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Introduction

It is a pleasure to present an outline of the activities of Nunthorpe Parish Council between the commencement of the Parish Council meeting on 19th May 2022 and the commencement of the Parish Council meeting on 16th May 2023.

1. STRATEGIC PLANNING

1.1. Nunthorpe Vision and “Nunthorpe Nineteen”

The liaison meetings which took place during the previous year between Middlesbrough Council and Nunthorpe Parish Council / Nunthorpe Vision Group ceased to take place during the year, although the Mayor did attend a meeting of Nunthorpe Parish Council on November 7th.

Two reasons were given for this change. The Mayor told the Parish Council that there had been criticism from Middlesbrough Councillors that Nunthorpe was being given disproportionate attention. The Deputy Mayor told the meeting that she was opposed to discussions which included the planning of Nunthorpe Grange, lest this was interpreted as support for house building.

1.2. Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Plan.

Under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Middlesbrough Council approved an application by Nunthorpe Parish Council for a Neighbourhood Area on 6 September 2022.

As the Neighbourhood Area covers two local council areas (Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland), Nunthorpe Parish Council submitted a duplicate application to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council. This application was approved by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council on 27 September 2022.

The newly-designated area will be known as the Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Area covers:

- Parished areas of Nunthorpe
- Non-parished areas of Nunthorpe
- Part of Marton East Ward in Middlesbrough
- Land in the Redcar & Cleveland Council area

- ('Parished area' means an area which is represented by Nunthorpe Parish Council, and 'non-parished area' means an area which is not represented by Nunthorpe Parish Council)

The Parish Council agreed to appoint two consultants to help us develop the Neighbourhood Plan. These were funded by a grant from "Locality".

Public Consultation events about the next stages have taken place as follows:

- Nunthorpe Methodist Church (2 days and evenings)
- Nunthorpe Community Council AGM
- Ormesby Library
- Nunthorpe Academy

2. SPECIFIC STRATEGIC ISSUES

2.1. Nunthorpe Medical Centre

Nunthorpe's new, state-of-the-art medical centre has opened to the public. The Borough Road and Nunthorpe Medical Group moved into the new building off Stokesley Road in June, after the increasing size of the patient list rendered the old practice premises at Nunthorpe shops inadequate. The new facility features eight new consulting rooms, two new treatment rooms, a meeting room and space for staff training. There are 30 parking spaces including disabled spaces and cyclist bays.

The relocation to new premises was supported by Nunthorpe Parish Council at the planning committee, but the Parish Council's concerns about the need for traffic calming and improved pedestrian access were overruled.

The Parish Council's concerns about motorists using the wide pedestrian "road to nowhere" prompted Nunthorpe Parish Council to ask Middlesbrough Council to install planters, into which flowers were placed by volunteers from Nunthorpe Community Council and Ourgreenways, funded by Nunthorpe Parish Council.

2.2. Persimmon

In last year's report we noted that a date was still awaited for consideration by the planning committee of Persimmon's case to construct housing at Nunthorpe Grange.

This took place on 16th December 2022. The Parish Council reiterated its position as agreed on 7th July 2021. This expressed concern about the planning department's "pick and mix" approach to Nunthorpe Grange, relying on some provisions in the 2014 Local Plan but ignoring others.

The Parish Council was also concerned about the lack of consultation with the residents of Nunthorpe Gardens, designated in Persimmon's application as a "sensitive boundary". The application was not approved. Persimmon was asked by the committee to consult with the residents most directly affected.

2.3 Taylor Wimpey

There were no further developments from Taylor Wimpey during the year.

2.4. Nunthorpe Community Centre.

In last year's report we noted that progress on a Community Centre had stalled after the bidding process. This period of inactivity continued until the Mayor informed the Parish Council at its meeting on 17th November that Middlesbrough Council Executive planned to consult with all Nunthorpe residents about the advantages and disadvantages of two possible locations for the Community Centre.

After the consultation was launched by Middlesbrough Council an, extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 7th December decided to circulate a leaflet to all residents providing further information.

On 7th March Middlesbrough Executive announced its preference for the Stokesley Road site. Following a challenge, and a hearing by the scrutiny committee of Middlesbrough Council, on 20th April the Executive reaffirmed its earlier decision.

The approval at Executive allows the commencement of a process to identify an appropriate organisation to operate the new community centre.

3. PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

3.1. Traffic Issues

The Parish Council continued to lobby Middlesbrough Council on speeding concerns relating to several of Nunthorpes Roads, including Stokesley Road, Guisborough Road, Mallowdale, The Avenue, and Dixons Bank.

Middlesbrough Council officers agreed to conduct a traffic survey on Stokesley Road. The Parish Council was disappointed with the outcome, which was that the Council was not persuaded to take any action because the average speed was around the permitted maximum.

The Parish Council was informed on several occasions that Middlesbrough Council did not have the financial resources to take action to reduce speeding on Nunthorpe's Roads. Therefore, the Parish Council was surprised towards the end of

the year to be notified of a proposal from Middlesbrough Council to fund 7 speed cushions on Clevegate. The Parish Council responded by welcoming funding to alleviate speeding in Nunthorpe but queried the evidence base to prioritise Clevegate, and proposed that there should be a comprehensive prioritisation of Nunthorpe's Roads based upon rational analysis.

Nunthorpe Parish Council drew attention of Council Officers to roads in particular need of resurfacing, and was eventually successful in relation to Nunthorpe Village.

3.2. Bridleways, Cycleways and Pedestrian Rights of Way.

The Parish Council was disappointed at the slow rate of progress to improve cycleways – particularly the proposal of Mayor Houchen to create a cycle link between Nunthorpe and Guisborough. Regular contact has been maintained with Tees Valley Combined Authority Officers

The Parish Council continued to press for formal recording of the Green Link through Grey Towers Park as a Public Right of Way. Towards the end of the year, Middlesbrough Council's Executive agreed to take this up as a formal issue, sponsoring a Definitive Map Modification order. No objections or representations were made by the public about this proposal which meant that it could proceed. A kissing gate and route markers have now been installed to signpost users of this PROW. Where necessary, the footpath has been widened in areas to meet necessary requirements.

The Parish Council has liaised regularly with the Rights of Way Officer regarding any problems/concerns with Rights of Way in Nunthorpe including Hogweed growth along the Bridleway.

3.3. Trees, Flowers, Benches, Allotments and Waste Management.

The Parish Council has been informed that Middlebrough council does not have the funds to replace dead or damaged trees. Middlesbrough Council has authorised the Parish Council to replace trees using alternative funding sources. Trees were planted on the Avenue field by Ourgreenways volunteers.

Unsafe trees at "Triangle Wood" in Church Lane have been removed and plans are in hand, using four grants, to insure, and provide tools for, volunteers so they can facilitate access to the public. The gate was opened for the first time in years after clearance by a professional contractor. Volunteering started in April with a view to being opened to the public at the Kings Coronation in May. Funding was provided by Ourgreenways together with a grant from Nunthorpe Parish Council. Many thanks to Wade Tovey MBE for leading on this.

A large capacity "Train" bin has been ordered for location in the vicinity of the Avenue Shops/Park. Approval has been given by Middlesbrough Council and we are awaiting written confirmation from the land owner at The Avenue Shops.

It is proposed that a bench in memory of the late Parish Councillor John Harrison should be installed in the vicinity of the war memorial to match the existing bench..

Mapping was completed of all tubs and flower beds associated with "Nunthorpe in Bloom". Two major planting schemes led by Nunthorpe in Bloom were supported by Nunthorpe Parish Council with wildflower areas too. Many thanks to all the volunteers who were involved in planting for the Jubilee last year. Special thanks to Chris Foggin and Brenda Thompson for organising. Nunthorpe Parish Council is aware that a number of flower tubs that are in a poor state and Middlesbrough Council will be asked to remove these. The Parish Council has contributed towards the purchase of plants.

Parish Councillors were involved in the successful application for a Community Garden in Nunthorpe.

During the year, Nunthorpe Parish Council was pleased to support the Nunthorpe and Marton Knitters. We have seen fantastic displays of knitted poppys and flowers around Nunthorpe including the Railway Station. Not only have the knitters lifted the spirits of residents they have also raised funds for charity by selling their knitted goods.

3.4. Crime and Anti-social Behaviour.

Throughout the year, Nunthorpe Parish Council has received regular updates from Cleveland Police and from Middlesbrough Council's Neighbourhood Safety Officer..

The new Police Community Safety Officer for Nunthorpe is looking forward to working even more closely with the Parish and Ward Councillors to ensure that Crime and ASB is kept to a minimum. He expects to be in touch with Nunthorpe Parish Council on a fairly regular basis going forward.

There are now only 3 Neighbourhood Safety Officers covering the whole of Middlesbrough (not including the town centre). But the team will do their best to liaise with us.

During the year NPC supported the establishment of the Marton and Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which has led to the recovery of stolen goods and an enhanced police presence/security at critical places. By the end of the year the Neighbourhood Watch had 1,400 members.

As requested at the launch of the Marton and Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Watch, the Parish Council has been informed by the Middlesbrough Council lead for delivery on new CCTV installs that they are looking to install a new column and cameras at the Southern Cross junction in the coming months.

3.5. Community Events

The Parish Council is pleased to have supported the following activities:

- The Nunthorpe Methodist Church and Nunthorpe Community Council Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- The Nunthorpe Methodist Summer Fun Day
- The Remembrance Service at St Marys Church
- The Nunthorpe Methodist Church Coronation celebrations
- Litter picks by volunteer residents

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Nunthorpe Parish Council continues to fight against inappropriate development and construction which takes place without planning permission. The vast majority of planning applications from Nunthorpe residents received no objections from Nunthorpe Parish Council.

Lack of planning enforcement has been raised with the Mayor and Simon Clarke MP. The Parish Council has been advised by Simon Clarke's office that there is to be a meeting post-elections to discuss resourcing of planning officers.

Many thanks to Carol McArdle for reviewing planning applications and raising objections via the Parish Council when appropriate.

5. PARISH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION and ORGANISATION

5.1. Membership.

Many thanks to the contributions made by Councillors Ros Davey, Martin Lyon, Mieka Smiles and Wade Tovey who have not put themselves forward for re-election, and Mike Eccles who resigned earlier in the year.

The following Parish Councillors have been re-elected:

Russ Lynch, Carol McArdle, Morgan McClintock, and Adrian Walker

We welcome the following new Parish Councillors:

James Hayton, Jon Rathmell, John Shaefer

5.2. Governance Review

During the year Middlesbrough Council's Governance Review took place. The outcome was that the two Parish Councils within Middlesbrough have a maximum of seven members with effect from May 2023. (For Nunthorpe this was a reduction from 11 members).

Although the terms of reference of the Governance Review incorporated consideration of the future of the Community Councils, Middlesbrough Council decided to defer this component, leaving unresolved the relationship between Nunthorpe Parish Council and Nunthorpe Community Council.

5.3 Finances

At the meeting held on 19 January, it was agreed that total estimated expenditure in 2023/24 will be £19,950. This includes an increase in the contingency reserve fund to enhance the financial solidity of the Parish Council. The meeting on 19th January agreed to establish a budget for 2023/24 to enable the agreed expenditure, and to increase the precept by 2.99%.

5.4. Communications and Resident Engagement

Greater Nunthorpe News. The development and delivery (in every sense) of ten quarterly issues to over 3,200 homes in Nunthorpe was sponsored by Nunthorpe Parish Council (with contributions from Nunthorpe Community Council and Ourgreenways). This community magazine involves churches, schools, Nunthorpe and Marton Knitters, Womens Institute, some sports clubs, Ourgreenways, and the History Group. Nunthorpe Parish Council was a key contributor including leadership and finance, regarding this popular magazine as an opportunity to inform residents of progress and to seeking feedback on a regular basis.

The Parish Council also continues to make use of the website, social media and consultation events to inform residents. (Social activities are primarily promoted using the Nunthorpe Community Council Facebook page).

The venue for meetings changed during the year from Chandlers Ridge Academy to Nunthorpe Methodist Church and this has allowed greater flexibility regarding start and finish times. A 'Public Forum' was introduced to enable residents to draw attention to specific concerns at the start of every meeting.

5.5. Boundaries.

Middlesbrough Council and The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities agreed that the area of Nunthorpe Parish Council should be extended with the following changes:

The Parish Council boundary for Nunthorpe Parish Council is extended to be co terminus with the Nunthorpe electoral ward boundary i.e., to include 1-29 Yew Tree Grove, TS7 8QX, 1-16 Milan Grove, TS7 0DQ

(Incidentally, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England agreed to amend Middlesbrough Council's electoral ward boundaries for Nunthorpe ward to include 12-16 Milan Grove and the Brethren's area)

5.6. Other Constitutional Issues

All Parish Councillors provided updates to the Register of Interests and made declarations about specific agenda items

The Parish Council agreed to revise Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and various other policies and procedures. The Parish Council was informed that the Parish Council would be a consultee about the allocation of any funds made available as a result of the sale of land in Nunthorpe by Middlesbrough Council.

This personal perspective of the Parish Council's activities during 2022/2023 was presented to Parish Councillors and amended to incorporate additions and refinements received by Parish Councillors before publication during the meeting held on 16th May 2023.

Adrian A Walker
Chair
16 May 2023

Appendix. MEETINGS of NUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

2022

19th May Annual Parish meeting and standard meeting

31st May Extraordinary meeting

21st July Standard meeting

29th September Standard meeting

17th November Standard meeting

7th December Extraordinary meeting

2023

19th January Standard meeting

14th March Standard meeting

16th May Annual Parish meeting and standard meeting