



Report of The Director, Environments and Neighbourhoods

Inner South Leeds Area Committee

Date: 18th September 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 by the Area Management Team and/or in conjunction with others. In particular amongst other issues, the report requests that the Committee makes recommendations regarding West Yorkshire Police Community Contacts.

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.

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

2.1 Binyard Improvement

Residents in the Westbournes, Bromptons and Trenthams have been consulted by Groundwork Leeds (who are to be appointed as project managers) who very much welcome the scheme. A problem has arisen in Back Lodge Lane and further thought is being given about how to deliver a viable scheme.

2.2 Clean ups

The following clean ups led by Streetscene Services' Environmental Pride Team have been carried out during the July to August period:

Broom Terrace
East Grange Rise
Woodviews (street only)

Members are invited to suggest locations for further intensive clean up operations. In addition to the above, Neighbourhood Wardens have organized or participated in smaller scale local community clean ups/household rubbish clean-ups during July and August in: Malvern Road/St. Lukes Green; Ward Lane (off West Grange Road); Bodmin Road and Street; Leasowes. During July there were 83 referrals to the Environmental Pride Team via the Area Management Team for day to day rubbish/litter clearing.

2.3 Operation Champion

Three Operation Champions have taken place since the last Area Committee meeting:

In July, Operation Champion covered the Bismarcks, Disrealis, Couplands, Flaxtons, Fulhams and Greenmounts area of Beeston Hill. Due to high crime and ASB rates, this neighbourhood was targeted as a repeat area following a similar operation in February. Having learnt lessons from the previous operation, key features of Operation Champion were altered. The focus of the operation was placed upon enforcement action with included for the first time the involvement of HM Customs. During the door knocking exercise, emphasis was placed on gaining information regarding ASB in the area and making referrals to ASBU with the aim of increasing intelligence in the area. The Smoking Service promoted their service and health advice was provided by a local health visitor.

Key results from the July operation were;

- ❑ 9 tonnes of bulky waste removed from the area
- ❑ 70 referrals made to CASAC for target hardening.
- ❑ 71 referrals made to West Yorkshire Fire Service for smoke alarms and home fire safety check.
- ❑ 54 items of graffiti removed from the area.
- ❑ 6 students returned to school following a truancy sweep.

- 26 known adult class A drug misusers known to live in the area were identified
- 73 notices were served by DVLA
- 15 vehicles were clamped or lified during the operation and 18 were removed the following week by DVLA.
- HM Courts Service made 7 arrests and retrieved £3048 of fines.
- 110 energy saving light bulbs distributed

The August operation concentrated on the Bodmins area of Middleton. 500 properties across the area received information packs and residents spoke to Champion representatives, giving them the chance to discuss or report any problem areas, noisy neighbours and/or any other information they wanted to put forward. Referrals for both home fire safety checks and CASAC security improvements were taken by the representatives. Free energy efficient light bulbs were also distributed. Civilian warrants had a successful operation collecting £1618 and 5 defendants were arrested. The DVLA served notice on 58 untaxed vehicles of which 19 were due to be removed.

The September operation is currently being planned and will be taking place in Beeston Hill.

2.4 Delegated Functions – Recycling/ Bring Back Sites.

As per the request at the last Area Committee meeting, the Area Management Team have informed all Members of this Area Committee about the procedures for establishing new recycling banks in the area. Members were advised that the relevant service dealing with this matter has informed us of the following:

- the Council can to a degree move existing banks around the area to maximise best use.
- since budgets delegated to Area Committees only cover maintenance of the banks and not capital outlay, extra funding will be needed to enhance/develop new bring sites in the area. Some Area Committees have used their well-being budget to do this, and there are currently proposals to provide other sites funded by the Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme.
- the cost of glass recycling banks at present are £350.00 each + delivery. Paper and Can banks are supplied free by the relevant contractors.
- costs for carrying out enhancement works for a bring back site (screening and concrete pads etc) vary depending on the contractors surveying the location of the proposed site and could potentially be in excess of 10k.

Prior to considering paying for any new bring back sites, Members may want to be aware that proposals on enhanced household collections are anticipated to go to the September 11th Executive Board meeting for consideration.

3.0 INVOLVING COMMUNITIES

3.1 Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker

a) South Leeds Health For All presented a part year report at the March meeting of the Area Committee at which it was decided to continue to commission the post for a second year in 06/07. Since the postholder has now worked a full year since August 2006, a full report written by the worker on the whole 12 months is attached to this report for information.

b) The worker has also provided a forward plan for August 07 to August 08 also attached to this report. Members comments are welcomed on this forward plan following which it is proposed that the Area Management Team works with South Leeds Health For All to revise on the basis of the committees feedback, implement and monitor its application.

c) Since the last Area Committee meeting, the main achievements of this project are as follows:

- Middleton Community Group:- continued help with publicising the meetings (800 flyers delivered) – 20 residents attending July’s meeting; residents met Highways to consider 20mph zone for Sissons; 12 entries to newly formed Middleton in Bloom; residents involved in I Love South Leeds Festival in story making and photography workshops with a view to displaying work at the Grand Festival Finale and to creating a 2008 Calendar.
- Manor Farms:- helped publicise residents group and its meetings; attended meetings; involved in NIP.
- Cottingley:- continued support to Cottingley in Bloom helping monthly action events; 18 ASDA volunteers helped group with flower beds and community garden; Welcome Boards delayed due to planning permission needed; 6 entries to garden competition; help with small grant application for TRACs newsletter which was produced and delivered; assisted inter-generational work on Dulverton Court garden with school; helped organise Summer Fayre – 200 attended.
- Recreations:- involved in NIP steering group; promoted and set up residents group through distributing 1300 flyers – 11 attended.
- Arthingtons:- assisting in setting up NIP
- Other work:- assisting in setting up Belle Isle engagement work, grants advice to Manorfield Hall

3.2 Support to community festivals

In early June the Beeston Festival was helped with officers helping with areas such as health and safety, liaising with licensing and Police and providing general advice throughout the year. There was all day contribution from 9 officers from Area Regeneration and Area Management teams helping with setting up, traffic and stalls including neighbourhood liaison safety. Wardens were present and The signpost service assisted in the children’s area and provided a bouncy castle.

Holbeck Gala had a link with one officer throughout the year providing support and drawing up manuals for health & Safety and licensing and advising on booking of performers, stalls, liaison with Police and arranging for marquees. 7 officers attended on the day to help set up and run things. Neighbourhood Wardens were also present. One officer and their family even baked 200 buns!

Mariner’s Multicultural Day – an officer helped the Mariners organize this event by providing information on performers, advice on funding, press release, help on the day and enabled a Warden to be present.

3.3 Community consultation

At the time of writing this report an initial meeting of Middleton Park Ward Councillors and agencies providing services to young people in Belle Isle Area, has been planned to take place on 6th September. The meeting is aimed at exploring ways of engaging with young people in the area.

3.4 Community centres

Following on from the report submitted to the last Area Committee regarding a draft pricings and lettings policy, information packs have been sent to all registered users of community centres – the information packs provided details about why we need the current policy to change as well as information on the schedule of discounts and charges. Also, after discussions with the Lettings Unit, the implementation of any revised pricing and charging policy wouldn't be put in place until 1st April 2008 – this implementation date had to be revised as lettings are renewed on a six monthly basis, this would also allow time to communicate the changes to users and calculate the new charges for each individual user.

At the last Area Committee meeting, Members raised a query with regards to the budgets that were delegated as part of the Area Function Schedule and reason why some facilities were generating no income at all. Subsequent to the Committee meeting it became apparent that there were some inaccuracies with the data provided in respect of other areas. Nonetheless, the facilities in other areas of the city have been given large efficiency saving targets to cover the lack of income being generated. South Community Centres do have some efficiency saving targets but not as great as those in the other areas. It is acknowledged that the community facilities in South Leeds are operating more efficiently than the some of the other buildings elsewhere in Leeds.

The first meeting of the Inner South Community Centres Sub Committee took place in June. A main task out of this initial meeting is to carry out a mapping exercise to highlight where all community facilities are located. This piece of work will look at all community buildings, not just those owned / managed by the Council.

A meeting was held in July to discuss the provision of an IT Suite at St Matthews Community Centre. This would mean that one room of the facility would be converted into IT provision for the community and no other users would be able to book the room. A business plan has been requested to be produced to outline the need for the provision and how the resource is to be funded. Updates on the progress with this proposed scheme will be provided at future Area Committee Meetings.

4.0 MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

4.1 I Love South Leeds Festival!

This programme of activity took place at various venues throughout the summer months and has now concluded. A full report evaluating the effectiveness of the festival will be produced for the next Area Committee. The report will contain a range of options concerning engagement activity with young people for the summer of 2008.

4.2 The Youth Bus

Following the last Area Committee meeting when Members had approved the improvement plan for the Youth Bus for its second year, the following recommendations have already been acted on:

- Monthly updates on Ward activities have been e-mailed direct to Ward Members. (In July 411 young people were involved with the Youth Bus across inner south and 476 in August).
- Monthly monitoring meetings held with St Luke's Cares and the Area Management Team link officer.
- The Youth Bus' Ward Crews have been reestablished and have been delivering 3 x 2 hour sessions per term time week (1 extra session from last year) plus, a share of 4 hours on a weekend plus, during the summer school holidays, each Ward has received another 2 hour session per week.
- Ward crews are signposting young people to provision where available and liaising with councillors and services/agencies to keep them informed.
- A letter has been issued to agencies informing them of the second year of the Youth Bus' operation and clarifying that St Luke's Cares is managing the bus on behalf of the Area Committee and that it is not St Luke's Care's own bus. The new 'Youth Bus' logo reflects this.
- Unless Ward Members have expressed a preference for the frequency of visiting locations in their ward, St Luke's Cares has arranged the frequency according to their experience and knowledge of the area.

Further work to be done:

- St Luke's to explore the potential role for the Youth Service in supporting or expanding the provision and for other agencies to make use of the bus in its downtime.
- the bus' future sustainability such as exploring future funding alternatives.

If not already carried out Members are reminded that :

- If they wish to influence the next quarter's (Oct to end Dec) timetable, member's views are welcomed to the bus co-ordinator (Jo Sutherland) ASAP in order that arrangements can be made for staff to plan, notices given to young people and specific locations assessed for suitability.
- They 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.

Regarding the downtime of the Youth Bus and its use by St Luke's Cares own projects:

As per the request of Members from the last Area Committee meeting, St Luke's Cares has provided a proposal for the use (and charges) of the bus in its downtime. This proposal is attached to this report. The Group Manager at St Luke's has confirmed that they currently do not intend to utilise the bus for any of its own projects and that if they were, they would expect to pay the same charges they are proposing for the voluntary sector outlined in the attached sheet. Members views on this proposal are welcomed.

4.3 Neighbourhood safety work with young people (in the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Areas)

Motor Bike Project

The motor bike project ran by the 2 Neighbourhood Safety Liaison Officers commenced in July. 9 young people are currently completing the project. Referrals were taken from West Yorkshire Police, Signpost, South Leeds High School, St Luke's Cares and the Youth Service. The young people are currently attending one full day a week in order to complete the OCN (Open College Network) Accreditation in Motor Bike Maintenance and Welding course for the older group. The project is taking place at Bumpy in Birstall. When the young people return to school, they will commence sessions on a Wednesday evening 4-6pm. In August, the young people completed the Bronze Bumpy test allowing them to access Bumpy out of the project time at a reduced cost.

Following the summer holiday period the young people will be commencing the road safety element of the project. West Yorkshire Fire Service will be attending a session with the young people to discuss the consequences of motor vehicle theft and arson related incidents. West Yorkshire Police will also host one session. Those 16 and over will be completing their CBT License between Autumn and Christmas.

Consultation has commenced in The Clearings area of Belle Isle to gain feedback from residents regarding proposed environmental improvements. The aim of the planned work is to prevent access by motor bikes onto green space that is currently experiencing high volumes of illegal riding. Consultation is being undertaken by Groundwork who will also be completing sessions with the young people engaging in the project. Environmental improvements are planned to be completed during the Autumn.

4.4 Summer school holiday activities publicity

The Area Management Team provided support for the production of the Summer Chill booklet which listed holiday activities for children and young people throughout South Leeds. 25,000 booklets were printed and distributed to all schools and its pupils, key establishments such as libraries, community centres and One Stop Centres. This year, for the first time, this Area Committee initiated project was funded through Children Leeds.

5.0 REGENERATING AREAS

5.1 Beeston Hill and Holbeck

Work is still continuing at pace on the development of the Outline Business Case for the proposed PFI scheme. It is still intended to submit the OBC by early October and discussions with the responsible central government department have been highly encouraging. One of the key lines of activity taking place at the moment concerns detailed options appraisal of all elements of the scheme. This may lead to some changes from the initial proposals contained within the Expression of Interest.

Due to the unexpected availability of finance, work has started on the evaluation of bringing forward a third phase of possible acquisition and demolition of back to back terraced properties in Holbeck. The affected houses are those remaining houses in the same street block as phase 2 namely, Runswick Street and Terrace. If the option

of acquiring these properties is feasible, subject to Executive Board approval it is anticipated that work will start this financial year.

The Beeston Hill and Holbeck Regeneration Board received a report on the 13th July 2007 concerning the proposed social inclusion strategy linking the BHH area with the regeneration activity taking place in the Holbeck Urban Village. The report sought to address potential divides between the two areas by identifying ways in both areas could work together and benefit from the activity and opportunities afforded by the other area. The report identified 10 key themes where it was possible to develop joint actions over the next two years. A full copy of this report is available from the area regeneration team.

Leeds City Council is putting forward for a national award the South Leeds Intensive neighbourhood management scheme.

5.2 Middleton

Middleton Regeneration Board

A revised action plan and strategic document were presented at the Middleton Regeneration Board on the 12th September. The plan has now been structured into seven key themes and also highlights any cross cutting themes which links into all the main objectives of the action plan. A report was presented to the board providing details on the work being undertaken by South Leeds Area Management Team on pulling together a list of possible capital projects for any potential funding which may become available in the area.

The recruitment process is currently underway to appoint a new Middleton Partnership Manager, as the previous post holder left in July.

Parks and Countryside's work in Middleton

As per the request and queries from Members at the last Area Committee meeting, information has been received from Parks and Countryside regarding their work in Middleton Park on the following points:

- a) An additional allocation of £750k is made up of £250k per year for a 3 year period. As yet no decision has been made as to where or on what the money will be spent, and it is anticipated that further consultation with ward members will be undertaken in the near future by Parks and Countryside service.
- b) Parks and Countryside's projects in Middleton Park ward include:
 - Middleton clearings estate - new access controls due to be installed to try and slow down motorcyclists who ride along the footpath and cause havoc
 - West Grange Green - new access controls due to be installed
 - Darley Avenue motorcycle access controls installed
 - Proposed improvements at Whitehouse Farm allotments subject to securing balance of funding.
 - Proposed improvements in Middleton Park, to include provision of a new play area etc subject to securing balance of funding and continuation of works on site to improve the park in general
 - Commencement of laying out of new POS at the site of the new Sharp lane Development work to include paths, tree planting, play area improvements to sports pitches

- An aspiration include improvements to the Heritage trail.

c) Parks and Countryside will assist, where they can Middleton in Bloom. Contact details have been passed onto the Area Committee's Neighbourhood Worker.

d) Regarding incidents at the skate park site in LS10 at Middleton Sports centre, Parks and Countryside report that whilst some incidents had occurred during the first few weeks the facility had been opened, since then it would appear that things have calmed down and fewer incidents have been reported. However the ramps are scheduled to be removed.

5.3 Local Enterprise and Growth Initiative

Approval has been received from the Local Enterprise and Growth Initiative Boards for South Leeds Health For All to begin work on a detailed proposal for the establishment of a Development Trust. SLHFA have also been given initial approval as have Belle Isle Foundation for work to begin on proposals for Catalyst Centres for the Belle Isle/Middleton areas. These schemes if they are to proceed will form phase two of the programme and will need to form alliances with the Tiger 11 development in Beeston Hill which is in phase 1.

5.4 Regional Competitiveness and Economy Programme

Work has taken place to develop an initial proposal from South Leeds to influence the potential structure of any future Leeds wide programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Economy Programme (the new erdf programme)

The programme is broken down into three priority areas, focusing on promoting innovation, research and design, stimulating and supporting social enterprise and sustainable communities. Mike Johnson has been working with various agencies over the last few weeks to develop a South Leeds submission. At this point the proposals are very general, with a key theme being the need to link up this new programme with existing schemes or prospective initiatives such as the development of catalyst centres under the Legi scheme

5.5 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

Following the report on achievements presented at the last Area Committee, the Middleton Neighbourhood Network has been established. The network will link into the Middleton Regeneration Action Plan and act as a local consultation mechanism that will have an overview on projects or improvements that will be made in Central Middleton. The group will have a direct link to Middleton Community Group and the possibility of having the members of the 'Small Group' of Middleton Community Group become members is being explored.

A final Middleton NIP newsletter was also distributed to each household in the area – the edition summarised improvements which had been made in the area through the work of various agencies as part of the NIP over the last 18 months.

b) Manor Farms NIP

A draft Neighbourhood Improvement Plan for the Manor Farms has been produced. A meeting has been set up for October to develop the plan further and establish how the community are set to get involved with the plan.

c) Arthingtons NIP

The area profile is complete and the first meeting of the steering group will take place in September to identify the key issues in the area.

d) Recreations NIP

A steering group has held several meetings and a draft action plan has been drawn up. A newsletter has been produced and distributed to residents in the NIP area. Three meetings of an informal community group (to be known as Old Holbeck Residents Association) have been held and this has raised a number of local issues which are being addressed.

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

6.1 Senior Neighbourhood Warden update

Further to the decision of the June Area Committee meeting, a Senior Warden post has been appointed from the existing Wardens operating within Inner South Leeds, on a temporary acting-up arrangement. Dave Fisher was the successful applicant and started in his new role from 20th August 07.

The Area Committee acknowledged at its June meeting that following the Senior Warden appointment individual patches currently covered by the Wardens would need to be revised as appropriate in order to accommodate the appointment. It now appears manageable to have the new Senior Warden, who currently covers largely Holbeck, continue to patrol this area whilst gradually taking on the day to day management of the Wardens. This arrangement has also ensured as smooth and speedy transition as possible for both the new Senior Warden and the area. The situation will of course be closely monitored to ensure the residents of Holbeck are not adversely affected by this additional responsibility and that they continue to receive a good quality service. Members will be informed if there needs to be any major revision of the patches.

6.2 Other Neighbourhood Wardens

There have been a number of staff absences due to illness and annual leave in recent months. The Wardens have been very flexible in responding to the needs of communities by providing limited cover in their colleagues patches. Part of the Beeston Hill area is particularly effected by staff absence and therefore arrangements to provide cover for the area will remain in place at the time of writing. This situation is also being monitored to ensure that residents continue to receive a quality service as best as possible.

6.3 West Yorkshire Police Community Contact Points

Attached is a report to inform Members about West Yorkshire Police's community contact points and to seek Area Committee input into selecting further contact points for the Police (based on an evaluation of good practice).

Members are asked to endorse the current contact points, recommend any other or alternative locations and to support the use of any council premises identified as other contact points Members may suggest. Members may wish to make comment at this meeting and/or make recommendations to their Neighbourhood Policing Team.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

No specific issues are identified

8.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No specific issues are identified

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and specifically:

a) agree, and if appropriate make revisions to the actions contained in the forward plan of the Neighbourhood Development Worker .

b) agree, and if appropriate make revision to the proposal from St Luke's Cares on the downtime use of the Youth Bus.

c) agree, and if appropriate make further recommendations on the proposed arrangements for community contact points suggested by West Yorkshire Police Force.