a specific purpose.

TW suggested that 'Parish Representation' could be a standing Agenda item for this purpose. This was agreed. DG to circulate Minutes to parish councils and email them explaining the above decision.

SL said that in line with item 5.2, he had exceeded his term as Chair and will need to step down. He asked the group to consider this, to be discussed at the next meeting.

6 Exchange of Information/Priorities 2018

Wider Meeting – the next meeting will be the annual Wider meeting. This was discussed, and a date was set for Tuesday 2nd October at the same venue as last year, Pateley Bridge Methodist Church, if it is available – DG to enquire and book if possible. Possible speakers/themes were discussed briefly. DG/PNS said that the data from the results of the Quality of Life survey may generate a strong theme to address. It was also agreed that the transport theme had been very useful last year. It was suggested that a talk from the National Trust (re Brimham Rocks and Fountains Abbey) could be considered. TW raised concerns regarding the enclosure.

On behalf of KT, DG fed back plans for **Google** to visit the area soon to do 365-degree filming in Pateley Bridge, which may include inside premises for a small charge. Any queries/interest – please contact KT for further details.

PNS said she had recently attended a meeting regarding **community led housing** and said she was interested in this for our area. This was discussed, and it was agreed that Graham Brookfield and/or Sarah Close, HBC could be invited to talk to the Executive at the first meeting in 2019. DG to pursue in due course.

DG said that the **Local Lotto** has now been launched in the area and people should be encouraged to purchase tickets to benefit local charities and community groups. As a registered charity, Nidderdale Plus have signed up for the Local Lotto as one of the 'good causes'. The link is: www.thelocallotto.co.uk

7 Any other Business

None.

Date of next meeting:

Wider meeting – Tuesday 2nd October 2018 – time and venue TBC.

NB: 2019 diary of meeting dates to be set.