

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner North Community Committee – Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Roundhay wards

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For decision

Community Committee Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an update on the work programme of Inner North East Community Committee Community Committee, its recent successes and current challenges.

Main issues

2. Since the last Community Committee, work has progressed in a number of areas, including through the Committee's sub groups and local partnerships, which are currently evolving into Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships.

Sub Groups

3. The main issues discussed at the sub groups recently are set out here:-

Environmental Sub Group

4. The Environmental Sub Group is chaired by the Environmental Community Champion, Cllr Bill Urry. The sub group received updates on: refuse service, waste recycling facility, city wide burial service and leaf clearance/locality.

Concerns were raised by the group around missed refuse collections due to parked cars, the group requested refuse explore how closing working relationships can be developed with highways.

Wellbeing Advisory Group

5. The Wellbeing Advisory Group had not met at the time of writing this report. The group will be meeting on the 27th November to consider Youth Activity Fund applications.

Recommendations from the working group will be reported to the Community Committee at its meeting.

Neighborhood Improvement Partnership/s

6. Over the last few months discussions have taken place across the area with a number of local third sector and public sector partners to get their views on neighbourhood improvement in the Chapeltown and Meanwood areas. Ongoing work around employment and access to services is taking place in the Brackenwoods where local partners have agreed to formalise their local partnership arrangements around the neighbourhood improvement approach. Overall there is emerging consensus from partners for supporting increased collaboration at neighbourhood level. Discussions in the Queenshills area have highlighted that local partners would like further dialogue to explore the best approach for their neighbourhood. This work is ongoing.
7. Existing work with the Meanwood Seven estates project has re- started. Partners and resident have commented that they feel the new impetus around neighbourhood working will accelerate progress in relation to the housing based regeneration activity and work led by local partners. This group has looked at some of the statistical information for the area and has started to agree some common areas of focus. The next phase will be to focus on refreshing the action plan for the area.
8. A meeting to explore the working partnership arrangements for the Chapeltown area is due to take place in December 2015. The focus of this session will be to work with a wide range of partners to explore how we work together to improve community outcomes and what the partnership arrangements will look like in Chapeltown. The session is being called " Working Together for Chapeltown" and is the start of a new way of working that will see a greater emphasis on specific themes identified through discussion with local organisations about their key concerns and a review of the local statistical information.
9. Briefings have taken place through ward member meetings and in the new year it is proposed to convene the Community Committee working group of the members identified from each ward to work with the Chair to over see the local developments.

Community Champions

10. Work is ongoing to develop the role of the Community Champions. In addition to their role in supporting the work of the sub groups, referred to earlier in this report, the community champions continue to support work within their portfolio. The community committee chair has committed to bi-monthly community champion meetings to ensure that champions in post are able to share their key areas of work and identify any areas of overlap. The meetings are also an opportunity to share good practice and address any challenging issues collectively.

Environment Champion – Cllr Urry

11. As under paragraph 4 the sub group met in October where we had representatives update us on refuse, waste recycling facility, city wide burial service, leaf clearance and locality working.
12. The group raised concerns around missed refuse collections due to parked cars, the group acknowledged that this can cause problems and requested the refuse service to work in closer partnership with highways around the issue.

Community Safety Champion – Cllr Rafique

13. Since the last community committee meeting in September work around domestic violence has commenced at a local level. At the time of writing the report a number of activities are planned during the 16 days of action around Domestic Violence and Abuse.
14. On the 25th November a number of display boards will be erected in the following locations: Reginald Centre, Moor Allerton Library, Oakwood Library. On the same day there will be a walk from the Reginald Centre to the Compton Centre to raise awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse. Prior to the walk Cllr Raffique in his role as Community Safety Champion will give a speech highlighting why the committee has chosen to make domestic violence a local priority. This will be alongside the tying of white ribbons around trees as a symbolic gesture of men against domestic violence.
15. At the last meeting the committee also agreed to set aside £500 from each of the ward budgets to fund local activities around domestic violence in each of the wards. To date only one application has been received for Chapel Allerton ward, despite contacting all groups on the committee mailing list and sending follow up e-mails. This is currently with ward Members for a decision.

Adult Social Care Champion – Cllr Macniven

16. Within the current financial context there are a number opportunities and challenges that may arise locally due to the current financial position in which the local authority is working within. One of the main opportunities discussed at the Community Committee Champions' meeting related to homecare and day care review and potential for local third sector partners.

Health and Wellbeing Champion – Cllr Taylor

17. A group of local third sector partners have been working together to explore social isolation and services in the locality. This meeting has resulted in a local directory being created in the Meanwood area that has been well received.
18. Work is currently underway to engage faith organisations in the locality to ensure they are able to engage within social isolation conversations locally.

19. Attendees of the group from Chapeltown have made a decision to design a local mechanism to enable third sector partners to effectively signpost socially isolated people to one another.

Children's and Young People's Champion – Cllr Charlwood

20. Being new to the role Cllr Charlwood has actively been engaging in meetings to gain a greater understanding. Cllr Charlwood has attended her first meeting with the Executive Board Member and other community committee champions from across the city.

Employment and skills champion – Cllr Hussain

21. Work around the employment and skills agenda is still being led locally by Cllr Ghulam Hussain. The current progress of this agenda will be outlined in detail in the full employment and skills report at item 3 on the meeting agenda.

Community Committee Performance Management Framework

22. A new performance management framework has been developed to help drive forward the priorities and achieve defined and measurable outputs from the workshop discussions which have formed an important part of community committee meetings.
23. This document provides a review of all agreed workshop actions with each action being allocated a progress rating of red, amber or green. Each of the community champions will be able to review and monitor progress against key actions within their local portfolio. Not only will this process serve as a useful mechanism for community champions to readily identify areas of good practice and any cases where we are struggling to make progress, it also allocates actions to a named individual and organisation and therefore provides clear accountability around any actions arising from the community committees.
24. The Community Committee Performance Management Framework is attached at **Appendix 1 & 2.**

Community Events

25. The Community Committee and Communities Team (ENE) have supported a range of community events since the last committee. These include the South Asian Confluence event on 20th September. This event was funded by £300 from the Inner North East Community Committee's Well-being budget, with Outer North east also contributing. It provided an opportunity for different cultures to come together at St Edmund's Church in Roundhay for inter-faith worship and artistic performances.

26. Christmas lights switch-on events have taken place in Moortown and a more high profile event in Chapel Allerton which was well attended and received well. It should be noted that over £500 business sponsorship was secured for the event by the Communities team, meaning that a fireworks display could be funded for the first time.
27. Forthcoming community events include the Oakwood Christmas Lights switch on on 24th November and the Chapeltown Christmas Lights switch on and festive market on 4th December, both with support from the Community Committee.

Communications & Social Media

28. The Communities Team ENE have continued to use the Community Committee Facebook pages to provide details of work of the committee as well advertising community events and local opportunities.
29. At the time of writing, the Inner North East Community Committee Facebook pages had been “liked” by 254 people, an increase from 16 at the time of the last Community Committee in September. The number of people that have seen content since the last Community Committee is 7262. The Facebook pages continue to be an important communications tool between the council and local residents and services.

Challenges and Opportunities

Community Led Local Development (CLLD)

30. Members may recall that in early 2014 they were briefed on a European funding initiative called Community Led Local Development (CLLD) which is part of the current European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) programme. CLLD is not for general “community development” and its use is restricted to the development of the economy and to support people into employment. It cannot be used as “continuation funding” for existing projects or activities. Funding can come from both the ERDF and ESF funds within the programme.
31. A number of Members subsequently attended early consultation meetings and other activities designed to help consider what a local economic strategy would look like. There have, however, been significant delays at a national level in the published timetable; so although activity has continued at a local level to prepare for the eventual bidding process, these have mostly been confined to occasional meetings at a local level of people who indicated they wished to help frame the bid, and meetings of the city wide co-ordinating group which has “kept the pot boiling” by preparing the ground for the eventual implementation of CLLD bidding processes.
32. There are three proposed areas based on deprived communities in inner Leeds. Each will require a (separate) Local Action Group (LAG) which will be responsible for

developing a Local Development Strategy and leading any resulting CLLD programme. A LAG is a partnership comprising the public, private and third sectors and must also have an Accountable Body, which may be the local authority, to manage/ oversee the expenditure in accordance with the ESIF regulations.

33. A CLLD area must have a population of between 10,000 and 150,000, falling within the top 20% most deprived LSOAs, and the programme area must form a cohesive geography. The programme must also have a minimum size of €3m public sector funding input, and there is an overall requirement for 50% matched funding for all activity.
34. The bidding process is now open, providing an opportunity for Leeds to apply for a 'preparatory stage' funding of up to £20k European funding, which must be equally matched by other funding, to identify and establish the local action group, the accountable body, refine the areas and produce a Local Development Strategy. By the end of November 2015, the preparatory bids will be submitted and it is anticipated that approvals for those areas which are invited to proceed to the next stage will be announced in January, with the actual final bid being developed over a six month period which will involve detailed local consultation. At this point in time, within the overarching criteria, no absolute commitments as to the exact geographical boundaries or activities to be delivered will be made. These decisions will be made as part of the process to create a local development strategy in 2016; and the earliest that we would expect to see any spend, should those later bids be accepted, will be Spring 2017. Community Committees and individual Members will have the opportunity to fully participate in this development process if the preparatory bids are agreed at national level.

Conclusion

35. The report outlines a wide range of activities being undertaken by the Community Committee. There are also a great deal of opportunities moving forward which members and the committee will be updated on as there are further developments.

Recommendations

36. That members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.

Background information

None