



Report of The Director, Environments and Neighbourhoods

Inner South Leeds Area Committee

Date: 25th June 2007

Subject: Area Managers Update Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

**Beeston & Holbeck
City & Hunslet
Middleton Park**

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity
Community Cohesion
Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report identifies a range of activity which has been undertaken in recent months in conjunction with the area management Team. In particular amongst other issues, the report requests that the Committee identify a preferred approach to the appointment of a Senior Warden, and identify areas which the committee feel require additional attention as part of an environmental clean up programme, make comments on the proposed improvements to the Youth Bus.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report provides an update from the Area Manager on the work of the Area Management Team since the last Area Committee met. It also enables the committee to raise questions or provide advice regarding the topics contained in the report. The.

As usual this report is largely laid out along the lines of the 07/08 Area Delivery Plan key themes which forms the focus of the Area Management Team's work plan. There is an additional section covering other work activities of the team and other issues and updates for Members to be aware of or consider.

2.0 CLEANER NEIGHBOURHOODS

As part of the priority the Area committee has placed on this issue a range of activity has been undertaken.

2.1 Binyard Improvement

The first phase of the binyard improvement scheme in Beeston Hill focusing on the Clovellys and Harlechs area has been completed. A second phase has been agreed in principle by the Area Committee. A detailed proposal recommending that the stage 2 improvements should include binyards in the Westbournes, Back Lodge Lane, Bromptons and Stratford Terrace is set out in the well-being report.

2.2 Clean ups

In response to proposals put forward by Members and areas identified by the Area Management Team on behalf of the Area Committee, the following clean ups led by Streetscene Services Environmental Pride Team in partnership with other agencies have been carried out during April to June :

- Back Lane/Old Lane, Beeston
- Leasowes/Woodhouse Hill Road, Hunslet, and allotments path, Belle Isle
- Manor Farms, Middleton.

If not already provided to officers, Members are invited to suggest locations which they consider appropriate for intensive clean up operations over and above referrals from Members that the Environmental Pride Team (formerly CAST) carry out on a day to day basis. Once identified and prioritised, these operations will be carried during July to September.

In addition to the above, Neighbourhood Wardens have organized or participated in smaller scale local community clean ups in: Sissons Road and Crescent; ginnel next to Windmill Stores Belle Isle and Holbeck Youth Centre.

Results, from the independent survey of street cleanliness undertaken in accordance with Encams in the 9 target Intensive Neighbourhood Management areas, report an improvement of over 20% as against the position twelve months ago in 2006. Cleanliness in the INM areas is now better than the national average.

Here are some of the clean up ideas Members may want to consider putting forward to the Area Management Team:

Community-led clean ups – Members could put forward a community/resident group who have said they would like to be involved in a clean up. The group could either do the clean up independently themselves with skips provided from the Area Committee's Community Skip Scheme and/or with some help/advice from a neighbourhood warden. Please contact your neighbourhood warden direct on this.

Household rubbish clean-up – a street or a small handful of streets could be informed of a household clean up taking place on a certain day where people bring their rubbish out into skips provided by the Area Committee's Community Skips scheme. Priority however needs to be given to promote the Council's services such as household waste sites and bulky items. Please contact your neighbourhood warden direct on this.

Intensive clean ups – specific grotspot locations (e.g a street, a patch of land) which are in such a state that they would require substantial time and resources to tackle typically within one day. 2 days a month is allocated for intensive clean ups involving Streetscene Services (Environmental Pride Team) and other resources where appropriate (e.g ALMO/BITMO estate caretakers, Parks and Countryside). Please contact a member of the Area Management Team for this.

2.3 Operation Champion

As Members may recall, Operation Champion has replaced the previous operation Cava and the aim of the programme is to tackle crime and grime in targeted neighbourhoods. Work is targeted across approximately 1000 residential properties. Each operation includes generic services with additional services according to local need. The most recent operation took place in Holbeck in May 2007.

Poor waste management and fly tipping in bin yards was the main focus of the operation. In total 55 bin yards were cleared, which including previous work undertaken means that 50% of the bin yards in Holbeck are now clear. Clearance is being followed with letters to individual residents and each landlord to reinforce their responsibility for the bin yards, informing them that enforcement action will be taken if breaches occur. A litter pick was organised on Holbeck Moor with children from Ingram Road Primary School. Environmental Health became involved in the operation with dedicated staff on call and noise nuisance and disrepair services were promoted.

Outcomes from the operation included:

- ❑ Over 20 tonnes of waste was removed from the area.
- ❑ 42 DVLA fines served on untaxed vehicles
- ❑ 30 hours spent by Probation, Groundwork and Youth Offending team cutting back over grown shrubs and litter picking.
- ❑ 28 hours spent removing graffiti.
- ❑ Over £3,000 of unpaid fines were collected by the HM Courts Service.
- ❑ 7 arrests made including 1 drugs warrant executed by West Yorkshire Police.
- ❑ 80 enforcement notices served (Section 46) to residential properties.
- ❑ 66 home fire safety checks completed
- ❑ 12 drugs users engaged/ re-engaged in treatment.
- ❑ 9 food hygiene inspections completed.
- ❑ 1200 information packs distributed to households providing community safety advice and promoting local services.

Operation Champion in June will concentrate on the Brooms and Aberfields area of Belle Isle, again a variety of services will be involved. The Fire Service has been asked to give a talk to year 6 pupils at Windmill Primary school in response to recent problems on the estate whereby fire engines have been attacked on call outs by youth.

July's operation will be taking place in Beeston. Involvement with the PCT has been incorporated into the operation with particular focus placed on the promotion of services at the new Health Centre. Emphasis will also be placed on Smoking Cessation to address issues relating to the Smoking Ban.

3.0 INVOLVING COMMUNITIES

3.1 Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker

Since the last Area Committee meeting, the main achievements of this Area Committee commissioned and funded post, are as follows:

- The worker has supported Middleton Community Group in developing 'Middleton in Bloom' with a garden competition (6 entries to date!) and applied to Parks and Countryside for a small grant for planters to be placed adjacent to the shopping parade in Middleton Park Circus. The group will also be undertaking a photographic/local stories project as part of the I Love South Leeds Festival. The group has set up its own website, had at least one new person join them and a new Vice Chair elected.
- In Cottingley an 'In Bloom' garden competition is up and running (5 entries to date!) and the group is running regular events. Welcome boards to Cottingley are ordered and the plans for the Summer Fayre are developing well. TRAC (Tenants and Residents Association in Cottingley) have taken on responsibility for the Cottingley Newsletter which the Area Management Team had instigated as part of the former NIP.
- In Manor Farms regular community group meetings are underway and the Committee is developing.
- in the Receptions area of Holbeck, a date for a first meeting of a new community group has been arranged this will include not only residents who have previously expressed an interest but also those who were contacted as part of Operation Champion.

3.2 Support to community festivals (see also 4.1 I Love South Leeds Festival)

The Area Management and Regeneration Teams have been involved in the preparations for both the Beeston Festival and Holbeck Gala in partnership with relevant committees and organizations.

3.3 Community consultation

As a means of helping to shape the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Programme the Area Regeneration Team commissioned Leeds VOICE to employ local South Leeds residents to undertake community research. This project was nominated for a national award organized by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education and was successful in the adult learners week group award category.

3.4 Community Centres

A number of issues have come up with regard to community facilities within the Area Committee's portfolio over the last couple of months. St Matthew's Community Centre has been a high priority facility in terms of looking at a business planning exercise being carried out to ensure that the centre is financially viable and improvements at the facility fit in with longer term regeneration programmes for the area.

The first meeting of the Inner South Community Centres Sub Committee has still to be established – the meeting will hopefully take place in July. The meeting will focus on community facilities that have been delegated to the Area Committees management.

4.0 MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

4.1 I Love South Leeds Festival!

At the last Area Committee meeting, the recently appointed Festival Co-ordinator (as managed by South Leeds Health For All) described that he had been publicising the Festival through meeting several local groups and forums and agencies. Since then the following has taken place:

- 3 free information sessions held for local organisations attended by over 50 people.
- 26 taster workshops already been booked by local groups
- 18 arts workers have been made available to work with groups
- Taster workshops starting in June.
- Workshops being made available to the end of the festival (end August) for those groups wanting more than just a taster.
- 'Arts Circus' at the Beeston Festival attracting many children, young people and parents.

Preparations have been made as follows;

- Support to other main local festivals by running the young person friendly 'Arts Circus' ie circus skills and other activities, plus space for people to say what they like about where they live.
- The 'Arts Circus' goes on tour to reach out to 6 neighbourhoods in July/august where, in addition to activities, local groups can run stalls and other activities. The neighbourhoods identified as being appropriate are: Belle Isle (playing field off Belle Isle Rd), Middleton (near to Middleton Community Centre), Hunslet (field opposite Penny Hill Centre), field next to S Leeds Sports Centre, Beeston (Heaths/Heathcrofts/Farr Beeston area), Cottingley (near to shops as part of Cottingley Fair).

The grand family finale is confirmed as being at John Charles Sports Centre on Saturday 1st September from 12 – 6pm. A draft programme for this may include DAZL's youth dance, a performance from a professional theatre company, possibly a joint performance by South Leeds High School/Cockburn plus smaller acts and displays from some of the groups and organisations involved in the Festival workshop programme.

Publicity for the Festival is being developed through the creation of a website (www.ilovesouthleeds.org), a news sheet and possibly a mini festival launch event.

Members are requested to encourage local groups to take up the free activity workshops and come along to events organized by the Festival – contact Festival Co-ordinator, Pete Turner 07748 224 878 or e-mail festival@ilovesouthleeds.org.

4.2 The Youth Bus

Following the last Area Committee meeting when various comments were made regarding the service for 07/08, the Area Co-ordinator has worked up a revised agreement with St Luke's Cares for full implementation from July. The detail of this proposal is attached with a summary below covering improvements to: monitoring and feedback, communication, visiting frequency, partnerships, sustainability.

a) Monthly updates on Ward activities are to be e-mailed direct to Ward Members in addition to monthly monitoring meetings held with the Area Management Officer, (Members are asked to raise with the officer any issues/preferences by 5th of each month prior to the monitoring meeting).

b) Councillors can visit the bus either on a drop in basis (advised to ring beforehand in case of changes) or on a regular basis perhaps as part of 'a meet your Councillor surgery' with young people. Members can also contact the Bus Co-ordinator direct on 0796853993 for information as required. Members will be consulted before each quarter's timetable is drawn up and once agreed, Members will be sent the timetable for each quarter.

c) To set up teams of 2 staff dedicated to Wards and known as '*Ward Crews*'. Each Ward Crew would deliver 3 x 2 hour sessions per week (1 extra session from last year) plus, sometime during the month, a share of 4 hours on a weekend (see proposed typical timetable in the appendix 1). The Ward Crews would signpost young people to provision where available. They would liaise with councillors and services/agencies (e.g inc Police and Youth Service, other youth provision) and keep them informed. Partners would contribute staff on the bus when they can. St Luke's intend to explore the potential role for the Youth Service in supporting or expanding the provision. Although this requires discussion with the Youth Service, examples could include the Youth Service allocating staff time and the Youth Service using the bus when it is not programmed (e.g on Monday eves and some weekends).

d) Unless Members state a preference, at weekends the service will rotate between Wards on an equal share basis rather than 'floating' the sessions according to where the need is.

e) Members views are welcomed regarding their preference for the frequency of visiting locations in their ward. Options could be either:

Option i) Regular weekly visits covering a few locations – more time for young people.

Or Option ii) Fortnightly visits covering several locations – less time for young people.

Or Option iii) If no preference is stated St Luke's will arrange the frequency according to their experience and knowledge of the area.

f) it is intended to move the provision from an already agreed location if after a maximum of 4 unsatisfactory visits to a location numbers are low or have decreased. During school holidays each Ward will receive a 2 hour session per week on top of the term time provision.

g) In the bus' downtime and when no other partners wish to hire it (proposed charges in the attached), St Luke's would utilise the bus for other projects it runs (ie Connexions service and the Inclusion Link Project). If Members accept this it is important to note that due to funding requirements for Connexions and Inclusion Link, St Luke's will need to serve all S Leeds high schools. As a consequence the bus would be, on occasions, visiting Outer South schools.

h) If St Luke's Cares uses the bus for their own projects as in (g), Members may wish to comment as to whether St Luke's should put something back into the bus in return for their free use e.g be charged for use of the bus, or they contribute in kind such as free use by Youth Service or additional staff contribution from St Luke's to the Ward Crews.

i) For the bus' future sustainability, St Luke's will explore future funding alternatives which, depending on how targeted the funding source is, may have implications for the actual deployment of the service in the future. Of course any potential changes will be discussed with the Area Committee at the earliest possible point.

j) Full details of the proposals discussed between St Luke's and the Area Management Team are contained in appendix 1.

4.3 Neighbourhood Safety work with young people

The intensive neighbourhood management funded Neighbourhood Safety Team based within Area Management working in conjunction with the Youth Service and the Police are developing a motorbike project to work with young people who misuse bikes. The project will initially educate up to 16 young people in how to ride legally.

5.0 REGENERATING AREAS

5.1 Beeston Hill and Holbeck

a) Work is ongoing in regard to the development of an Outline Business Case for the Housing PFI scheme. In particular there is a great deal of consultation activity underway this has involved both questionnaires and public meetings. The planned programme for this consultation is attached at appendix 2 . This report was written at a point early in the programme of consultaion so it was not possible to include results of the consultation. A visit to meet officers from the Department of Communities and Local Government is taking place on June 20th

b) In addition support has been given to the City Development Directorate as part of the programme of consultation on the possible redevelopments associated with Elland Rd.

c) Other developments and news in respect of the on-going regeneration of Beeston Hill and Holbeck include :

- Supported by the Area Regeneration Team, the New Bewerley Primary School and Children's Centre has been successful in three categories of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Pro Yorkshire Awards. Around 60 projects from the region were entered, and a total of 42 projects were short-listed in the eight categories. New Bewerley won the **Community Benefit Award**, and then went on also to win the **Regeneration Award**. All eight category winners were then considered for the **Pro Yorkshire Project of the Year Award**, New Bewerley won this award also. The project now goes forward to the National RICS Awards in London in the autumn.
- The Area Regeneration Team (ART) continue to keep in regular contact with the developers of the Greenhouse project (Shaftesbury House) in terms of support around security issues, encouraging the next phase of properties to be released to be targeted at local residents, promotion and marketing. A scheme to keep the areas around the project and Hillside tidier has also been promoted by the Team.
- The INM programme for South Leeds, co-ordinated by the ART, successfully completed its first year with over 95% spend and numerous revenue and capital projects completed.
- New streetlighting in parts of Beeston Hill and Holbeck ahead of the programmed schedule is being put in which will positively impact on the areas covered later in the year.
- An expression of interest for LEGI funding has been made to try to increase the work focused on the Parkside and Westland Road industrial estates.

5.2 Middleton

a) Middleton Regeneration Board

The first officer co-ordination group for the Middleton Regeneration Board took place in early June, shortly before the Board met on 11th June. The officer group will work on developing the action plan and will be the key link between the Middleton Neighbourhood Manager and key delivery organisations in terms of implementation of the action plan. Re'new are also working on the development of a brand for the work that is being undertaken in the area and this will also link in with the communications plan they are also developing.

The Regeneration Board received a report from The Northern Way Sustainable Communities Team who had undertaken a housing case study in part of Middleton, and also received an update report in respect of the development, through a series of workshops, of initial regeneration priorities for the estate

b) The Team submitted on behalf of a consortium of organizations led by the Belle Isle Foundation, an expression of interest to the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, highlighting the potential to develop a catalyst centre in the Belle isle / Middleton area. Mike Johnson, on behalf of the Area management Team also assisted South Leeds Health For All, as part of the same consortium, to submit an expression of interest in the idea of developing a development trust for the area. It would be the intention that should either of these proposals become a reality , that they link closely with the Regeneration Board where the overarching strategy for the area will be developed.

5.3 Neighbourhood Improvement Plans - NIPs (see also Priority Neighbourhood Development worker)

The following work has been undertaken in respect of NIPs

a) Central Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

The Central Middleton NIP is now complete – a summary report is attached at appendix 3. The final meeting of the NIP steering group took place in April when it was discussed that the successful work of the group and its membership would be built upon and re-launched as Middleton Neighbourhood Network to fit in with the work that is being developed as part of the Middleton Regeneration Board in partnership with Re'new.

The Area Committee is requested to note the attached report and its achievements on the NIP and that updates on the Middleton Neighbourhood Network will be presented to future Area Committee meetings.

b) Manor Farms NIP

A meeting with officers from a number of different organisations were held to get initial thoughts down for the development of the Manor Farms NIP action plan. The draft actions and key issues will be presented at the inaugural NIP meeting in mid-July.

c) Arthingtons NIP

Preliminary work has been carried out to determine the area to be covered by the NIP and to identify statistical information for the area profile.

d) Recreations NIP

Two meetings of the steering group have been held. The priority issues have been identified and the group have been involved in drawing up the draft action plan. An area profile has been prepared and discussed by the steering group.

6.0 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS (See also Operation Champion in Cleaner Neighbourhoods)

6.1 Senior Neighbourhood Warden

For 2007/8 the funding available for neighbourhood wardens will be under significant pressure and it will be necessary to deliver the service against a restricted budget. The area Function Schedule presented to the Executive Board in respect of the wardens service for 07/08 was based on the full implementation of the warden structure which was agreed during the course of the year, however, this was subject to a budget pressure which had meant that a level of vacancies had to be maintained in 06/07. The schedule for 07/08 reflects the current pattern of deployment of wardens across the city. To meet these pressures and to allow the full structure to be recruited to a Neighbourhood Renewal growth bid was submitted. However whilst a 2% increase to allow for inflation was achieved, due to pressure on the NR fund the full bid could not be accommodated. This will consequently require a process of vacancy management during this financial year.

There is also some uncertainty about the availability of future funding which could be utilised to support the Neighbourhood Warden Service. Decisions regarding the

Central Government decisions in respect of any future allocation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund will only following the comprehensive spending review anticipated to take place in early autumn. This could have significant ramifications for the size and shape of the Warden Service.

Against this backdrop it is apparent that the anticipated increase in the number of neighbourhood wardens within the south area (one additional post) will not be realised. The allocation of this post had been agreed by this committee and it was anticipated that the warden would be allocated to the Middleton Area.

In addition this Area Committee had agreed to create a Senior Neighbourhood Warden post as it was felt that this role was required to add extra support to each warden and their patches as well as develop and better co-ordinate additional projects to benefit the patches. As the Senior Neighbourhood Warden post has not been recruited to as yet and in the light of the above circumstances, Members may wish to reconsider this decision (which was initially taken in September 2006) and instead create a mainstream Warden post dedicated to the Middleton area or they may wish to continue to recruit a Senior Warden who would then have a patch for part of their role. If Members do wish to appoint a senior warden, it will be necessary to agree a small patch for their work. Alternatively members may take the view that in the present climate of uncertainty it is prudent to defer the decision until the availability of other funding for 2008/9 is known.

Whilst the above situation is clearly not desirable it is worth remembering that the Council has put additional funding into providing more Police Community Safety Officers, so that there will be at least 5 per ward.

6.2 Communtiy Cohesion

The District Partnership agreed earlier in the year to establish a culture and cohesion sub group, which will be coordinated by Leeds Voice on behalf of the voluntary and community sector. First meeting is likely to be planned for in June/July.

- 6.3 Peer Leadership / Conflict Resolution programme** organised by The Foundation For Peace in conjunction with Leeds Youth Service successfully worked with 72 young people in 2006/7. Plans are well advanced to run the programme again in 2007/8. It is intended that this year's programme will engage 96 young people. The Foundation would like to invite a delegation of Inner South Leeds members to visit the course during the residential element held in Warrington. Dates for this are yet to be established but Members area invited to express and interest

7.0 OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR INFORMATION

7.1 Area Committee future meetings venues

a) The responsibility for this task has now returned from Governance Services Unit back to the Area Management Team.

b) Below are venues which are proposed for the Area Committee to meet in for 07/08. The suggested venues take into consideration past venues the Area Committee have met in, other venues which have been looked into, the requirements of venues

for the meeting (e.g size, access, location and facilities), and views expressed by the Area Committee Members.

c) Following Members approval of the venues below, dates would be set up with 2 meetings taking place in each Ward in turn during 07/08.

- Beeston and Holbeck Ward: Watsonia Pavilion and St Matthews Community Centre
- City and Hunslet Ward: Civic Hall and Hamara Healthy Living Centre
- Middleton Park Ward: Belle Isle Family Centre and Middleton Community Centre

d) Should any of the above venues not be available for the area committee dates, it is proposed that the Area Management Team select an appropriate venue within the Ward as an alternative.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

No specific issues are identified

9.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No specific legal issues identified . Any decision in respect of the additional warden proposal will have financial implications , however a budgetary provision was made previously for a senior warden, and proposals contained within this report will result in no additional financial pressures and may provide for a saving which can be reallocated within the Wellbeing Budget.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked

a) (if Members have not already done so) to identify specific areas which warrant dedicated intensive clean up operations for carrying out between July and September.

b) to identify Members with an interest in attending part of the residential Foundation For Peace programme undertaken with Young People from South Leeds High school

c) to identify a preferred option in respect of the recruitment of a senior warden

d) regarding the Youth Bus:

i) to comment on and support the proposed improvements for the Youth Bus.

ii) to comment on the proposal for either free use or a returned contribution in kind when St Luke's Cares uses the bus for their own projects in its downtime.

iii) Members to state their preference for the frequency of visiting locations in their ward. Either:

Option i) Regular weekly visits covering a few locations – more time for young people.

Or Option ii) Fortnightly visits covering several locations – less time for young people.

Or option iii) to leave the decision up to the Bus co-ordinator based on past experience and local knowledge.

e) to note the attached final report on the central Middleton NIP and its achievements, and to note the proposal to update the Area Committee at a future meeting on the Middleton Neighbourhood Network which the NIP group will move on to become.

f) To determine the venues for all future meetings of the Area Committee for 07/08 as proposed in 7.1 c) and not the proposal in 7.1d) should any of the preferred venues not be available.