

Outer West Community Committee

Environmental Services Sub Group



Note of Thursday 4th February 2016 Meeting 9.30 at Henshaw Depot

Present

Cllr Coulson (Chair)	– Pudsey
Cllr Blackburn	– Farnley & Wortley
Cllr Wood	– Calverley & Farsley
Jason Singh	– Locality Manager Environment & Neighbourhoods
Sam Woodhead	– Team Manager Locality Team Environment & Neighbourhoods
Phil Staniforth	– Parks & Countryside
Benjamin Grabham	– Service Manager, Environment & Housing
Claire Smith	– Housing Leeds
Harpreet Singh	– Communities Team WNW

Key Issues discussed:

1. Matters Arising

- JS asked Claire to liaise with Baz about environmental Issues

2. Fly Grazing

- Cllr Wood reported to the meeting on behalf of Cllr Amanda Carter and wanting the city to be involved in horse welfare
- PS noted the new Fly Grazing legislation essentially that we can deal with the issue quicker. Private owners don't need to wait 14 days before taking any action on removing horses from their land, this had now reduced to 4 days. However there is still a cost implication which would be a budgetary concern.
- Would need to consider issues on a case basis and need to ensure we're covered and legal advice is being taken
- It was noted that a fencing scheme was already being looked at for Tyersal
- JS informed that Locality Team had a contractual agreement with the horses teams and make referrals. JS didn't see it being a day to day issue.
- **Cllr C suggested sending a letter from OW to Tom Riordan about the policy on this issue however PS asked if he could find out first and report back at the next meeting.**

3. Environmental Services Update

Sam and Jason provided an update

- SW noted a lot of the recent work had been reactive such as de-leafing however this was now coming to completion and had gone particularly well. The team used a targeted approach in highly leafy areas. Cllr Wood noted the drop had been a lot more than average.
- There was also the recent floods' where there was a lot of cleansing activity that was required. Cllr B noted he thought we were a little slow in reacting. JS informed that the de-leafing had started on the 8th October and took on board the comments. Looking back there had been isolated areas and gaps where some learning could be done. Cllr C noted on a positive note that when he has had an issue it has been resolved and Pudsey had been better than any other year.
- Cllr B noted the OW wards are very semi-rural and there is a lot to do. JS informed that the team have maps and know where the problems are. It had been the wettest weather to record and will learn from this.

- Baz noted leafs were getting into gullies so other priority work included keeping gullies cleared.
- SW noted there was a gullies review being done by Liz Jarmin. Cllr C informed that he had reported a number of blocked locations to the gullies team and it had not once been confirmed if any work had been done. JS noted any issues on gullies can be reported to his team but is now managed centrally.
- Cllr B noted in some places gully's need to be cleared more regularly, particularly where debris accumulates. **Liz will be looking at these sorts of issues in the gully's review. Cllr C noted he would like to have an update at the next meeting.**
- Simon Clothier has joined the team as an Environmental Action Officer and will be covering the F&W ward.
- On the Knowl's vehicles had been for sale on the highway. Planning and Locality team were in the process of prosecuting the perpetrator.
- Cllr B noted on Heights, Gambles and Bawns resident group noted that they were not getting a response to concerns in the same way as when housing had their estate caretakers. **Cllr Basked if the team could put something in place to identify turnover times and to see if things were taking longer and if so identify why.** JS noted there had been an issue with caretakers taking action locally direct from housing offices and how it is referred to the Locality team. Will be looking at how this is being communicated and will need to get better at doing this.
- There had been serial fly-tipping in C&F and the team were working with the police to ascertain the whereabouts of the perpetrator with a view to stop and the seizure of their vehicles, followed by the holding of a PACE interview.
- Cllr C informed on the NIP about making improvements in the Heights and Bawns
- SW informed on Wortley Rec there had been issues of waste and concerns around condition and overcrowding. Working together with Planning, Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, PARKS, and Crime Reduction Team to resolve.
- Baz informed that in Pudsey he had witnessed a lady litter from a Porsche who was subsequently issued with a fine.
- Cllr W noted outside the Dawsons Corner there was a small litter bin on the lamppost outside which wasn't sufficient and asked if a bigger bin could be installed.

4. YEP letter regarding dog fouling in Pudsey

- Cllr Cllr C noted he wanted to do something on dog fouling for the area. JS noted article on litter in car parks and another article on Pudsey cemetery as well as an issue with dog fouling on Brookfield Rec ground. JS wants to spend a little time on this to get messages out on social media and are considering a scheme for Brookfields to deposit bags. Need to get more in the public domain with regards to bringing about awareness.
- Cllr B noted the lack of prosecutions as people were not coming forward and giving evidence and suggested that Councilors report the issues. Aqeel noted people afraid to give witness statements. **HS to work with Aqeel to work on social media, Cllr C noted funding available to explore. Cllr W noted the use of free media and West Leeds Dispatch. Members would like an update at the next meeting.**

5. Parks & Countryside's update

Phil provided an update:

- Pudsey Park: looking at the feasibility of development in the park to attract some inward investment
- Rodley Cricket Club: a meeting took place with Cllrs Andrew and Amanda Carter about having 1 lease for the club
- Brookfield Rec: will be doing drainage work with money from Farsley Celtic. With regards to dog fouling, sports team should walk the pitch and clear of any dog fouling before games and this should be a part of their risk assessment to make sure the pitch is clear
- Woodhall Lake: Doug Louis was dealing with this project and there had been some progress with preserving the fishes.

- Farnley Falcons used containers at the back of the Beulah which has been shut down and area is possibly going to be developed. They were going to be relocated to Main Line Club but due to issues raised this would not now be happening. Working on relocation on Butt Lane. Cllr B noted his concerns around water and also about planning concerns.
- Calverley Cricket Club at Victoria park trying to get refurbishment done before the season and looking to put some practice nets enclosed in a cage. Also looking at advertising as a form of gaining revenue.
- Cabbage Hill: Cllr Anne Blackburn had asked for a catch up meeting. Cllr B noted land owned by skip firm that went bust and is owned by the crown and someone from Hancock family (Skip Company) come on site with a digger.
- Partnership working: Over-layered Parks litter bins on the map produced by the Locality and to role across all 3 wards and will find stats for flytipping and graffiti. Need to agree dates with Jason. Cllr Coulson noted looking for a better service than now and will hopefully free up some time for everyone and next steps was for an officers meeting and to bring back proposals to the Environment Sub Group with a working package like councilors had requested.

6. Waste Management Update

Ben Grabham provided an updated

- All residual waste has been delivered to the new recycling and energy recovering facility since November allowing for a significant saving and a better outcome for the environment.
- An additional £400k had been saved from starting earlier however it is still imperative to get residents to recycle as much as possible and trying to get to 60% recycling.
- Approval has been granted to remove excess bins that are not required.
- In previous years the Christmas time collections were done in advance and residents were informed by letter. This year didn't send information on collections by letters and moved the collection days back. Only had 2 complaints but so far not any considerable issues.
- The teams were able to get back to normal schedules in a much quicker turn around.
- Cllr B noted least complaints than in previous years. Calls were made to the contact Centre however there were no spikes in calls and very few complaints.
- As a result £80 - £100k was saved.
- Ben informed that this would be his last meeting as he would be leaving the council at the end of the month and will be going to Harrogate Council. Cllr C gave Ben all the best and thanked him on behalf of the sub group for the great job he'd done.

7. Housing Leeds Update

Claire Smith provided an update to the meeting

- The main change was that Liz Cook had now left and Gill Wildman had taken had replaced her for next 3 months.
- There was now a full complement of staff and all Housing Officers and assistants had been recruited so there was further recruitments. University student had been taken on to work on option appraisal on garage sites.
- Heights drive refurbishment had started this week and Westfield House was made open to the public 10-3pm. Not expecting much footfall but staffing available and have direct telephone line. Work should take approx. 10 weeks.
- Environmentally there have been concerns with land at the side of Crimbles Road and garage site which had been refereed to Geotechnical Officer and garage's may have to be demolished.
- Also have regular meetings with crime prevention officer to look at top 10 most burgled areas and using HAP funding to make improvements. An environmental action day would be taking place on 13 April for Swinnow area. For Wortley would be looking to do some work in march looking at the Heights & Bawns.
- Cllr W noted at Dawson's corner the duck pond was causing a problem and was filling up causing a stream which needed looking at.

8. Partnership Working

- **Officers to report back to the next meeting with proposals as noted earlier**

9. AOB

- Cllr W made reference to fly tipping on Priesthorpe Lane, near Blue Pig where boulders had been located but someone had moved these along.

Next Meeting: Friday 13th May 2016, 9:30am at Henshaw Depot