

**Report of: The West North West Area Leader (Citizens and Communities)**

**Report to: to Inner West Community Committee (Armley, Bramley & Stanningley and Kirkstall)**

**Report author: Sarah Geary (3367872)**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**To endorse**

## **Community Committee Update Report**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report updates the Community Committee on the work of the three sub groups of the Committee: General Purposes, Children and Young People and Environment.
2. This report updates the Committee on pieces of work and partnership working that has taken place in the area since the last meeting.

### **Main issues**

#### **3. General Purpose Sub Group**

The Inner West General Purposes Sub Group was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Key issues that were discussed are:

##### Employment Skills and Welfare Update

Cllr McKenna and Jane Hopkins presented data and updates for Inner West:

- Although there have only been two meetings of the Board there has been considerable progress in formulating effective connections between partners and stakeholders.
- There has been a decrease in JSA claimants across the 3 wards.

- There has been an increase in Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance across the wards.
- Leeds City College have commenced delivery of the 50+ programme, the profile of customers for this scheme is generally male, socially isolated and frequent experience of low mood.
- Credit Union membership has grown from 6250 in early 2013 to 6800 by the end of 2014.

### Armley Mills Industrial Museum

Mark Mills, Executive Manager in Regeneration, presented the meeting with an overview of the Museum and some of the draft proposals on how the site might be better utilised to increase footfall and visitor numbers. Possibilities include creating better access to the site on foot from the canal and Kirkstall, reviewing the current layout of the museum to create a new visitor entrance, and improving the café facilities. There are a number of short term changes alongside a long term vision to create a much improved visitor offer.

The discussion following the presentation was broadly supportive, but Members emphasised that local people must be consulted and engaged in the process and that there should be more done to promote and celebrate the work that is already taking place on site. Also, that whilst the buildings are of interest, there is a human story to be told about the Mill.

### Joined Up Leeds

Fiona Fylan explained to the meeting what Joined Up Leeds was about - the sharing of data between Leeds City Council and the NHS. The consultation period is very short but events are taking place around the City and if people want to find out more details are on [www.facebook.com/joinedupleeds](http://www.facebook.com/joinedupleeds).

### Ahead Partnership – Business Project

Amrit Choda from the Ahead Partnership detailed some of the elements of the Business Brokerage project that has been funded through the Outer West Committee this year. This included working with a diverse range of businesses, establishing monthly 'Boardroom local' events, educational workshops – based on what businesses had asked for and communicating with businesses through a regular newsletter. Discussion was held as to whether some or all elements of this project could be delivered in Inner West.

### Environmental Services

Chris Chamberlain is the new Team Leader for the Inner West Environment Team. He is looking to do much more pro active work across the area including being involved in some of the existing work such as Student Changeover. Chris can be contacted on [Christopher.chamberlain@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.chamberlain@leeds.gov.uk).

#### **4. Children & Young People Sub Group**

The Children and Young People Sub Group met on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Youth Service providers updated the group on current provision and highlighted challenges they will face in maintaining delivery with an expected budget reduction next year.

The group approved an engagement strategy for the Inner West which will consult with young people in school and youth work settings, as well as forming ward based engagement groups that will develop young people to mystery shop activities and join the new Children and Young People's Board. A copy of the strategy is appended to this report.

Officers provided an update on the Youth Activities Fund and presented a number of applications for Easter holiday provision. These are listed in the Wellbeing fund report.

#### **5. Environment Sub Group**

The Inner West Environment Sub Group met on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and discussed the following:

##### Leeds Empties

Gill Coupland, Co- Director talked through what Leeds Empties do as a service and the challenges they face. A discussion took place to explore new ways of linking in with partners and to engage with residents to make referrals.

##### Locality Team Update

A report was presented which highlighted the number of service requests, fixed penalty notices and legal notices served. There were high numbers of bins not returned in Armley, fly tipping across the three wards and domestic waste issues reported.

The second part of the restructure which is related to the appointment of Charge Hands is currently on hold as staff rejected the Authority's proposal for a new structure in a recent ballot.

##### Leeds Housing Update

The sub group were asked to identify three priority areas for Housing to carry out more targeted work. The sub group put forward: the Fairfields, Wythers, Ganners, Summerfields, Clydes Estate and Ley Lane.

##### Parks and Countryside Delegation

Mike Kinnaird presented the delegation. The main points of the report were:

- The Community Committee will be responsible for determining resource priorities

- The number of sites have been extended to include horticultural maintenance of community parks, cemeteries, recreation grounds, urban woodland, natural areas and local green spaces
- The nursery, allotments, bereavement services, forestry, transport, engineering technical and administrative functions are not included in the delegation
- After 2015 it will not be possible to secure S106 developer contributions for green space improvements. This will be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Staff now work seasonal work patterns
- There is no additional budget with the delegation

The delegation was approved.

#### **6. Armley Forum – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The forum received an update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, who reported on a series of successful arrests and prosecutions in the area recently. They also reported on ongoing work to tackle street drinking problems on Armley Town Street.

An officer from the Environment team attended the meeting and updated the forum on their work in the area. The owners of a couple of nuisance sites in the area have been contacted and asked to clear up their land. This news was welcomed by local residents.

A member of staff from the Housing team also attended the meeting and informed residents of their relocation to the Armley Hub, which would allow members of the public easier access to staff to discuss their housing needs.

#### **7. Bramley & Stanningley Forum – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The forum received an update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, who reported on an increase in burglary. Half of the properties targeted were through insecure doors or windows, and crime prevention advice was provided by the officers.

The Senior Planning Officer for the area attended to update the forum on a range of ongoing and proposed developments. Residents were pleased that a number of derelict sites were now about to be developed for much needed housing.

A representative from the new Bramley Lawn centre provided information on the new facility and the wide range of activities that were planned; including a pop up restaurant, exercise classes for older people and a monthly cinema night.

#### **8. Kirkstall Forum – 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

The focus for this forum was on Clayton Court and Clayton Grange. The meeting was well attended and there was heated discussion about the condition and maintenance of the two blocks including concern about damp in the flats, maintenance of communal areas and the mobile phone masts on the roof. There were also concerns raised about anti-social behaviour in the area including noise nuisance and drug dealing. One

resident proposed a new tenants group for the blocks and was keen to work together to make improvements.

Jenna Riley, the Community Planner provided planning updates including a discussion about the Tesco site at Kirkstall and the revised proposals for Woodside Quarry, which although just outside Kirkstall Ward would impact upon residents in the area.

An environmental update was provided by Paul Mathews explaining the process by which residents can report graffiti, fly tipping and waste issues.

## 9. **Ley Lane**

Following a consultation with Holy Family Primary School and local residents, it was agreed to fund the following projects from the Wellbeing Ley Lane Improvement Project:

- Install football posts and mark out the pitch
- Breeze to attend Saturday mornings for 2 hours from Feb half term to the end of March to do various games with local young people both indoors and outdoors
- Install fitness equipment

The football pitch has been marked out and the Breeze sessions have started.

The Armley Members have identified an underspend from the 2014/15 Wellbeing budget which they would like to use for Ley Lane. Officers are currently drawing up a list of possible projects based on feedback from the local community.

## 10. **Neighbourhood Improvement Board**

It was agreed at the November 2014 West Neighbourhood Improvement Board that a plan on a page be developed for each of the priority neighbourhoods. Each plan will reflect the key priorities relevant to that neighbourhood. Since the November 2014 meeting, data on each area has been collated and reviewed and consultation with key partners, including Public Health, Employment and Skills, Community Safety, Housing Leeds and Children's Services has been undertaken. Draft plans on a page for seven priority neighbourhoods have been developed and were presented at the February 2015 meeting for consideration and discussion. Discussions have also been held with the Ward Members in Farnley and Wortley and the Inner West Members regarding Chair nominations for the new Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships in the Heights and Bawns, Wythers and Hawksworth Wood.

A paper was also produced to enable a focused look at New Wortley, and Bill Graham attended the meeting to talk about the 'Our Place' partnership work that is underway in New Wortley.

Next steps will be to finalise the neighbourhood improvement plans through the local neighbourhood improvement partnerships and develop a set of targets against actions, along with progressing programmes of work across all priority neighbourhoods.

## 11. Community Committees

May sees the end of the first year of Community Committees. The format of the meetings has significantly different to the former Area Committees and with fewer reports and a more interactive approach, discussing topics of local relevance.

Please see below a summary of the topics that have been discussed to date. A more detailed review will follow:

### District Centres, July 2014

The first Community Committee meeting was well attended by a range of partners including economic development, regeneration and town centre management as well as representatives from the commercial sector.

The Armley discussion prioritised improving the environment on Town Street and creating a safe and accessible district centre. The Bramley and Stanningley group focused on Bramley shopping centre, in particular working with the centre owners to support small businesses and develop community led projects. For Kirkstall, the discussion looked at the connectivity of the new development on the former BHS site to the existing retail offer on Kirkstall Road, ideally through the establishment of a local 'Town Team'.

Actions progressed to date:

- A multi-agency group has been meeting to focus on safety on Town Street, and funding was secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Committee for alcohol outreach work.
- The new zonal street cleansing teams are in place and focusing on improving the cleanliness of district centres.
- Funding has been approved for parking signs on Town Street to improve access to parking spaces.
- Bramley and Stanningley Members have met with the owners of Bramley Shopping Centre. Plans are underway to improve the car park and extend the retail offer. A commitment has been made to not let space to any more high cost lenders.
- Bramley Community Shop opened offering a base for the Credit Union and a range of advice services.
- Phase one of the Kirkstall Town and District Centre scheme is underway. A local artist is being commissioned to design lamppost banners with local school children.

### Engaging & Increasing the Influence of Children & Young People – October 2014

Members of the Community Committee were joined by young people from across the three wards who gave interesting presentations before contributing to the round table discussions. A number of key themes emerged including engaging with young people in a setting they're comfortable with, using social media to publicise activities, and providing a mechanism for young people to put forward ideas and represent their community.

Two main areas to progress were agreed through the Children and Young People's Sub Group:

- To develop and implement a consultation strategy with various levels of engagement through informal consultation through to the establishment of a Children and Young People's Board.
- To develop and implement a marketing strategy to promote engagement opportunities and out of school activities.

Actions progressed to date:

- The consultation strategy has been approved.
- A rolling programme of consultation activities is being arranged, and ward based engagement groups are up and running in Armley and Bramley with a Kirkstall group in development. The engagement groups will nominate members to sit on the Children and Young People's Board which will meet for the first time at a residential in May.

#### Parks and Greenspace – December 2015

There were four discussion groups at this meeting covering parks, play, volunteering and developing the Kirkstall Valley Park.

Parks:

Feedback from the discussion groups recommended focusing on the basics to create safe and clean recreation spaces for people to enjoy, such as the provision of bins, upgrading paths and improving signage and interpretation.

Play:

The discussion groups asked services to explore imaginative play rather than the traditional fixed equipment, and develop play opportunities within local communities.

Volunteering:

The groups wanted to better understand the barriers to volunteering, and how to promote the benefits around mental health and employment.

Actions progressed to date:

- Site based gardeners to be funded in community parks in Bramley and Kirkstall
- A working group has been established to invest Community Committee and Ward Based Initiative funding at Ley Lane greenspace. New goalposts and markings have already been installed.
- Regular meetings are held to develop the Kirkstall Valley Park scheme, and a boundary has been agreed. Funding has been earmarked from the Community Committee to pay for the planning application and a flood survey to kick start the project.

### Childhood Obesity – January 2015

A wide range of partners attended the meeting including representatives from GP practices, an academic from Leeds Beckett University, and officers from Healthy Schools and Public Health. Ward based discussions followed a presentation from the 'Food Dudes' on their new school offer and a Q&A session with a panel of experts.

The priority themes that emerged from the meeting included identifying and overcoming barriers, improving access to healthy food, and increasing physical activity.

As this topic is cross cutting, the General Purposes Sub Group will be asked to agree a set of actions around these priority themes to take forward with the relevant agencies.

## **Corporate**

- a. **Consultation and engagement** - Local priorities were set through the Area Business Plan process.
- b. **Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration** - The Business Planning process takes into account equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues.
- c. **Council policies and city priorities** - The themes in the Business Plan mirror the themes and priority outcomes at a city wide level and also reflect the delegated functions and priority advisory functions.

## **Conclusion**

12. The work of the sub groups will be essential in the delivery of the Community Committee priorities. The Area Support Team continues to look at opportunities to develop projects and promote new ways of working to achieve the objectives outlined in the Business Plan.

## **Recommendations**

13. To note the report including the key outcomes from the sub groups.

## **Background information**

- None