

Report of the Chair, Outer East Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 8 July 2015

Subject: 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 the themed Community Committee meetings/workshops held in 2014/15.
2. The report provides details of successful projects delivered in 2014/15
3. The report outlines the work of Community Committee Champions

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 the work of Outer East Community Committee in 2014/15 including specific projects funded and the work of Community Committee Champions.
- 1.2 The report also provides details on Community Committee workshops held in 2014/15 and some the actions resulting from those workshops.

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 replaced Area Committees 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 been delivered, how the Community Committee Champions have helped shape those projects and workshops held in 2014/15.

3 Main issues

3.1 Outer East Community Committee Workshops 2014/15

- 3.1.1 Three workshops were held on the following topics which are considered high priority in the area:

- **October 2014 Employment & Skills** – ‘How do we raise aspiration and effectively connect communities to the opportunities at Thorpe Park?’
- **January 2015 Adult Social Care** – presentation on The Care Act and workshop on ‘tackling social isolation and loneliness through partnership working.’
- **March 2015 Community Safety** – ‘Tackling domestic violence and abuse.’

- 3.1.2 ***How do we raise aspiration and effectively connect communities to the opportunities at Thorpe Park?*** The meeting was held at Vicars Court, Allerton Bywater (residence of The Brigshaw Trust). Over 60 people attended with presentations provided by Scarborough Developments, LCC Employment & Skills service, Children’s Services and Construction Housing Yorkshire. There was also a presentation from the general manager from Siemens who provided an insight into the type of people and skills employers were looking for.

- 3.1.3 Since the workshop there have been a number of setbacks at the Thorpe Park site including having difficulties getting a major retailer to move onto the site as well as the blue chip company, Surgical Innovations, deciding not to locate to the site after announcing financial difficulties. Fortunately a retailer has now been identified.

3.1.4 Despite these setbacks Scarborough Developments have continued to engage with the local community, especially schools, as part of its programme of engagement and promotion of the Thorpe Park development. Progress since the workshop has included:

- The site is currently being wrapped and some preparatory works such as tree clearance has started. Earthworks and site clearance will start in the summer of 2015. Any new construction works are unlikely to start until 2016.
- Approval for the construction of 300 new homes was given in January 2015. Start on site is likely to be 2017. The houses will be large 4/5 bedroom homes and construction will be in 3 phases over a 5 year period.
- The Ahead Partnership is now developing pilot projects with the David Young Academy, Co-op Academy, John Smeaton and Leeds East Academy. Brigshaw Academy has expressed interest in a teacher launch and pupil activity.
- All primary schools in the Seacroft & Manston Cluster are keen to be involved in a maths challenge with a focus on Thorpe Park and involvement by the Scarborough Group.
- Employment Leeds has met with the main contractor, GMI construction, ahead of construction opportunities. These are unlikely to be in large numbers at present. Planning applications are due to be submitted over the summer for two speculative office blocks. If planning is approved construction may begin in October/November with a completion date in July 2016.
- The Scarborough Group has confirmed phase 1 of the retail park should be open in summer 2017.

3.1.5 ***The Care Act and Tackling Social Isolation.*** This meeting was held at Swarcliffe Community Centre in January 2015 with approx. 50 people attending. The venue is home of Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme, who deliver services to elderly residents across that area. The Care Act presentation set out the new duties and powers for local authority's in relation to adult social care responsibility's; it also explained government reforms to the ways long term care will be funded. Following this a presentation was provided on social isolation with a workshop designed to consider how partners can work together to tackle this issue.

3.1.6 The key issue that came from the discussions was the need for more outreach work to engage with the 30% of elderly residents who are socially isolation. It is clear that neighbourhood networks are stretched to the limits and therefore work is progressing to identify partners and funders that can support a package that will provide additional resources to deliver outreach work in the Outer East. Community Committee will work with Housing Leeds, Adult Social

Care, the Neighbourhood Networks and the Older Persons Forum to find funding and support bids to deliver this work. It has been identified as a priority action in the Community Plan 2015/16.

- 3.1.7 **Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse.** This meeting was held at Swillington Miners and Social Welfare Club in March 2015 and attended by approx. 50 people. The meeting was presented with a local flavour of the domestic violence issues affecting Outer East Leeds and then split into three discussion groups covering the impact of domestic violence, gaps in services and what services need to improve.
- 3.1.8 Favourable feedback was received relating to the event and participants welcomed the opportunity and space to talk about domestic violence, abuse and the way it manifests itself in relationships. Participants were keen to express and explore the different types of domestic violence and abuse. A particular challenge is recognising domestic violence and abuse in a relationship, examples discussed include; controlling behaviour in relationships between young people, emotional and financial control in a relationship, intergeneration violence and abuse and the lack of information about where to get help from. Participants also highlighted particular work and support available in schools and other children's settings (schools, children's centres, midwives, etc.) as a positive way to support families suffering domestic violence and abuse.
- 3.1.9 A gap was highlighted in relation to those households without children who may experience forms of domestic violence and abuse but do not know where support is available. The groups also discussed issues relating to the lack of school places available for people fleeing domestic violence and abuse.
- 3.1.10 Following the workshop, an action plan has been drafted and services are currently discussing how the action plan can be resourced. The action plan will cover the following broad headings:
- Increase public awareness of domestic violence and increase knowledge of the support available
 - Ensure services and interventions meet the needs and expectations of victims
 - Establish a consistent and better developed response to perpetrators
 - Establish robust and effective information sharing across all stakeholders in order to maximise opportunities for protection and improved service delivery
- 3.1.11 **Going Forward with workshops in 2015/16.** The first workshop of this municipal year was held at Temple Newsam House and focused on environmental issues.

The turnout was the highest yet with approx. 80 people attending with an even spread from each of the 4 Outer East wards. The meetings focus was on developing social contracts between the Council and community in terms of not littering and taking responsibility for your dogs, especially dog fouling; it also focused on enforcement, personal responsibility in reporting littering and the potential for realigning services to address local priorities. Part of the presentation concerned the social contracts launch in the previous year when Garforth traders took on greater responsibility for their Main Street, including presentations in schools, window displays and a concerted effort to keep Main Street clean. The workshop action plan will now be used to strengthen and develop the partnerships. A couple of actions the Committee may be interested in taking forward include:

- Leeds to introduce a by-law (as in authorities such as Barnsley) where people walking dogs are required to carry doggy bags. Failure to do so could lead to a fine being imposed by an enforcement officer
- School closing time a problem for litter. To improve engagement with schools through clusters and make the issue of addressing littering part of the school policy.

Future workshops in 2015/16 will include meaningful youth participation and engagement, re-visiting social isolation, and Policing priorities.

3.2 Projects funded from delegated budgets in 2014/15

3.2.1 Well Being packs for the elderly. The objective behind this project was to support the neighbourhood networks engage with elderly residents who are socially isolated. There is still a hard core of around 20 to 30 % of elderly residents who are classes as socially isolated and with whom agencies such as neighbourhood networks are failing to engage with.

3.2.2 The plan is that by provided a well being pack this immediately gains the trust of the socially isolated person who will then continue to engage with the network. It is all part of a multi-faceted approach to the issue of social isolation. The Community Committee is pursuing a project to increase outreach work for those socially isolated with this project being part of a package to support that proposal. It also closely links with Social Prescribing which is being introduced by public health. The Well Being packs were jointly funded with Housing Leeds and Public Health.

3.2.3 Older Persons Event Week 2014. Outer East has funded this event for 10 years and over that time it has increased in size and developed into one of the main events of the Outer East social calendar for elderly residents. Spread over 5 days with events in each ward it continues to gain momentum and is another example of how the Community Committee supports the following priority in its Community Plan: 'vulnerable members of the community are able to live independently at home for longer.'

3.2.4 Luncheon Club development work for Older People. Community Committee awarded funding to provide a support worker at Garforth Neighbourhood Elders Team to support the current provision of luncheon clubs and develop new clubs. In recent years several clubs had folded and at others numbers attending has been dwindling. This officer has provided the support to the clubs with their accounts,

the organisation of the meals and dealing with issues that arise amongst members. There are now 12 clubs in total with 2 newly formed this year in Micklefield and Allerton Bywater. Numbers attending are continuing to increase at the original 10 clubs.

3.2.5 Foodbanks. These are being launched in Garforth and Allerton Bywater, supported by Garforth Neighbourhood Elders Team (NET) and the Brigshaw Trust. The funding was from the 2014/15 budget but the planning and organisation means that the launch will be in September 2015 using the newly set up Fare Share food storage depot at Cross Green. A further development is to link with other food providers in the area to discuss how they can also play a part ensuring ever more people in need are reached utilising existing resources.

3.2.6 Projects funded from priorities raised at community forums. Outer East Community Committee has 7 Community Forums that meet quarterly. These meetings are a way to engage with communities, provide information on issues affecting them and to address local concerns. A number of projects have been funded after priority concerns were raised at Community Forums:

- Whinmoor Forum – a survey undertaken to have a HGV ban on Coal Road and carry out new traffic calming after concerns raised by residents
- Halton Forum – additional/resurfacing carried out to provide additional parking in Whitkirk
- All Forums – additional litter bins provided funded from Well Being

3.2.7 Youth Activity Fund (YAF). This fund provided a wide range of activities for young people across Outer East, particularly in the fields of sport, arts and personal development. Some of these activities are detailed below:

- Cross Gates Cougars Athletics Club – working with LCC's Sports & Active Lifestyles Service and based at John Smeaton Leisure Centre, this project aimed at attracting new members to the sport by holding introductory sessions over several weeks in 2014. The sessions attracted 42 new people from the age range 8 – 15yrs. The project also identified 2 new young leaders who are being mentored to organise and run future activities.
- Summer Cricket Camps delivered by Yorkshire CCC. Over 3 weeks during the summer these coaching sessions attracted up to 80 children per day.
- Villages school holiday programme. This programme provided fun activities and developmental activities particularly around confidence building.
- Micklefield Primary Urban Rangers. Working with Groundwork Leeds this project provided a comprehensive range of activities to engage young people in positive, diversionary, environmental education programmes in their community. Up to 150 young people were involved in 10 sessions running from January to March 2015.

3.3 Community Committee Champions

3.3.1 Community Committee Champions positions were held by the following Members in Outer East during 2014/15.

- 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

In 2015/16 the Community Committee Champions are:

- Children & Young People – Cllr Helen Hayden
- Environment & Community Safety – Cllr Mary Harland
- Employment Skills & Welfare – Cllr Pauleen Grahame
- Health & Well Being & Adult Social Care – Cllr Andrea McKenna

3.3.2 Community Committee Champions meet bi-monthly for approximately 12 months and perform a number of objectives:

- Set the priority themes for Community Committee workshops and support the planning for the workshops
- 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 first point for considering YAF applications
- Work with colleagues to deliver programmes of work in priority neighbourhoods.
- Act as a starting point for developing Well Being and YAF projects
- Continue the follow up work and projects that come from Community Committee workshops

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 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.

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.