

Report of the Chair Outer East Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 10th September 2014

Subject: Work of Outer East Community Committee

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Temple Newsam Cross Gates & Whinmoor Kippax & Methley Garforth & Swillington		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. The report provides details of successful projects delivered in 2013/14
2. The report outlines the work of Community Committee Champions
3. The report details plans for themed Community Committee meetings in 2014/15.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

1 Purpose of this report

1.1 To provide details of projects, programmes of work and the role of Community Committee Champions in Outer East

1.2 To provide details on proposed themed Community Committee meetings in Outer East in 2014/15.

2 Background information

2.1 Area Committees were established in 2004 to improve service delivery at local level and deliver projects and programmes of work on priority issues in the locality. In 2014 Community Committees were established to build on the successes of Area Committees but to better engage with communities, and in particular increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings.

2.2 This report looks at successful projects that have recently been delivered, how the Community Committee Champions have helped shape those projects and plans for 2014/15, and details of themed Community Committee meetings in 2014/15.

3 Main issues

3.1 Project Work

3.1.1 Winter Warmth packs for the elderly. This project was delivered during winter 2013/14 and came from a meeting of the Area Lead Members (now known as Community Committee Champions) after a presentation on rising fuel costs and the issues around fuel poverty, especially amongst the elderly. Area Committee agreed to deliver a winter warmth pack to elderly vulnerable residents using the four Neighbourhood Networks in Outer East Leeds as the project deliverer. The packs included the following items:

- Tins of soup/stewing steak
- Bed socks
- Hat
- Gloves
- Scarf
- 2 fleece throws
- Thermal flask
- Hot water bottle

3.1.2 At the Outer East Older Persons sub – group it was agreed that each of the neighbourhood networks would hold launch events in their respective areas where energy advice would be given and ‘Green Doctors’ would be on hand to assist on all issues relating to fuel economy and keeping warm in winter.

3.1.3 In funding terms the Area Committee partnered up with what was then Aire Valley Homes and East North East Homes. Area Committee contributed £10,000

towards the project; Aire Valley Homes contributed £10,000; East North East Homes (who only covered a relatively small area in Outer East) contributed £1,300.

- 3.1.4 The packages were branded notifying residents that it had been funded by Area Committee, housing partners and supported by the neighbourhood networks. The neighbourhood networks identified the people to whom packs would be provided and in total 1,400 packs were delivered to elderly vulnerable people.
- 3.1.5 The project supported the Area Committee Business Plan priority '*Vulnerable members of the community are able to live independently at home for longer*'
- 3.1.6 The feedback has been very good with the most responses received for any single project delivered by Area Committee. Discussions are currently being held at the Older Persons Forum on whether a similar project should be delivered in 2014/15. Some of the feedback appears to be that a more generic well-being pack should be considered and that perhaps some of the most vulnerable who do not interact with the neighbourhood networks missed out. These issues will be addresses should a similar project be repeated.
- 3.1.7 The new Community Committee has continued to support project work with the elderly having agreed to fund a number of other projects that support the elderly and reduce social isolation including:
- a gardening service for elderly and disabled residents
 - a luncheon club officer who is employed to support, sustain and create new luncheon clubs for the elderly
 - funding an annual older persons event week with events happening in each ward in Outer East Leeds.

3.2 Improvements to playgrounds and recreational areas in Swillington, Garforth and Whinmoor

- 3.2.1 In 2013/14 Area Committee invested substantial Well Being funds into the extension/improvement of playgrounds and recreational areas in Outer East Leeds.
- 3.2.2 **Swillington.** This was an extension and improvement of an existing under 5's childrens playground which is on Parish Council land. The project included replacing the surface and several items of toddler equipment; supplying a 4 mtr pyramid and grassmat, basket swings and grassmat, 2 junior goals and a continuous activity grassmat.
- 3.2.3 The project cost was £59,000 with Area Committee awarding £7,000. It supported the Area Committee priority to *provide a range of positive activities for young people*' and was match funded from the following sources:
- Caird Barden Community Fund - £33,000
 - Aire Valley Homes - £15,000
 - Tesco Charitable Trust - £4,000

3.2.4 **Garforth (Barley Hill) Playground.** Area Committee awarded £10,000 towards the cost a full refurbishment at Barley Hill Park. It provided enhanced play opportunities for children of all ranges and abilities. The project provided improved landscaping and new surfacing along with the following new equipment:

- Flat swings
- Basket swings
- Inclusive roundabout
- Musical play items
- See saw
- Multi- climbing unit and slide
- Talk tubes
- Balance and rocking equipment

3.2.5 The project cost was met from the following sources:

- Aire Valley Homes(AVH) Environmental Fund - £7,000
- Area Committee Well Being Fund - £10,000
- AVH Area Panel - £5,000
- Section 106 - £55,408
- Ward Based Initiatives - £17,685

3.2.6 **Whinmoor Park Environmental Improvements.** This project undertook improvements to Whinmoor Park – Hebden Way Whinmoor after complaints concerning the condition of the park, in particular with regards to the footpaths through the park and the visual appearance of the tennis courts.

3.2.7 The main concern was the condition of the footpath that links Sherborn Road North with Hebden way. As one of the main routes for residents accessing buses this path is heavily used and there had been a number of incidents with people suffering from slips, trips resulting in sprains, twisted ankles etc.

3.2.8 In addition to resurfacing the paths, the project undertook extensive landscaping works to the former playground in the form of removing the hard standing, soiling and seeding over. New fencing was erected and the tennis courts resurfaced.

3.2.9 The total cost of the project was £45,000 with funding provided from the following sources:

- Well Being Budget - £10,000
- AVH Environmental Fund - £5,000
- S106 - £28,000
- Parks & Countryside - £2,000.

3.3 Community Committee Champions

3.3.1 Community Committee Champions appointed to the following positions in Outer East are:

- Children & Young People – Cllr Debra Coupar
- Environment & Community Safety – Cllr Mary Harland
- Health & Well Being and Adult Social Care – Cllr Andrea McKenna
- Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr Judith Cummins and Cllr Pauleen Grahame

3.3.2 The Community Committee Champions have been meeting bi-monthly for approximately 12 months and have set themselves three main objectives:

- The first is to set the priorities for Outer East by theme and then incorporate these into the Community Plan where activities and projects are developed. Members Champions then take an active role in ensuring the projects and programmes of work deliver the outputs set
- The second responsibility is to take up and deal with issues raised at Community Committee that often take up much of the business time of the Committee. Part of this is liaising with the officer assigned to support the champion.
- The third task is to agree the theme and support the planning of the themed Community Committee events going forward this year and in the future

3.3.3 Examples of some of the successes of Community Committee champions include the winter warmth packs for the elderly; active lifestyle projects in Swarcliffe to address issues such as childhood obesity; establishing firm relationships with future major employers such as Scarborough Developments (Thorpe Park); resolving a number of issues relating to School Clusters; providing a framework for shared workspace with partners in community safety such as West Yorks Police and LASBu.

3.4 Themed Community Committee meetings in 2014/15

3.4.1 Outer East Community Committee has agreed its work programme for 2014/15 whereby it will set aside approx. 30 to 45 minutes of its meeting for business and the rest will be workshops to address the key issues in the area.

3.4.2 The programme has been set out as follows:

- October 2014 – priority theme on Employment & Skills
- January 2015 – priority theme Health & Well Being and the Care Act
- March 2015 – Safer Communities and Improving the Environment

3.4.3 **Employment & Skills.** The intention is to hold this Community Committee meeting at Thorpe Park in East Leeds as the development of that site will provide several thousand jobs over coming years. The exact format of the meeting is still being worked up but initial thoughts are as follows:

Theme: How do we raise aspiration and effectively connect communities to the opportunities from Thorpe Park?

Part 1 – Presentation – 10 mins

Thorpe Park overview: proposal timeframe, scale etc.

Part 2 – presentation followed by round table discussion – 25 mins

The school engagement event (now not scheduled until end Oct) will focus on schools/academies engaging with Thorpe Park to raise the aspirations of parents and pupils through a range of means including:

- an enhanced curriculum offer
- a practical connection with the development e.g. site visits, work experience etc.

How can partners outside the compulsory education system, reinforce these aspirations with parents and the wider community?

Part 3 – round table discussion – 25 mins

How can partners best coordinate efforts to reach, engage and support those hardest to help to successfully compete for Thorpe Park opportunities?

- What are the key barriers to success?
- What are some of the solutions?
- Are there gaps in provision/areas of duplication?
- How do we effectively disseminate information and coordinate activity?

Part 4 – discussion on construction jobs and apprenticeships-15 mins

Discussion led by Construction Leeds. Anticipated construction jobs, apprenticeships, length of building contracts, employing local people etc.

What have we learnt from previous schemes such as The Arena, Trinity etc.

Part 5 – Feedback and next steps – 15 mins

This will include outcomes from the session and how we follow up.

3.4.4 Community Committee themed events will be promoted at Community Forums and on the Outer East Facebook page. Attendees at the event will include Employment & Skills staff, representatives from the five Outer East High Schools, Job Centre Plus, Dept of Work & Pensions, Leeds City College, Leeds Building College, Youth Service, Scarborough Developments etc.

3.4.5 **Health & Well Being and The Care Act 2014.** The Community Committee scheduled for January 2015 will concentrate on these two priority areas. Outer East Community Committee has invested considerable resources into the Health & Well Being agenda and will continue to support work that improves the health of local people. The Care Act has significant implications for the elderly and Community Committee determined that this had to have a full debate as early as possible. In terms of Well Being spent in recent years a significant amount has funded additional

services for the elderly including a gardening scheme, luncheon club coordinator, various security schemes for the elderly and older persons event week.

3.4.6 **Safer Communities and the Environment.** This will be the lead item for the March 2015 meeting. CCTV, Community Policing and environmental concerns are regularly raised at Community Forums and local representatives will be invited to this meeting to help set priorities going forward.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Outer East Community Committee has seven Community Forums that meet quarterly. This is the main means of engagement with local people but it is supported by ad hoc community events and galas, Outer East Facebook page and the Community Committee newsletter.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 All projects funded from Well Being must have an equal opportunities policy and as outline which equality group the project will work with, and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.

4.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:

- Vision For Leeds
- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Health and Well Being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 There is no new resource implications detailed within this report. In all requests for funding from Community Committee applicants are asked to consider value for money during the application process

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications and this report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Community Committees will further develop the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process by actively involving residents in themed Community Committee meetings and other engagement activity in Outer East Leeds. Outer East Community Committees will continue to support projects and programmes of work that enhance service delivery and continue to invest in local facilities.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.