

WEST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor D Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, A Carter,
M Coulson, J Jarosz, R Lewis and
J Marjoram

CO-OPTES Howard Bradley – Youth Representative

17 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed Members that the first Public Open Forum meeting had taken place prior to this meeting based on 'Children and Young People Services'. The Chair felt the forum meeting had been successful.

18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Lord Mayor Councillor Frank Robinson and Reverend Kingsley Dowling. The Area Committee were informed that both Councillor A Blackburn and Councillor M Coulson were being detained due to other commitments but would join the meeting later.

19 Declaration of Interests

Councillor A Carter informed the meeting that the application for funding by Groundwork Leeds (Agenda Item 13 – Appendix 2 refers), lists Calverley in Bloom as a partner in the project for Calverley Cutting footpath improvements but they had only submitted a letter of support for the project. There were no declarations of interest reported at this point.

20 Open Forum

The Chair made reference to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum session of up to 10 minutes at each ordinary meeting of an Area Committee to allow members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the remit of the Area Committee.

Maggie Thompson, New Farnley Vision addressed the meeting with regard to a recent article in the latest About Leeds newsletter and wanted the advice of the Area Committee with regard to submitting an application for funding from the Outer West Well-Being Budget. In response, New Farnley Vision were advised to contact the West Area Management Office for guidance.

21 Minutes - 11th July 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the 11th July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

22 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Minute 15 (Resolution (d)(ii)) – Outer West Well-Being Budget Update

Councillor A Carter informed the meeting that residents are still complaining about the culprit who is still parking his van on grassed land on Surrey Grove as the Council still have not erected the bollards to alleviate this problem.

(b) Minute 7 – West/North West Homes Area Panel Meetings

The West North West Area Manager reported that the Chief Executive and Chair of West North West ALMO were unable to attend today's meeting to give an update on their communications strategy due to an inspection this month but will come along to the next West Outer Area Committee meeting to be held on 7th November 2008.

(Note: Councillor A Blackburn joined the meeting at approximately 2.15 p.m.)

23 Early Years Capital Allocations 2008-2011

The Childcare Strategy Implementation Manager submitted a report and briefing note to inform the Area Committee on the capital funding allocations for 2008-2011 to support the implementation in the Outer West on the 10 Year Strategy for Childcare and the statutory duties under the subsequent Childcare Act 2006.

The Executive Board at its meeting in July 2008 granted approval to inject £11,324,414 into the capital programme and authority has been given to Early Years to incur this expenditure on payments to Early Years providers and schools to enable the delivery of extended services and the statutory duties of the Childcare Act 2006.

Jo Pringle, Partnership Development Manager presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

A brief discussion ensued and Councillor Jarosz informed the meeting that at the public open forum meeting on 'Children and Young People Services' it decided that Members be invited to the Cluster meetings and would receive regular updates for each Ward in the Outer West area.

RESOLVED -

(a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.

- (b) That the Childcare Strategy Implementation Manager be instructed to submit regular updates to Members on the Early Years capital funding allocation for 2008-2011 for the West Outer area.

24 Community Forum Feedback

Clare Wiggins informed the Area Committee that a further meeting the Swinnow Community Forum Working Group has been arranged for Monday, 15th September 2008 to appoint a formal Management Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (a) The minutes of the Public Meetings held at Swinnow Community Centre on 19th May and 30th July 2008 were submitted for information and be noted.
- (b) The minutes of the Farnley and Wortley Community Forum meeting held on 10th July 2008 were submitted for information and be noted.
- (c) The minutes of the Pudsey and Swinnow Community Forum meeting held on 30th June 2008 were submitted for information and be noted.
- (d) The minutes of the Tyersal Community Forum meeting held on 9th July 2008 were submitted for information and be noted.

25 Area Committee Roles for 2008/2009

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report, which provided the Area Committee with details of the area function schedules and roles for 2008/09.

The following information was appended to the report:-

- Executive Board report – Area Committee Roles 2008/09;
- Area Committee Roles for 2008/09 – Area Functions; and
- Area Committee Roles for 2008/09 – Other Roles.

Steve Crocker, West/NorthWest Area Manager, attended the meeting to update the Committee and respond to Members' questions and comments. The Area Manager referred to some of the area roles and functions such as Environmental Action Team (EAT), street cleansing, highways maintenance etc listed for 2008/09.

From the point of the Leeds Strategic Plan, the Area Manager referred to the area themes and informed the meeting that the next theme to be submitted to the 7th November 2008 meeting will be on 'Community Engagement'.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.

26 Community Safety Update

Inspector Tom Horner, West Outer Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) updated Members regarding community safety issues in the Committee's area.

In brief, the main areas of discussion were:-

- Proposals for an Open Day at Pudsey Police Station on Saturday, 22nd September 2008. The general public (including children), Neighbourhood Watch groups, Councillors are invited to come along as there are to be a host of Police displays and even a bouncing castle for the children etc. The doors of the Police Station are to be open to engage more with the community and hopefully involve people in policing their own areas. The Divisional Commander Mr W Whitehouse and a local celebrity will also be coming along to the Open Day.
- That a Neighbourhood Policing Team website for West Outer had also been established to engage more with the community.
- It was reported that Chief Constable Bettison attended the last Police Operation Champion in the West Area where he accompanied Officers on three drugs raids in the Gambles and Bramley areas. The Operation gave a positive impression to the Chief Constable on the extensive partnership work involved prior to local operations.
- The response to burglaries and the implementation of an action plan in which local Ward Councillor gave their input.
- The NPT had recently engaged more with the Anti Social Behaviour Unit.
- The local PCSO's recent clamp down on the theft of push bikes in the area and the arrests made.
- The recent attacks on cars/police cars and the use of the 'Catcher Car' and the arrests made.
- The recent success of the Pub Watch which resulted in the license being revoked at the Black Bull in Pudsey. The NPT Inspector thanked local Councillors, residents and the Policing Teams especially PCSO Mick Cox for their contributions in this operation.
- The next Operation Champion to be held on 24th, 25th and 26th September 2008 focusing on the Bawns area.

Councillor A Carter informed the meeting of the success created by the local PCSO's attendance at their local Surgery meetings where residents can talk privately and feed vital information on anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Jarosz informed the NPT Inspector regarding the non attendance of a PCSO at the surgeries held at the Pudsey Surgery meetings held at Pudsey One Stop Centre.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the update report be received and noted.
- (b) That Inspector Horner investigate the absence of a PCSO at the regular surgeries held in the Pudsey Ward at the Pudsey One Stop Centre.
- (c) To note that the next Operation Champion will take place in the Farnley and Wortley Ward on the 24th 25th and 26th September 2008.

(Note: Councillor A Blackburn left the room at approximately 2.45 p.m. at the conclusion of the above item).

27 Environmental Services Issues

The Chief Environmental Services Officer submitted a report and gave a brief update on various service related issues within the Area Committee boundary and the recent implementation of the newly established Environmental Action Teams (EAT) to provide a greater focus on area based working, including enforcement.

Andrew Mason, Chief Environmental Services Officer introduced himself and gave a brief overview of Environmental Services responsibilities for a range of streetscene services including, refuse collection and recycling, street cleansing, bulky waste collection, fly tipping removal. Environmental enforcement, household waste sorting sites and parking related enforcement.

Ruth Lees, West/North West Environmental Action Team Manager gave a brief outline of the newly established Environmental Action Team for the West/North West area and, together with Andrew Mason, responded to Members questions and comments relating to fixed penalty tickets, litterbins outside shop premises etc.

In brief, the main areas of discussion were:

- The need to submit regular update reports to the Area Committee on the core services provided for each Ward (including regular updates on the number of failed dustbin collections for each area).
- The need to monitor more closely the work of litter pickers who seem to be collecting their quota of litter from the litterbins rather than from the streets.
- The need for the Chief Environmental Services Officer, together with the new Town Centre Manager for Pudsey, to review the level of street cleansing services provided during Friday evenings/Saturday and Sunday mornings in the centre of Pudsey/Richardshaw Lane/Farsley area in order to improve the outlook of these areas in preparation for weekend shoppers.

Councillor Marjoram informed the meeting that Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) are holding working group meetings as part of a possible inquiry into the provision and administration of streetscene staff working on the streets of Leeds and surrounding areas.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and the overview of the services provided by Environmental Services for the West Outer area, be noted.
- (b) That the Chief Environmental Services Officer be instructed to submit regular update reports to the Area Committee on the core services provided for each Ward (including regular updates on the number of failed dustbin collections for each area).

- (c) That the Chief Environmental Services Officer, together with the new Town Centre Manager for Pudsey, be instructed to review the level of street cleansing services provided during Friday evenings/Saturday and Sunday mornings in the centre of Pudsey/Richardshaw Lane/Farsley area in order to improve the outlook of these areas in preparation for weekend shoppers and to look into how litter picking is being managed in this area.
- (d) To note that Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) are holding working group meetings as part of a possible inquiry into the provision and administration of streetscene staff working on the streets of Leeds and surrounding areas.

(Note: Councillor Coulson and Councillor A Blackburn joined the meeting at 2.55 p.m. during consideration of the above item).

28 Outer West Area Committee Well-Being Budget Update

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating Members on the latest situation regarding the Committee's revenue and capital Well-Being Budget for 2008/2009, including identified pressures on the budget, small grants and skips made since the last meeting and details of applications for funding.

Clare Wiggins, Area Management Officer presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

The Area Manager informed the meeting that the interviews for the Town Centre Manager post are to be held on 30th September 2008 and the Area Management Team are hoping to involve local business representatives from Armley and Pudsey to sit on the interview panel.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the amount of Well-Being funding available to the Committee in 2008/09, and the budget pressures set out in Paragraph 5 of the report, be noted;
- (b) That the list of Small Grant made since the last meeting as set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the report, be noted;
- (c) That the following decisions be taken in respect of the applications for funding:

Capital

- (i) Fulneck Street Lighting - £12,612.88 Capital – Approved. £8,310 (Capital) was also approved, in principle, subject to appropriate funds being available in the 2009/10 budget. It was noted that Fulneck School and Unitas (Fulneck's Management Company) had been requested to make a contribution towards the cost of this project.

- (ii) Calverley Cutting - £3,000 Approved, in principal, subject to the City Council's Rights of Way Officers, Ward Councillors and local residents being satisfied with the scheme.

Revenue

- (i) Farnley Village Design Statement - £10,000 – Approved.

(Note: During the course of this item, Councillor A Blackburn declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application for funding for Calverley Cutting (Resolution (c)(ii) refers) in her capacity as a Director of Groundwork Leeds, the Councillor left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote on that item).

(Note: Councillor R Lewis left the meeting at 3.25 p.m.).

29 Outer West Area Delivery Plan Progress Report for Quarters 3 and 4

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a detailed report Providing Members with an update on progress in implementing the actions contained in delivering the Area Delivery Plan for quarters 3 and 4 of 2007/2008 – October 2007 to March 2008.

Steve Crocker and Clare Wiggins presented the report and responded to Members questions and comments.

In brief, the main issue raised was the need for footpaths in the Pudsey, Farsley and Calverley area to be updated especially the footpath between Troydale and /Roker Lane as residents are finding the poor state of the path difficult to negotiate. It was suggested that this could be picked up by the West Leeds Country Park and Gateway at its next meeting as there is an urgent need to establish proper footpaths.

RESOLVED – That the progress to date on actions contained in the Area Delivery Plan be received and noted.

30 Forward Plan for Outer West Area Committee

The West/North West Area Manager submitted a list of agenda items suggested for the next meeting of the Outer West Area Committee.

RESOLVED - That the following items be submitted on to the agenda of the next West Outer Area Committee:

- (a) Community Engagement and Cohesion (including participator Budget)
 - Themed meeting prior to the next West Outer Area Committee.
- (b) Well-Being Budget update.
- (c) Well-Being monitoring report.
- (d) Area Manager's report (including progress against area functions).

31 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Friday, 7th November 2008 at 2.00 p.m. in St Andrews Church, Pudsey.
(Themed meeting to commence at 12.00 noon).

The meeting concluded at 3.50 p.m.