
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2004

IOS.124/04 REPAIRS TO ADOPTED AND UNADOPTED BACK LANES

Councillors Mrs Mallinson (Chairman) and Mrs Bradley, having declared prejudicial interests, retired from the meeting room during consideration of the matter.

Miss Martlew, having declared a personal interest, remained and took part in the discussion on this item of business.

Councillor Earp in the Chair.

There was submitted Minute Excerpt EX.178/04 from the meeting of the Executive held on 13 September 2004 regarding repairs to adopted and unadopted back lanes.

The decision in EX.178/04 was -

1. That the Head of Commercial and Technical Services be requested to submit a further report to the next meeting of the Executive on the outcome of the discussions with the County Council so that –
 - (a) the Executive can consider options for progressing improvements to adopted back lanes, subject to funding a suggested programme as set out in Paragraph 1.7 of report CTS.13/04.
 - (b) the Executive can provide guidance on the issues for developing an improvement programme for unadopted back lanes.
2. That the Head of Commercial and Technical Services be requested to undertake investigation work to prioritise repairs to adopted lanes in the rural areas of Carlisle and repairs to adopted lanes. The investigation costs of £7,500 will be met from existing base budgets.

Further to that decision, the Service Development Manager presented report CTS.17/04 advising that the Head of Commercial and Technical Services had written to the Chairman of the Carlisle Land Committee and the Portfolio Holder for Transport. The Head of Commercial and Technical Services and the Portfolio Holder had met with County Councillor K Wilkinson on 14 September 2003⁴ to outline the Council's concerns about the condition of those lanes and also the part that they played in the local community. Councillor Wilkinson took those issues on board and promised to consider them further.

At the ATAG meeting held on 20 September 2004 consideration was given to a report on the issue where there was strong support for improvements to back lanes. The issue had been referred on to the Carlisle Local Committee at its meeting on 18 October 2004.

Referring to that latter meeting, Mr Poole advised that he was given to understand that the Local Committee had agreed, in principle, to consider repairs to back lanes. Officers had been asked to look at the priority 1 lanes and score them using the County's normal scoring system. It was thought that because the lanes were not well used they would not score very highly under that system.

Mr Poole and the Neighbourhood Services Manager then responded to a number of questions and comments from Members –

1. Officers were not aware of any other sources of funding should the County Council not be minded to fund the repairs. An approach could be made to the External Funding Officer regarding the availability of grant and residents could be asked to contribute towards the cost of repairs to unadopted back lanes.
2. Members stressed the seriousness of the matter and believed that the Council should actively seek outside funding. An approach could be made to the North West Development Agency for example.
3. Members further believed that the City Council had a responsibility towards the environmental needs and regeneration of those areas and should earmark funding to commence a rolling programme of improvements, even if that was limited initially.

RESOLVED – That the Executive be advised that it is the recommendation of this Committee that -

- (a) action be taken to identify outside funding streams to enable repairs to be undertaken to Back Lanes, should funding from the County Council not be forthcoming.
- (b) In addition a bid should be included as part of the City Council's Budget process to allow work to commence as part of a rolling programme.