

Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Neighbourhood Management Update April 2013 – September 2013

Update on Neighbourhood Improvement Plan priorities:

Reduce levels of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Immobilise property marking: The roll out of the Immobilise property marking system continues. Streets which have been identified as burglary hotspots have been targeted. Levels of burglary in the ward still continue to fall; compared to this time last year, burglaries are down by 42 offences and over 100 offences compared to this time in 2011.
- Operation Champion: On 10th July, a multi-agency day of action took place focussing on the Nowells area. Partners such as the Police, Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Private Sector Rented Team and ENE Locality Team all participated.
- Summer holiday activities for young people: 84 activity sessions were commissioned for young people to participate in over the summer holidays, all taking place at venues within the ward.
- Rigtons & Haselwoods Parking Solution: A consultation has been undertaken with local residents regarding the development of a project to resolve long term parking issues around the Rigtons and Haselwoods area. 50% of funding for the scheme has already been secured through Inner East Area Committee.
- Off Road Bikes: Thanks to funding allocated by the Area Committee towards the Police off road bikes, this has assisted in solving a number of nuisance motorbike and quad bike issues around the East End Park area.
- East Park Grove Problem Solving: A problem solving meeting was held with landlords of properties on East Park Grove with Councillors and service providers. The meeting covered issues around crime and the environment. Landlords now feel more reassured about how their issues are being dealt with in the future.

Improve the local environment

- Haselwood Bin Solution: A new refuse and recycling system has been installed in Haselwood Mews and Haselwood Green. This scheme has addressed over 10 years of refuse collection issues due to bins being stolen and not the correct capacity of refuse bins being available. This was jointly funded by Area Committee & Area Panel.
- Environmental Improvement Zones: Work continues across the two EIZs of the Nowells and Bellbrookes. Recently, there has been a fine of £3,000 issued to a landlord in the Nowells for not removing waste from the yards of his properties.
- Community Clean Ups: Since April, six community clean ups have taken place across the ward in the following locations – Buller Lane, Torre Close, Rigton Lawn, Nowells, East Leeds Rugby Club pitches on Snake Lane and Lincoln Green Mosque & Education Centre
- Flowerbeds: Lincoln Green benefitted from the planting of flower beds in the prominent locations of Beckett Street, Lincoln Green Road and Cherry Row.

- **Welcome Stone:** A 'Welcome to Burmantofts' stone was installed on Burmantofts Street. The stone was dedicated to PC Tony Sweeney who sadly passed away in December 2012. An official unveiling event is being planned for autumn.
- **Litter Bins:** Nine additional litter bins have been installed across the ward. This follows issues being raised at the CLT by local residents. A second phase of installation of additional litter bins is being planned for Autumn.
- **Haselwood Dene Subway:** Funding has been secured and plans agreed for the improvement of the subway which runs from Haselwood Dene under York Road to Pontefract Lane. The subway is to benefit from anti-graffiti paint and workshops are scheduled with the local community to put together a mosaic which will be installed on the wall under the subway. Work will commence on 9th September.
- **Sustainable Communities Investment Programme:** A consultation event was held at St Hilda's Church, Cross Green in April with residents about the investment of nearly £4m in the area through a housing facelift project, highways improvements and a community fund pot for small scale environmental projects.

Increase levels of community confidence

- **Community Leadership Team:** BRH Community Leadership Team continues to go from strength to strength. On average of 35 community members attend each meeting. Topics discussed over the last few months including Free School Meal and the Environment. Good feedback has been received from CLT members, who feel positive outcomes are being delivered through the CLT.
- **Burmantofts Neighbourhood Improvement Board:** Two meetings of the NIB have taken place since April. A number of key projects are being delivered to address NIB priorities including the Leeds Neighbourhood Approach, which is targeting private rented sector landlords in the Nowells to improve housing conditions and also bring empty properties back into use. Employment & Skills are also targeting 10 families to provide support for them to access employment and training opportunities.
- **Burmantofts Gala:** The inaugural Burmantofts Gala took place on 30th June. The first gala was hailed as a success with over 1000 local residents in attendance. The event also acted as the finale to Leeds Refugee Week. A logo competition was also held with local primary schools in order to create an identity for the event.
- **Lark in the Park:** The community came out in force to the community day East End Park on 20th July. The event received positive feedback from local residents and continues to improve year on year.
- **Neighbourhood News:** The first edition of the BRH Neighbourhood News has been produced. The newsletter has been placed in key community buildings across the ward and shared with CLT members to circulate amongst the groups they are affiliated with.
- **Community Centres:** Use of Lincoln Green and Ebor Gardens Community Centres continues to increase. The days of the Community Café at Lincoln Green are to increase and a community café is to be established at Ebor Gardens. Learning Partnerships have been providing programmes for pre-NEET and NEET young people from both facilities and have recently completed an outdoor improvement programme at Lincoln Green as part of an on-going improvement strategy at the centre.

- Community First: The BRH Community First Panel continues to meet on a monthly basis. Since April, 16 applications have been considered and £22,796.50 has been approved from the annual allocation of £50,926.
- Cross Green Residents: Support has been provided to local residents to re-establish the community group for the area. The first meeting took place in July and there is now a fully established residents group for the area.

Reduce levels of worklessness and NEETs

- Learning Partnerships 2 Way Street: Support has been provided to Learning Partnerships to use Ebor Gardens Community Centre as a base for their project focussing on NEET young people. The activity has proved successful and the young people who have been involved in the scheme have also been involved in a number of community projects including the renovation of the garden at Lincoln Green Community Centre.
- Veolia and Clugston Employment Event: An event was held at Richmond Hill Community Centre in August for the community to find out more about employment opportunities which will be available through the development of the Waste Treatment Facility in Cross Green. Through the construction phase, it is anticipated that there will be 300 temporary positions, which Employment Leeds are working on to fill with local people.
- Ebor Gardens IT Suite: Installation is complete of the new IT Suite at Ebor Gardens Community Centre. The IT provision has jointly been funded by the Inner East Area Committee and GMB. Additional sessions to support people back into jobs and training are going to be run from the facility in the coming months. The IT will also enable Ebor Gardens Primary School's parent support programme deliver more courses to local residents.
- Giz a Job: Lincoln Green Community Centre is now hosting the Giz a Job programme one day per week which is run by Zest and Job Centre Plus. The project supports residents to build their confidence and provides assistance to get them into employment and training opportunities.

Improve physical health and emotional wellbeing

- Lincoln Green Food Bank: Support has been provided to East Leeds Foodbank to establish an outlet at Lincoln Green Community Centre. It is hoped that the foodbank will be fully operational from September and will be a much needed resource for families in need living in the local community.
- Burmantofts & Richmond Hill alcohol workshop: Following discussions between partners, it has been identified that tackling alcohol issues are a key priority that needs to be addressed in the ward. A workshop session, being led through NHS Leeds, has been established for 9th September to look at taking a specific piece of work forward on this issue.
- Training sessions for frontline workers: Training sessions have been held for frontline staff working across Burmantofts & Richmond Hill. The sessions covered illegal money lending, smoke free homes and alcohol awareness. A further session is being organised around Health is Everyone's Business for October.

- Sports accreditation courses: As part of the summer holiday activities which were commissioned for the ward, three sports accreditation courses were run in partnership with local sports clubs: East Leeds Community Sport Club, East Leeds Cricket Club and Market District (Raging Bull) Boxing Club. The sessions provided leadership qualifications to young people to continue to support their local clubs.

Additional Resources

Over the last six months, the following resources have been secured and invested in the area:

- GMB Union: £6,000 for installation of Ebor Gardens IT Suite
- ENEHL Area Panel: £1,660 for litter bins (50% of total cost) and £3,619 towards the Haselwood Dene Subway (50% of total cost)
- Arcadia: £500 grant and £1,000 of donated electrical goods for Burmantofts Gala
- Inner East Cluster: £7,500 for summer holiday activities

Challenges

The current challenges in the ward are as follows:

- Employment: A number of job opportunities became available through major developments such as Trinity but there were a very low number of people employed from the ward. Further work needs to be undertaken to understand the reasons behind this – is it because people aren't aware of the opportunities? Is this due to online application processes? Is there a massive skills gap that needs to be addressed?
- Refuse Collection: This still remains a major issue across the Ward with refuse not being collected on a regular basis in some areas. This has led to enforcement action not being able to be undertaken in Environmental Improvement Zones due to this service failure.
- Grass Cutting / Grounds Maintenance: One of the main issues being raised by local residents are issues related to ground maintenance and grass cutting. The majority of the areas where problems are being highlighted are areas of private or orphan land. These issues are becoming increasingly complex and time consuming to resolve.

Focus for the next six months

- Work will continue with Employment & Skills to plan and hold local events as and when employment opportunities come live for residents to access. It is also hoped that support sessions can be established for local residents to fill in online applications at community centres within the ward.
- Further work around strengthening and increasing membership of the Community Leadership Team, particularly focussing on participation of young people and local businesses.
- Plan and undertake consultation activities with Ward Councillors, local residents and service providers to set the priorities for the 2014/15 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.
- Continue to commission and manage a number of projects to meet community priorities and address local needs, as identified in the NIP and via the Community Leadership Team.