

Report of the Chair Outer West Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 16th September 2015

Subject: Outer West Community Committee

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Calverley & Farsley, Farnley & Wortley, Pudsey		
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

This report provides an overview of the progress, achievements and opportunities for the Outer West Community Committee. Key achievements include partnership working, most notably around;

- Business Support
- Tackling Social Isolation and loneliness
- The role of the clusters and partners in helping shape and inform decision making when commissioning activities for children and young people.

The Community Committee has opportunities to build on existing good relationships with local businesses to maximise the benefits of local economic growth. Opportunities also exist for closer working with partners and further expanding some of the new approaches to community engagement.

Good progress has been made on delivering local projects supported through the Well-being fund and Youth Activity Fund. Work is on-going to target local groups to develop further projects.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of this report

1 Purpose of this report

2 The report provides details of the work of the Outer West Community Committee during 2014/15, including a focus on progress, achievements and opportunities.

3 Background information

4 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.

5 This report looks at the achievements of the community committee over the past year, and highlights the opportunities and challenges for the future.

6 Main issues

7. The Community Committee has considered a range of issues over the year and three workshops were held on the following topics:

- **October 2014 Business, Employment & Skills** – ‘delivering actions which support business enterprise, the local economy, quality learning and training and employment opportunities’
- **January 2015 Adult Social Care** – ‘Tackling social isolation and loneliness through partnership working.’
- **January 2015 Children & Young People** – ‘Activities for Children & Young People.’

8 **Delivering actions which support business enterprise, the local economy, quality learning and training and employment opportunities:** The Outer West Community Committee held its first themed meeting in October last year on delivering actions which drive business enterprise, the local economy, and quality learning and employment opportunities.

9 The discussions focused on how local businesses, Economic Development, Employment & Skills and the Community Committee, working together, could deliver practical, meaningful and realistic actions for the Outer West. The meeting received valuable feedback from the local businesses that attended on how best to attract new employers to the area and that improve infrastructure to grow existing business. The meeting also explored how to link local employment opportunities to local people and the initiatives available to help businesses to grow and develop.

10 Some of the challenges identified by local businesses were centred on business infrastructure and local behaviours. These included transport links, attracting new business to the area, resistance to change and business rates.

11 A number of opportunities were also recognised around identifying the Outer West as a destination or place to visit and to encourage citizens to come to the area for leisure and recreational facilities. There were suggestions to harness the area as a

manufacturing base and to utilise diminishing skills that have been fondly recognised as part of the local heritage. Some important points were raised at the meeting around how businesses and Leeds City Council could work together to understand each other's ways of working.

12. Following on from this meeting Members created a Business, Employment and Skills Sub group, which would look into taking this piece of work forward. Some emerging key actions include;
 - Supporting local people into employment and providing support to schools around opportunities for apprenticeships
 - More mobile library / pop up facilities in areas where there are no services such as Farnley & Wortley
 - Revitalising our high street offer and supporting businesses to ensure issues are resolved easily and fluidly
13. The Outer West Community Committee has historically had a great interest in innovative local business engagement, to support business growth and deliver private sector resources and investment. For a number of years the Committee have funded Ahead Partnership (formally known as Leeds Ahead) to provide a range of services to support businesses in the local area.
14. Last year the Committee supported Ahead Partnership to develop a successful business brokerage model which was piloted on a small scale in Outer West Leeds, SME's represent the lifeblood of local areas; offering both local employment and vital services to local people, therefore capacity building via a business brokerage model was required to sustain businesses that were struggling to understand and access the support that is available to them during this difficult economic climate.
15. The programme has to date reached over 300 small businesses and marked a step change in Business Support delivery, which has been welcomed by the stakeholders of the programme.
16. Ahead Partnership has worked with the already established Business Forum in Farsley and has recently supported the establishment of a new group, the Pudsey Business Support Group (PBSG).
17. More recently the Communities Team WNW have supported the business networks in the Outer West to create the LS128 Business Support group which keeps businesses informed of relevant support and other key news items that will help the economic development within Outer West.
18. This will be done by uploading new and current information to dedicated LS128 Business support pages on the various community and business websites in the area which currently consist of farsleyvillage.com, Pudsey Business Support Group (pbsg.org.uk) & the Calverley Business Network (<http://cbn2015.wix.com/calverleybusiness>)
19. The project was initiated and benefitted from start-up funding from the Outer West Community Committee. It is run and sustained by volunteers from the local

business communities in Outer West, working together to allow businesses to flourish.



20. **Tackling social isolation and loneliness through partnership working:** Partners and representatives met with the Outer West Community Committee to explore the topic of social isolation at a workshop on the 28th January at Pudsey House. There are a number of people vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness which impacts on ones quality of life and wellbeing, adversely affecting health and increasing their use of health and social care services. A wide range of stakeholders engaged in the events as well as statutory services providers including local neighbourhood networks and voluntary sector organisations. Colleagues focussed on challenges facing services in supporting older people who were living alone and feeling isolated due to poor mobility, being widowed or as a result of relationship breakdown. A key theme that emerged was the need to identify mechanisms for identifying socially isolated community members and then ensuring they were supported to access local services and engage in community programmes to improve their health and wellbeing.
21. Actions being explored include putting together guidance for frontline services and organisations to be able to recognise signs that point to isolation and to take steps to engage and refer Individuals to key services. This links to encouraging the development of 'social connectors', building on the Patient Empowerment model that was developed in partnership with the Leeds West Clinical Commissioning Group in 2013/14, which has seen over 300 patient referrals being made for support.
22. Following the workshop a project was developed with Hawthorn Surgery in the form of a walking football club for over 50's. The project has allowed older residents to rediscover the joys of playing football again through a sport that makes the basic elements of a match accessible to them by slowing the game down, take part in sport that is safe, enjoyable and improves their health.
23. The Outer West Community Committee along with partners including Housing Leeds hosted a Big Lunch event on the 21st June in Pudsey. Residents from New Street Grove and Greenside Sheltered Housing came together to have lunch and entertainment from a talented entertainer who delighted the audiences with her unique blend of singing and conversation.

24. The event was inspired by Big Lunch from the Eden Project, which aims to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. The event allowed the residents to increase connections and meet old friends but also helped to counteract loneliness and social isolation.
25. The event was well received and created an environment where people could connect with their neighbours, communities or people of the same interest. The Community Committee, through their sub group and with the help from partners, will continue to work on initiatives to respond to these issues.



26. **Activities for Children & Young People:** Ward Members, stakeholders and local residents met with young people in an interactive dragons den like workshop exploring activities that children and young people would enjoy. The workshop helped inform decisions made about commissioning projects through the Outer West Community Committee's Youth Activities fund and gave young people an opportunity to state what activities they would like to do in their area and how these should be delivered. 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.
27. The Communities Team have also partnered with clusters and local youth activity providers to work directly with young people from the Outer West area to design a new youth activities offer. Some innovative ways have already been adopted to engage with young people; through Youth Panels, School Councils and Pupil Voice Groups. Children in these groups consult with their peers around activities and then meet to help plan and advertise provision. One example used in identifying projects is the use of graffiti walls that gave young people the opportunity to provide feedback and suggest future activities.
28. A Youth Activities commissioning round was undertaken and a streamlined process has been established to support decision making around projects through the development of a new General Purposes Sub Group. The Sub Group will allow members to have more time to oversee current and future delegated services and also focus on key local priorities with the relevant service managers outside of Community Committee meetings.



Wellbeing projects & Youth Activities Fund

29. The Community Committee uses the well-being fund to further support local community activity and build local capacity. A series of community-focussed events have been funded by the Community Committee which allowed citizens to celebrate the place they live. Local events are increasingly being supported by the business networks in the Outer West, working as a community to attract more visitors to the area. The Youth Activity Fund has similarly supported local activities for young people. The Community Committee have funded projects with various themes including activities in sports, arts and crafts, music and dance.

Social Media

30. The introduction of Facebook and Twitter has allowed the Community Committee to interact with a wider audience by developing a stronger social connection with residents who have not necessarily previously engaged. Social media has provided a platform to build relationships and share useful and interesting information from local media, community groups and residents.
31. The Communities Team have publicised a range of messages on Facebook around consultation, community events or improvements to an area, which have proven to be very popular, with some posts reaching up to 2000 views. A post on proposed capital improvements to the Pudsey Park entrance asking residents to have their say had a post reach of just short of 1500 views.
32. The committee's next meeting will be specifically themed around the 'place agenda' focusing on Neighbourhood Planning and will consider the opportunities available through Community Infrastructure Levy.

Community Committee Champions

33. Community Committee Champions positions were held by the following Members in Outer West during 2014/15.
- Children & Young People – Cllr David Blackburn
 - Environment & Community Safety – Cllr Mick Coulson
 - Health & Well Being and Adult Social Care – Cllr Josephine Jarosz
 - Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr Rod Wood and Cllr Terry Wilford

In 2015/16 the Community Committee Champions are:

- Children & Young People – Cllr Amanda Carter and Cllr Josephine Jarosz
- Environment & Community Safety – Cllr Mick Coulson
- Employment Skills & Welfare – Cllr David Blackburn
- Health & Well Being & Adult Social Care – Cllr Josephine Jarosz

Outer West Sub Groups

34. Community Committees have offered an opportunity to develop a new programme of sub groups to address issues of thematic importance allowing greater oversight on local priorities. The two new Sub groups for the Outer West include;

- Business, Employment and Skills
- General Purposes

35. The Outer West Environmental Sub Group has continued to meet and has led some positive work to ensure that the Service Level Agreement is fit for purpose and that resources are targeted at the areas of greatest need and to deliver the greatest impact.

36. Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

37. The Outer West Community Committee has good working relationships with the communities it serves. The Committee will continue to support and enable local people and communities to engage and interact with us on issues that are important to them.

Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

38. The Outer West Community Committee is committed to equality and cohesion. Specific equality impact assessments are undertaken on community engagement plans, specific initiatives and decisions as required. 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. Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

Council policies and City Priorities

39. The Best Council Plan 2013-17 includes the key outcome to make it easier for people to do business with us, and the move to community committees makes a significant contribution to the delivery of this.

Resources and value for money

40. There is no new resource implications detailed within this report.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

41. There are no legal, access to information or call in implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

42. There are no risk management issues of any significance arising from this report.

43. Conclusions

44. The 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. The Community Committees have since built on the successes of Area Committees and developed on the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process.
45. All themed meeting have allowed the Community Committee to work with a bottom-up approach by engaging with stakeholders to envision ways to strengthen the way in which citizens are involved in local decision making.
46. The Community Committee already has good relationships with its local communities and utilises its available funding streams to support local projects. It recognises that there are challenges ahead especially with engaging with hard to reach groups, but will continue to strengthen its positive working relationships with stakeholders to improve local services and facilities.

47. Recommendations

48. Members are asked to note the content of this report..

49. Background documents¹

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.