

WEST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor D Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, M Coulson,
R Lewis, J Marjoram and A Parnham

CO-OPTEEES Howard Bradley – Youth Representative
Rev. Kingsley Dowling – Faith Representative

47 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which was held at Elite Forwarders in Wortley Moor Road, Leeds 12 and thanked the company for the use of their Board Room following the very productive and extremely interesting Public Open Forum meeting on Business, Enterprise, Economy and Worklessness held prior to this meeting.

48 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Councillor F Robinson and Councillor Josephine Jarosz. Members congratulated Councillor Jarosz on the birth of her new grandchild. It was also reported that Councillor Andrew Carter had been detained due to a Cabinet Meeting and may be arriving late to the meeting.

49 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

Councillor R Lewis declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Panel Member of West North West ALMO (Area Manager's Report - Agenda Item 12 refers) and a personal and prejudicial interest in his capacity as a Member on West Yorkshire Joint Authority – West Outer Area Committee Well-Being Fund Update – Agenda Item 13 (Appendix 6 refers).

Councillor J Marjoram declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Panel Member of West North West ALMO (Area Manager's Report - Agenda Item 12 refers).

Councillor M Coulson declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Member of West Yorkshire Fire Service Joint Authority (Area Manager's Report - Agenda Item 12 refers).

Councillor A Blackburn declared a personal interest in her capacity as a Director of West North West ALMO and a Director of Groundwork Leeds (Area Manager's Report - Agenda Item 12 refers).

50 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. On this occasion, no members of the public were present.

51 Minutes - 7th November 2008 and Any Matters Arising

Minute 36(a) – Outer West Well-Being Budget Update – Parking on Grassed Land on Surrey Grove

It was reported that temporary wooden bollards had been installed and that a local resident had complained about the bollards. The bollards have since been vandalised and ripped out. Members requested that the bollards be reinstated as soon as possible.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2008 be approved as a correct record.

52 Community Safety Annual Report

The North West Divisional Community Safety Partnership submitted a detailed report and Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Inspector Tom Horner gave an extensive update on the following:

- (a) Multi-agency ward based sub groups and activities;
- (b) Performance of the North West Police Division and Ward crime statistics;
- (c) An update on Neighbourhood Wardens and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) activity and;
- (d) the Police Operations from 1st July 2007 to 30th September 2008.

Appended to the report was an extensive document on the Performance Framework Strategic Plan for 2008/2011 for Members information and comment.

Inspector Horner gave an extensive overview to Members regarding community safety initiatives in the West Outer area relating to:

- the improvement on figures for the area in relation to theft from vehicles and criminal damage which have gone down. It was felt that these improvements were achieved mainly through partnership initiatives such as Operation Champion action days, going out consulting and talking to local people and getting them involved more with issues going on in their neighbourhood.
- the only area for concern in West Outer was the Farnley and Wortley area and the need to tackle well known nominals living in the area in order

to make any improvements in this area. It was reported that the next Operation Champion would take place on the Greenthorpe and Gambles estates at the end of January 2009.

- the success of the Drug Action Day.
- tackling domestic violence in the area and the partnership working with Health, Women's Aid, Early Years, Domestic Violence Unit and the work done in schools to break the cycle on domestic violence.
- the successful work of the Neighbourhood Teams and partnership working in tackling anti social behaviour in the West Outer area.
- the three main key issues for Police priorities for the Calverley area which were raised by Ward Members, local residents at public meetings and the local neighbourhood watch were, speeding on Woodhall Road, house burglaries and anti social behaviour in the local park.
- the Inspector requested that Area Committee Members let him know what the three key issues in their Wards were and he will make arrangements for them to be dealt with either directly by the NPT or through the partnership network.
- a city-wide initiative on tackling burglaries/intruders was to be operated from the Killingbeck Police Station over the Christmas period.

The Inspector went on to inform the meeting of the recent visit in the Calverley area made by the Rt Hon Jackie Smith MP in the West Outer area to roll out the new 'Policing Pledge' and to see first hand the work of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and its partnership work in the area. The Inspector was very proud and privileged that the West Outer NPT had been picked as an example for their partnership working on fighting Crime and Grime in the West Yorkshire Area.

Steve Crocker, West North West Area Manager informed the meeting that West North West Area Management were considering developing a pledge involving partnership agencies for the West North West area. The Area Manager informed the meeting that he had been attended a meeting in Leeds involving Central Government Cabinet Members and had the opportunity to talk with the Rt Hon Jack Straw and informed him of the concerns of the Area Committee. Jack Straw had also visited the LASER Centre in West Leeds and the Prime Minister took the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping at the Owlcotes Centre in Pudsey.

Members requested an update on the licensing issues in relation to the the Black Bull Public House. The Inspector informed the meeting that at the moment he did not have an update as the issues concerning the Black Bull were going to be a lengthy process but he would keep Ward Members informed.

The Area Committee thanked Gill Hunter, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator for West Leeds for her very informative report. Farnley and Wortley Ward Members requested that the Area Community Safety Officer liaise with them on initiatives in their Ward which particularly relate to the problem of domestic violence.

The Chair thanked Gill Hunter and NPT Inspector Tom Horner for their attendance.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That any outstanding issues referred to above be dealt with by the officer identified within the minutes and reported back to Ward Members.

53 West North West Homes Leeds - Area Panel Minutes 29th October 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the West North West Homes Leeds Area Panel Meeting held on 29th October 2008 be received and noted.

54 Revised Children's Services Arrangements for More Effective Locality Working with Families

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report and appendices for consideration on the 'Revised Children's Services Arrangements for More Effective Locality Working with Families.

The following Appendix 1 were attached to the report for Members' information:

Appendix 1 – Generic diagram of the Leeds Children's Trust Arrangements when they were set up in April 2007.

Appendix 2 – A copy of the report to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the Leadership Challenge.

Appendix 3 – A diagram to show how the developing local picture links to Area Committees and ensures engagement beyond Children's Services.

Appendix 4 – A list of the codes of corporate governance and how the revised arrangements will be met.

Amanda Jackson, Children's Services - Locality Enabler for West Leeds presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) To note that Councillor M Coulson , the Champion for Learning and Young People would be working with the Locality Enabler and the Area Manager on behalf of the Area Committee to take the developments forward and,
- (c) To note that Councillor M Coulson, the Champion for Learning and Young People would also represent the Area Committee on the West Children Leeds Partnership, subject to Member Management Committee approval.

55 Community Engagement

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods seeking Members approval for a timetable of events which will enable the Area Committee, with the support of the Area Management Team, to implement a calendar of wide-ranging communication and engagement activities throughout 2009.

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

The main area of concern raised by Members was that the groups that shouted loudest may be the only ones heard.

The West Outer Area Management Officer informed the meeting that the disc is available should any Members wish to view the presentation on the Participatory Budget Scheme for the South Outer Area Management.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the calendar of communications and engagement activities for Outer West Leeds in 2009 be approved.
- (b) That approval be given to earmark up to £20,000 for Participatory Budgeting, initially on the Swinnow estate during 2009/2010 and potentially the Gamble Hill and Heights area during 2010/2011, subject to appropriate funds being available.

56 Area Manager's Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to inform Members of the progress on a number of projects in Outer West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2008/2011, which is in turn governed by the Area Committees functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008.

Clare Wiggins, West Outer Area Management presented the report and gave a brief overview of the main issues in relation to Community Centres, Neighbourhood Wardens and the ongoing work in relation to CCTV in the West Outer area.

The Area Manager introduced Nigel Conder, Town Centre Manager who gave a brief overview and assured the meeting that he intends to move forward with future initiatives and to get Pudsey Town Centre on the map.

In brief, the main issues raised by the Town Centre Manager were:

- discussion have already taken place with a number of large retailers who may be interested in taking over the large unit previously occupied by Woolworths. It is anticipated that the unit will be occupied very quickly.
- Pudsey market stall holders had requested Police patrols on market days.

The Town Centre Manager informed the meeting that he intends to raise this issue with PCSO's to see if they can try and patrol the market. Inspector Tom Horner informed the meeting that he would make arrangements for the PCSO's to work with the Town Centre Manager on the issues raised by market stall holders.

- the establishment of a Local Business Forum where local businesses can raise their concerns such as rent reductions to try and fill empty units etc.

Inspector Horner invited the Town Centre Manager to get involved with the local Pub Watch in the Pudsey area and Clare Wiggins agreed to invite Pudsey Ward Members to the Town Centre Manager Steering Group meeting.

Members expressed the need to get local business in the area and the Chair referred to the interesting Open Forum meeting held prior to this Area Committee meeting. It was felt that local industry should be encouraged to work in the area which will bring jobs for the local community.

A discussion ensued regarding the Bradford Local Development Framework (600 new properties between Tong Village and Holme Wood). Members requested information on what consultation had taken place and what was this authority's response to this scheme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That any outstanding issues referred to above be dealt with by the officer now identified within the minutes and reported back to the Area Committee.

57 Outer West Area Committee Well-Being Budget Fund 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 Chair asked Members for the consensus of their opinion with regard to the two small grant applications that Members had recently been consulted on. Members felt that they could not support the small grant application for Irish History Month but would support the Pudsey Christmas Dinner Dance application.

Whilst consider the application for funding in relation to the Laurels & Oakroyds parking improvements (resolution (iii) refers), Councillor Lewis requested that local residents be consulted on the highways scheme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the current amount of Revenue Well-Being funding available to the Committee in 2008/09 is £18,023 and Capital Well-Being fund is £32,640.12 and the budget pressures set out in Paragraph 5 of the report, be noted.
- (b) That the list of Small Grant and Skips made since the last meeting as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report, be noted.
- (c) That the following decisions be taken in respect of the following applications for funding:

Revenue

- (i) I Love West Leeds Festival – Approved £1,000 (Revenue – 2008/2009) and £24,000 (Revenue - 2009/2010), subject to appropriate funds being available.
- (ii) Cottingley Springs – Travellers Funhouse – Deferred to the next meeting in order that the applicants can attend to respond to Members' questions.
- (iii) Laurels & Oakroyds parking improvements – Approved £13,500 (Capital).
- (iv) Tyersal Park – Approved £20,000 (Capital).
- (v) Summer bands in Leeds Parks 2009 – Approved £3,000, subject to appropriate funds being available.
- (vi) Police – Reduction of Burglaries and Vehicle Crime – Approved £4,589.76 (Revenue).
- (vii) Participatory Budgeting – Approved £20,000, subject to appropriate funds being available.

(Note: Councillor R Lewis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in (vi) above and left the room while this item was being considered).

58 Forward Plan for Outer West Area Committee

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

Councillor A Blackburn requested that an item on the Youth Service be submitted to a future Area Committee meeting.

RESOLVED – That the following items be submitted on to the agenda of the next West Outer Area Committee meeting.

- (a) Minutes of meeting held 19th December 2008.
- (b) Fuelsavers
- (c) West North West ALMO – Area Panel Review
- (d) Streetscene and Parks & Countryside - Enhanced Roles for Area Committees (two reports).
- (e) Well-Being Budget Update
- (f) Forward Plan for April 2009.

59 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Friday, 6th February 2009 at 2.00 p.m. (Themed Forum Meeting and possible venue at Stanningley Fire Station to be arranged and confirmed with Members).