

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

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

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To endorse

Community Committee Update Report

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 community events, local projects and partnership working that has taken place in the area since the last meeting.

Main issues

3. Chair & Champions Meetings

Following the success in other parts of the City of Chairs and Champions meetings, the Inner West has held its first meeting that covered three of the theme lead areas:

Environment, Housing and Community Safety:

This meeting on the 2nd November had the following key actions:

Environment: For the subgroup to:

- Respond to the outcomes of the scrutiny enquiry into the condition of Housing Leeds estates which is currently underway.

- Identify a couple of hotspot areas / pieces of land in each ward that may benefit from a targeted approach and may be in unknown ownership
- Update on the actions from the Parks Community Committee.

Housing:

- To look at the referral process for overgrown trees and hedges.
- Build on the tenant engagement arrangements

Community Safety:

- Feedback from tasking and a recent Youth Panel demonstrated that drugs are a major issue in communities in the Inner West and greater clarity was requested from the Police on what was being done to tackle this. It could be a future Committee theme.
- A request for more information about Neighbourhood Watch schemes and whether they could be promoted to encourage more to set up.

4. Children & Young People Sub Group

The Children & Young People Sub Group met on 14th September and focused on the issue of mental health. Representations were made from a range of partners and it was established that whilst support is available, young people, parents and schools are not always aware of how to access it. A mental health working group is being established to explore these issues in more detail and create an action plan for the inner West area.

As reported at previous meetings, the Inner West is trialing a new approach to youth engagement. Engagement groups have been established in each of the three wards, and from them, young people were invited to join a Children and Young People's Board to play a more formal role in influencing the work of the sub group and spend on the Youth Activities Fund.

On 30th October, 12 young people came together with youth service providers to consult with Ward Members. They completed an exercise in prioritising Youth Activity Fund bids, gave their views on where they live, and put Ward Members on the spot with a question and answer session. Feedback from the young people was extremely valuable and will influence the future focus and decisions of the sub group. After the session the young people were treated to a motorbiking or climbing session, and all said they felt listened to and expressed interest in participating in future activities.

5. Environment Sub Group

The Inner West Environment Sub Group will meet on the 27th November. A verbal update will be provided at the Committee.

6. **Armley Forum – 20th October, 17th November**

The forum meetings in October and November focused on the cycle superhighway and its impact on residents and businesses in Armley. There were some strong opinions expressed by the community and a need for more information. Ahead of the November forum meeting, there was a drop in session organized where officers were available to answer questions and concerns on a one to one basis.

The police reported on the successful injunctions against persistent street drinkers in Armley, and for the first time, the Communities Team, on behalf of the forum, submitted an objection to a new off license application based on evidence of issues from previous forum minutes.

7. **Bramley & Stanningley Forum – 17th September**

The Bramley & Stanningley Forum met on 17th September, and was well attended with lots of lively debate. Topics discussed were:

- The Leeds & Bradford Cycle Superhighway. Officers from City Connect were present and fielded questions and comments from local businesses and residents about the impact the installation of the scheme has had locally.
- Manor Park Wellbeing Centre. Dr Mark Fuller from Manor Park Surgery attended and presented an architect's impression of what the proposed centre could look like. A number of forum members expressed an interest in being involved in the planning and development of the centre.

8. **Kirkstall Forum – 6th October 2015**

The forum was held at Kirkstall Education Cricket Club on Queenswood Drive and the theme of the meeting was traffic and parking issues around the area. Residents were concerned about the speed and volume of traffic on Queenswood Drive. Highways Officers talked through some of the current traffic calming measures that are in place and the potential for other measures such as a speed indicator device (SID). Parking on Queenswood Road is a problem with many residents complaining that they cannot park near their homes. Students and staff from Leeds Beckett University are parking and leaving cars all day. Highways agreed to carry out a survey. Match day parking is also a problem from the rugby and cricket grounds.

9. **Community Events**

The Community Committee has supported a range of community events and activities for children and young people during the summer holidays.

Dog Chipping Event – Hawksworth Wood

The first dog chipping event was held in Hawksworth Wood on Friday 13th November as part of the Hawksworth Wood Dog Watch Scheme. The event was a great success with dog owners from all over Leeds seizing the opportunity to get their dogs chipped. In

total 43 dogs were chipped and 10 neutering voucher were requests. Responsible dog ownership information was distributed to the dog owners whilst they waited. The event was held in Partnership with the Dog Trust and the LCC Dog Wardens.

All Together Armley

Ward Members and the local MP Rachel Reeves carried out a survey about Armley Town Street which highlighted street drinking, environmental issues and anti-social behaviour as issues facing the area. The results of the survey were discussed at a public meeting attended by over 100 residents.

An outcome of the meeting was to establish a steering group to develop an action plan and work in partnership with services to deliver improvements. The group, Chaired by Cllr Smart, has met several times and has been named 'All Together Armley'. The members are very enthusiastic and have already supported initiatives including multi-language posters and promoting different ways to report crime and street drinking to the police. The Town Street Revival Plan was presented at a public meeting on 19th November and was warmly received. All Together Armley is now a fully constituted group and will work with a range of agencies to deliver the outcomes of the plan.

Armley Lights Switch on & Stories with Santa

The festive lights switch on in Armley has become a much anticipated annual event hosted by Radio Aire. This year the event was held on Saturday 14th November and despite the rain, a good crowd came along to enjoy a range of local acts including the New Wortley Music Band. An addition to the festive programme was a children's Christmas craft event was held in the library with stories from Santa, which was very successful with great feedback from the dozens of children and their families.

Bramley Lights Switch on

The Bramley lights switch on event was held on Friday 27th November, organised by the Bramley Lights Committee. This popular event held at Bramley shopping centre attracted a large crowd. This year for the first time a Christmas tree has been put up in Bramley supported by Ward Members and Bramley Shopping centre. A variety of local acts entertained the crowds before the lights were switched on by Elected Members.

10. Hawksworth Wood Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership

The partnership has got off to a very positive start with a number of initiatives being progressed including;

- The ongoing work that is being carried out as part of the dogwatch scheme continues to be successful, signs designed by children from Hawksworth Wood Primary School to remind dog owners to clear up their dogs mess have now been put up around the estate.

- A training session was run at the Children’s Centre focussing on preparation for applying for retail jobs. The course was well attended and very positive feedback was received. Options for further training session are being investigated.
- A positive meeting was held to share information on what services are delivered for young people in Hawksworth Wood which has helped with mapping of services.
- Parks and Countryside are working on draft costings for possible improvements works to Cragside Recreation Ground in conjunction with HAVA.

11. Community Led Local Development

Members were briefed at their last community committee meeting on the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) funding initiative, which is part of the ESIF programme, at their last meeting on 9 September 2015. The funding is restricted to the development of the economy and to support people into employment and is split into three stages.

1. Preparatory stage funding of up to £20,000 (to be match funded locally) to identify and establish how a Local Action Group will be established, define the areas and outline a Local Development Strategy.
2. Development stage over a six month period, which will involve detailed consultation, preparation of the local development strategy, establishing the local action group and bidding for up to 3 million Euro over a five-year period.
3. Implementation stage – spend anticipated no earlier than spring 2017.

The European Union finally issued the call for bids for the preparatory stage at the end of October. Officers from the area team have worked with Barca, the bid lead organisation, to define the areas which would benefit from the funding and to develop the bid, which was submitted by the deadline of 25 November. The areas were chosen based on existing neighbourhood improvement areas and the bid criteria, which stipulate that: “the area must have a population of between 10,000 and 150,000; fall within the lowest 20% on the IMD; and must have a ‘cohesive geography’.”

We anticipate a response from the European Union in late January/early February 2016. If the bid is successful we will be invited to apply for the second stage.

Corporate

12. **a. Consultation and engagement** - Local priorities were set through the Area Business Plan process.
13. **b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration** - The Business Planning process takes into account equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues.
14. **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

15. The work of the sub groups are essential in the delivery of the Community Committee priorities. The Communities 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

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

Background information

- None