

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

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

Report author: Sarah Geary (3367872)

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For decision

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. Children & Young People – Champion: Cllr C Gruen

Sub group – 11th January 2016

- The focus of this meeting was access to the arts and the Leeds Capital of Culture bid. Officers from City Development, Arts Development and Leeds Inspired attended and discussed how the Capital of Culture bid will involve children and young people from Inner West Leeds. Young people are an important part of the bid and the delivery. An engagement steering group has been established and is Chaired by Armley resident and Director of East Street Arts, Nicola Greenan.
- It was noted that the Communities Team receives very few funding applications for arts based projects for young people.

- Barca are setting up a new youth group for young people at Moorside Community Centre due to start in February.

4. **Environment – Champion: Cllr Smart**

Sub group – 27th November 2015

- 24 new properties have been proposed on the Broadleas. The contracts will be allocated at the end of the financial year and the build to take place soon after. 8 homes have been proposed for the Lord Cardigan site and expected to be completed summer 2017. Further work to evaluate the scheme on Mistress Lane is taking place following suggested changes to Stanningley Rd.
- The bulky waste collection is up and running and is now collected Monday – Friday. Listed items will be removed regardless of condition.
- A discussion took place around proposed projects for the Pocket Park funding. Concerns were raised about the deadline for applications and time scales to deliver projects if successful.
- The RERF (Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility) will be fully operational from March 2016. The process of burning the waste will generate enough electricity to power 20,000 homes.

Pocket Park Funding

In January the Kirkstall Valley Park Board received confirmation that they had been successful in their application for £9750 Pocket Park funding from DCLG. This new pocket park will be on land to the rear of St Ann's Mill next to the river. These monies will be matched with Wellbeing monies giving a pot of just under £20,000. These capital works to create a footpath and small park area contribute to the aspiration of joining up areas of greenspace along the valley bottom. The work will be carried out by Groundwork Leeds and The Conservation Volunteers at Hollybush and will be managed by the Kirkstall Valley Park Board.

5. **Health & Wellbeing & Adult Social Care – Champion: Cllr Lowe & Cllr Venner**

- PEP High Rise worker – The worker started in December and is making good progress connecting to local agencies such as New Wortley Community Centre and local GP practices. She has also engaged with over 20 local clients.
- Barca is trialling an alcohol and harm reduction breakfast club. The need for this had been identified by a number of local agencies. This project is now underway based at Armley JunKtion.

6. **Employment, Skills & Welfare – Champion: Cllr McKenna & Cllr Heselwood**

The Employment, Skills & Welfare Board met on the 23rd February, key updates include:

- Saira Luffman, Headteacher at Swallow Hill updated the meeting on progress made at the school in recent years. This has included improved student attendance and a reduction in persistence absence. There are significant challenges the school still faces including identified need in speech, language and communication on entry; low attainment on entry, 34% of students with English as an additional language and high in year admissions.
- West Leeds CLLD funding – Joe Kent updated that a final funding decision will be agreed by the end of February.
- Leeds City College updated that the ESOI classes at Armley Hub were very popular attracting up to 35 people per class.
- Enquiries will be made as to job opportunities with Lidl with a new site currently being built on half mile lane.

7. Armley Forum – 19th January

- Police, Housing and other agencies carried out a day of action on the Wythers. 91 premises were visited and lots of information gathered.
- Officers from trading standards carried out test purchasing on Town Street and three premises failed. One owner is being taken to court and two others received cautions.
- The Police reported that £520,000 worth of cannabis was seized in 2015 by the Armley Neighbourhood Policing Team leading to eight convictions.
- Former West Leeds Family Learning Centre - Asset Management Officers at the meeting explained that the centre on Whingate was demolished last year following anti-social behaviour and vandalism. It had been left empty since its closure as it was being considered for an extension to Whingate Primary, but this was ultimately rejected by governors. Now local residents and the wider community are being consulted on the future of the site. As it is quite small there are limited options, and housing could see six pairs of semis or up to 15 dwellings. This could be private or social housing, but there is scope for other uses such as a GP surgery or care home. There have also been suggestions for a play area, but this would be difficult as planning law dictates that it must be at least 20 metres away from residential properties.

8. Bramley & Stanningley Forum – 28th January 2016

The Bramley & Stanningley Forum was held at the Eric Atkinson Centre, on Waterloo Gardens and focused on the following:

- Barnardos Nightwatch scheme – Emma Bunch from Barnardos Child Sexual Exploitation unit was in attendance to talk about the work of the Nightwatch project, a scheme working with businesses to raise awareness of the issues around child sexual exploitation, the signs to look out for and how to report any concerns.
- Work will be commencing in February 2016 to improve the car parking facilities at Bramley Shopping Centre. The car park at the rear of the centre will be extended to cope with the additional demand whilst the front car park is closed, and will encompass the grassed area next to Farms Foods for the duration of works.

- Gerard Tinsdale and Alison Pearce from Housing Leeds talked about upcoming local developments at the former Lord Cardigan pub site and on the Broadleas estate, and the work of the areas TARA's.

9. Kirkstall Forum – 26th January 2016

The Kirkstall forum was held at the Burley St Mathias Centre and this time focussed mainly on issues in Burley. This included:

- Planning issues – Steve Butler explained some of the national planning context in relation to Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and the extent to which the Council knew how many of these there were and where they are located.
- Discussion was had about a number of individual sites including Boston Exchange and St Anns Mill.
- An increasing problem of empty and derelict sites in the Ward – Rising Sun Pub, George IV, Burley Liberal Club, Cardigan Arms.
- Gullies – Jason Singh explained that Leeds is one of the few Authorities that still has a proactive maintenance programme but this is limited with nearly 180 000 gullies across the City to maintain. He encouraged residents to report concerns about blocked gullies

10. Kirkstall Town & District Centre Scheme

The plans for the landscaping works for the area around the leisure centre have now been finalised. The planting works are due to be completed in Spring with the hard landscaping work to be carried out in Autumn 2016. Part of the scheme is the design and installation of a new piece of public artwork. A small panel has been established to work with The Tetley to agree the design brief and steer this work. A detailed brief will be created and released in May that will be open to all artists to bid for.

11. WW1 Commemoration's

To commemorate the first day of the Battle of the Somme there is a proposal to mark the contribution made by the Leeds Pals Battalions by employing buglers to play an appropriate piece to mark the point in time at which men went into battle at 7.30am on July 1st. One bugler will be located in each Committee area, the exact location to be determined by each Committee.

There is also funding available of up to £1000 to support any additional events.

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;
- To decide on the location for bugler as noted at point 11.

Background information

- None