

WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor J Harper in the Chair

Councillors T Hanley, A Lowe, J McKenna
and N Taggart

CO-OPTEEES: H Boutle - Armley Forum
M Pugh - Armley Forum
S McBarron – Bramley and Stanningley
Forum

64 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Denise Atkinson.

65 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

Councillor J Harper declared a personal interest in her capacity as a Member of West Leeds Gateway (Agenda Item 8 – West Inner Well-Being Budget Fund – Minute 70, Appendix 4(i) refers) and as Chair of the West Leeds Gateway Stakeholders' Advisory Group (Agenda Item 9 – Area Manager's Report - Minute 69 refers)

Councillor T Hanley declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Director of Bramley Elderly Action (Agenda Item 8 – West Inner Well-Being Budget Fund – Minute 70, Appendix 4(i) refers) and Fairfield's LAMP (Agenda Item 16 – Minute 76 refers).

Councillor N Taggart declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Panel Member of West North West ALMO (Agenda Item 13 – Leeds Housing Strategy – Minute 73 refers) and (Agenda 16 – Fairfield's LAMP – Minute 76 refers).

Councillor A Lowe declared a personal interest in her capacity as a Director of West North West ALMO (Agenda Item 13 – Leeds Housing Strategy - Minute refers) and (Agenda Item 16 – Fairfield's LAMP – Minute 76 refers).

Councillor J McKenna declared a personal and prejudicial interest in his capacity as a Care Worker at Armley Helping Hands (Agenda Item 8 – Inner West Well-Being Budget (Appendix 4) – Minute 70 refers) and a personal interest in his capacity as a Care Worker at Armley Helping Hands (Agenda Item 8 – Inner West Well-Being Budget (Appendix 2) – Minute 70 refers) The Councillor also declared a personal interest in his capacity as a Panel

Member of West North West ALMO (Agenda Item 13 – Leeds Housing Strategy – Minute 73 refers) and (Agenda 16 – Fairfield's LAMP – Minute 76 refers).

Morgan Pugh – Armley Forum Co-optee declared a personal and prejudicial interest in his capacity as Chair of Armley Helping Hands (Agenda Item 8 – Inner West Well-Being Budget (Appendix 4) – Minute 70 refers).

66 Minutes - 11th December 2008

Minute 54 – Inner West Area Committee Well-Being Update

Referring to Resolution (b)(v) regarding the Summer Bands in the Park application, the Chair informed the meeting that she had a meeting with the officer and was now happy to release the money for funding this application. The Chair was pleased to announce that it had now been agreed with the officer to make this into a bigger event and it is intended to hold a dog show and to include rides for young children at this event.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

67 Open Forum / Community Forums

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.

A copy of the minutes of the Armley Community Forum meeting held on 16th December 2008 and Bramley & Stanningley Forum meeting held on 27th November 2008 were attached for Members information.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Armley Community Forum meeting held on 16th December 2008 and Bramley & Stanningley Forum meeting held on 27th November 2008 be noted.

68 Inner West Area Committee Well-Being Fund Update

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report providing an update on the current amount of capital and revenue funding committed and available for the 2008/2009 financial year.

Rebecca Boon, Project Officer presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

During consideration of the Marketing & Events Budget for Town and District Centre application, Councillor Hanley, in his role of Enterprise and Economy Champion for West Inner, felt this was an excellent idea and was only too

happy to be of assistance. He informed the meeting that funds may be obtained for this project through Business Link Week.

Dawn Newsome, Armley Helping Hands presented the application for funding the Armley Helping Hands Community Transport Scheme (Appendix 4 – Resolution (b)(iii) refers) and left the room with Councillor McKenna and Morgan Pugh (see note below), while Area Committee Members made a decision on this application.

Steve Crocker, West North West Area Manager informed the meeting that this would be Rebecca Boon's last meeting for West Inner as both her and Gavin Forster would in future be working on projects relating to the Outer West Area Committee.

On behalf of the West Inner Area Committee, the Chair thanked Rebecca and Gavin for all their hard work for West Inner over the last few years.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the current amount of Revenue Well-Being fund available for 2008/09 is £6,412.15 and Capital Well-Being fund is £66,800 be noted.
- (b) That the following decisions be taken in respect of new projects and requests for funding from the Well-Being Budget contained in appendices attached and listed in Paragraph 3.1 of the submitted report:

Capital

- (i) Notice Boards for Bramley & Rodley – Approved £5,000. Members requested Officers provide them via email with a photograph of the proposed black and gold trimmed notice boards.

Revenue

- (i) 'Spring Together' Celebrating Diversity Event – Approved £2,700.
 - (ii) Marketing & Events Budget for Town and District Centre – Approved £5,000.
 - (iii) Armley Helping Hands Community Transport Scheme – Approved £7,823 (2009/2010) for one year only, subject to appropriate funds being available. Members also requested that a six month update report be submitted on the request by Members that Armley Helping Hands work closely with Bramley Elderly Action on community transport provision.
 - (iv) Planting of Henconner Lane Roundabout, Bramley – Approved £1,500 (2009/2010), subject to appropriate funds being available.
- (c) To note that to date £44,000 (Revenue) and £20,000 (Capital) had been allocated from the Well-Being Budget for the financial year 2009/2010.
 - (d) That the list of Small Grants made since the last meeting as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.

- (e) To note that out of the £10,000 Small Grant budget approved for 2008/2009 there was a balance of £3,948.68 remaining and that out of the £2,500 Skips Budget approved for 2008/2009 there was a balance of £320.00 remaining.

Note: Due to their personal and prejudicial interests in (b)(iii) above, both Councillor J McKenna and Morgan Pugh – Co-optee Armley Forum left the room during consideration of this item (Minute 65 above also refers).

69 Area Manager's Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to inform Members of the progress made on a number of projects in Inner West as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2008/2011 governed by the Area Committee's functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board at its meeting held in July 2008.

Steve Crocker, West North West Area Manager highlighted the point that following a review with Members of the outcomes and performance to date of the themed meetings it had been decided that the Health and Wellbeing Open Forum would be presented at both the Armley and Bramley & Stanningley Community forum meetings in order to encourage community engagement.

The Area Manager also informed the meeting that a detailed report on the Council's procurement approach to the Leeds Waste Strategy would be submitted to the next Area Committee meeting. Members sought clarification that the Strategy included plans for the proposed requirement for alternative methods for the disposal of food waste from household bins as by 2010 it would be illegal for the disposal of food waste on landfill sites as it causes methane emissions.

Members expressed their concern that in future there may be no centrally funded Neighbourhood Wardens for the Inner West area. In response, Steve Crocker informed the meeting that the Area Management Team are pursuing other avenues for the temporary funding of these posts and that he will submit an update report at a future meeting.

With regard to the Conservation Area Review, the Area Manager informed the meeting that an update report on the new conservation area in Armley and Bramley area will be submitted to a future meeting of this Area Committee.

Members congratulated the Headteacher at St Bartholomew's Primary School for all her hard work and dedication, especially the recent work on the Field of Dreams project at the school.

RESOLVED - That the progress of the various projects outlined in the report and the comments now made be noted.

70 Community Safety Issues, Inner West Leeds

The Committee considered a report and update on Community Safety issues in the Inner West Leeds area over the past eight weeks. Inspector Jon Glennon from the West Inner Neighbourhood Policing Team, together with Gill Hunter, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator (West Leeds) gave an extensive update in relation to the following:

- The success of the four day burglary and vehicle crime initiative in Armley and Bramley which was funded by the Area Committee. It was reported that a DVD had been made while undertaking this initiative and

Members requested that a copy of the DVD be emailed to each Ward Member.

- The planned reassurance mapping for the Wyther estate in Armley.
- The launch of the police pledge focusing on local priorities within neighbourhoods in Inner West (this included going out and speaking to people in the local community to ask what they felt were the priorities in the area). As usual these were generally burglary, anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime.

Members requested that they be informed of any future dates, times and venues the Police and partnerships intend to give update reports on this initiative in order that Ward Councillors be given the opportunity to attend.

- The proposals for a Dispersal Order for the Cedars estate in Armley.

Inspector Glennon outlined the continuing problems of anti-social behaviour within the Tong Road, Carr Crofts, Armley Town Street and Wesley Road, Leeds 12 and the need for a Dispersal Order. It was also intended that news of the Dispersal Order be published through the local media.

Ward Members were in agreement that this action needed to be taken and also expressed their concern that excessive drinkers were still spilling out on to the Armley Town Street area as early as 10.00 a.m. and were concerned that shoppers, especially the elderly were being harassed.

Gill Hunter informed the meeting that this matter would be raised at the next Inner West Multi-Agency meeting.

- The success of the police initiatives in the Inner West Leeds area over the Christmas and New Year period.

The Chair thanked Inspector Glennon and Gill Hunter for their attendance and congratulated them on the success of their recent initiative undertaken within the Inner West Leeds area, especially over the Christmas period.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and the comments now made be noted.

- (b) That this Area Committee supports the proposal for a Dispersal Order to assist the police in tackling Anti-social Behaviour and associated crime on the Cedars estate in Armley.

71 Relationship and Report between Health and Environmental Action Service, including the Environmental Action Teams and Area Committee

Further to a decision of the Executive Board in November 2007 to extend and enhance the roles of Area Committees in terms of the operation of certain services in their areas, including Environmental Action Teams (EATs), the Committee received a report from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods regarding how the Area Committee can help to influence the work carried out by EATs in their areas.

The following Officers were in attendance and responded to Members' questions and comments:-

Helen Freeman – Chief Officer - Health and Environmental Action Services
Keith Gibson – Head of Service - Health and Environmental Action Services

Detailed discussions ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

In brief, the main areas of concern were:

- That the West North West wedge of the city was an extremely large area to be covered by only one Environmental Action Team.
- That the inner city areas have many different priorities to the outer Wards and it was felt that there was a need to retain the post of Neighbourhood Wardens, especially in the inner city areas.
- Referring to Appendix 6 – Summarised Service for each Area Committee. Members agreed with the “high impact high priority” issues were the correct ones for Inner West. Members expressed a particular concern at the need to prioritise noise levels (492) and Rodents (36).

The Chair thanked Officers for their attendance.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be received and noted.
- (b) Members agreed with the “high impact high priority” issues were the correct ones for Inner West.
- (c) That regular monthly meetings be arranged with at least one Member from each Ward being in attendance.
- (d) That the Area Committee receive six monthly update reports on the EATs work undertaken within the West Inner Leeds area.

72 Relationship and Reporting between Streetscene Services and Area Committees

Further to a decision of the Executive Board in November 2007 to extend and enhance the roles of Area Committees in terms of the operation of certain

services in their areas, including Streetscene, the Committee received a report from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods regarding how this might work.

The following Officers were in attendance and responded to Members' questions and comments:-

Graham Hollings – Streetscene Manager – Refuse Collection Service
Roger Foyle - Area Development Manager – Environmental Services

Detailed discussions ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

In brief, the main issues raised were:

- Members of the Area Committee expressed their concern that there would be a budget cut in the Streetscene service.
- It was felt that when the ALMO and Highways grassed areas, shrub beds and hedges contract be put out to tender, the contract should also include litter picking.
- Members thanked the Neighbourhood Wardens for the recent clean up work carried out on Armley Town Centre and that similar work was needed around Bramley Shopping Centre.

The Chair thanked Officers for their attendance.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be received and noted.
- (b) That regular quarterly meetings be arranged with at Ward Members.
- (c) That the Area Committee receive six monthly update reports on the Streetscene work undertaken within the West Inner Leeds area.

73 Leeds Housing Strategy

Note: In the absence of an officer from Housing Strategy and Commissioning Section, consideration of this report was deferred.

74 Update on New Wortley Action Management Plan (LAMP)

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted an update report On the New Wortley neighbourhood and its current position in the Indices of Deprivation (IoD) issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Alison Pickering, West Inner Area Management Officer gave an indepth presentation and reflected on the first draft of the LAMP over three years ago in response to the 2004 Indices of Deprivation, the work of the multi-agency officer group formed to deliver the plan and the reports to the West Leeds District Partnership and this Area Committee.

Local Ward Members felt they had made significant contributions to the community improvements over the years along, with the New Wortley Residents Association.

The Officer went on to progress and achievements and the challenges around education, health and employment and reminded Members that funding would run out for the community centre by the end of March 2009. In terms of Crime Community Action Day in evening of 13th March 2009 it is expected that quite a lot of tenants would also be present.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

75 Wythers Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) – Annual Review

The West North West Area Manager submitted an annual review report briefing Members on the progress, achievements and challenges currently impacting upon the Wyther estate and to provide an overview of the partnership working approach driving challenges and priorities.

Alison Pickering, Area Management Officer presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Councillor Lowe, Chair of the Wyther LAMP went on to explain the work carried out following the re-opening of Community House, especially in conjunction with Leeds Health Living Network on healthy eating and the cheap vegetables on sale there.

The Officer went on to explain the health schemes that are being looked at through the LAMP group area; crime; income deprivation effecting older people; education skills and training and community cohesion.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

76 Fairfields Local Area Management Plan (IAMP) – Annual Review

The West North West Area Manager submitted an annual review report briefing Members on the progress, achievements and challenges currently facing the Fairfields estate and to provide an overview of the partnership working approach that is currently in operation.

Alison Pickering, Area Management Officer presented the report and went on to explain partnership structure; the successful projects carried out with the help of the close working relations with the multi-agency partners; education and the projects involving Bramley Primary School to encourage the children to appreciate and have pride in their local neighbourhood; crime; health; housing and the usual problems surround the community centres.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

77 Community Engagement Calendar of Events

Final minutes approved at the meeting
held on Thursday, 9th April, 2009

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report 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.

Alison Pickering, Area Management Officer presented the report and reminded Members of the 'What's the Big Idea' engagement event to be held on 26th March 2009 in the Bramley & Stanningley Ward and on 21st April 2009 in the Armley Ward.

RESOLVED - That the calendar of communications and engagement activities for Inner West Leeds in 2009 as outlined in the submitted report be approved.

78 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Thursday, 9th April 2009 at 5.00 p.m. (Venue to be arranged)