



Outer East neighbourhood news

A round up of the Outer East Community Committee business meeting and flooding workshop held on 1 December 2015

Your councillors decided that the terrible flooding which affected parts of the area in August was the priority for the Committee, so we postponed the planned *health priorities* meeting and instead focused on the flooding.

An in-depth discussion about the problems faced across outer east Leeds took place at this workshop, which was held in Allerton Bywater, an area particularly prone to flooding. Whist flooding has occurred in many areas over recent years, repeat locations have included Garforth, Swillington, Kippax, Micklefield and Allerton Bywater, plus areas of the Temple Newsam ward and Cross Gates & Whinmoor ward such as the Wyke Beck and Cock Beck.

The Council's Flood Risk Group manager, Pete Davis, explained the issues, challenges and opportunities faced in the area which included: at what point it was appropriate to seek police assistance; central government debate about domestic rates subsidising insurance for at risk homes; landlords responsibilities and the importance of local communities and Council departments working in partnership to ensure all advance preparations are undertaken to limit flooding.

We also had specialist input from the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water.

Flash floods



Pete Davis from the LCC Flood Risk Group delivers his presentation to the 66 workshop attendees at Vicars Court

The second presentation was delivered by Jacqui Simpson who has been the driving force for the Garforth Flood Group since it was set up in 2007 following earlier flooding. She explained the group usually meets every month and has 40 active members who can be called on to help out when the need arises.

It was clear that the greatest practical step which can be taken to limit flood risk across our area would be for flood defence groups to be formed, where appropriate. Anyone interested in helping form such a group for their local area, or just for more info, should contact the Communities Team - South East at southeast.ast@leeds.gov.uk

Everyone was encouraged to complete a data sheet about their concerns which we will analyse and follow up with the appropriate people.

As there was so much to discuss, the time scheduled for a debate was amended to be a question and answer session.

The Community Committee agreed to:

- set funding aside to support new groups establish to tackle localised flooding
- have flooding as regular agenda item on local forums and the environmental sub group meetings
- investigate all individual issues from returns completed by those attending

The business meeting preceded the flooding workshop and local councillors discussed grant applications and other reports...

These grants were approved:

- £10,000 - Glencoe playground refurb (in Gt Preston)
- £5,000 - Allerton Bywater playground refurb
- £4,350 - Security improvements at Allerton Bywater Welfare Hall
- £1,800 - Noticeboard for the Hebden's area of Whinmoor

Highways Maintenance We heard a presentation from Highways about how their funding is used which revealed over £100 million would be needed to undertake all of the outstanding repairs to the road network in Leeds. Currently there is only around £5 million per year for this.

Despite the huge shortfall, LCC Highways described how they aim to achieve extra projects in outer east over the coming year. The presentation was called for by our councillors so we could hear of the plans to improve their project management in order to make these improvements.

Councillors will now receive an update on pothole repairs across the area and were assured they will receive advance notification when the annual schedule is prepared in future years.

Youth Activity Fund (YAF)

The YAF is still open for applications until 17 Jan 2016, for activities taking place between Easter and Summer 2016. Ask us for details!

Summary of other work There were also updates on the recent Christmas lights switch-on events the *Communities Team* has been involved with: Cross Gates on 20 Nov and Garforth on 28 Nov. Both events were well received with Cross Gates recording another record crowd of over 1,000 for its



Crowds in Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates

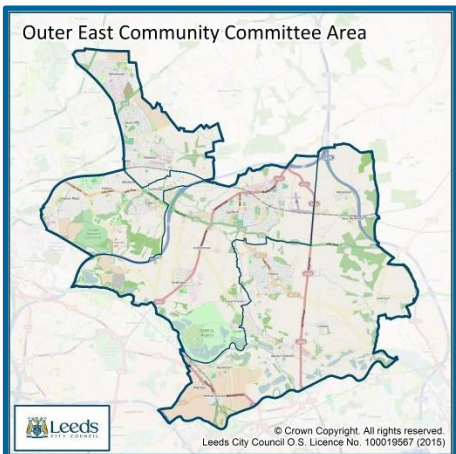
6th event and Garforth, with its refreshed format, hosting an impressive line up of young local talent on the entertainment stage, along with some famous faces! The storm may have put some people off attending but Main Street was still teaming with people!



Garforth Main Street, in the rain



(1) John Middleton, who plays Reverend Ashley Thomas in *Emmerdale* and (2) to switch the lights on we had champion boxer Josh Warrington, with Lois Campling.



Outer East Community Committee Area

Open doors in outer east

The Community Committee holds all meetings (and workshops) at local public venues and you are welcome to come along to see and hear what is happening, plus ask questions during the *open floor* section.

The next meeting will be from 4-5pm on Tuesday 15 March 2016 at Swarcliffe Community Centre. At 5pm the meeting ends and the workshop will get underway, this time looking at community safety. You are welcome to attend one, or both parts of the meeting.

Neighbourhood meetings

Did you know we also hold public meetings every three months across outer east Leeds? They're also free to attend and we use local venues.

These meetings (known as Forums) give you an opportunity to talk to us and other agencies working in your area to find out about local projects, developments and consultations. If you live in any of the following neighbourhoods, there's a forum for you!

The Outer East Community Committee area covers Allerton Bywater, Austhorpe, Colton, Cross Gates, East Osmondthorpe, Garden Village, Garforth, Great Preston, Halton, Halton Moor, Kippax, Ledsham, Ledston, Ledston Luck, Little Preston, Lower Micklethorpe, Manston, Methley, Micklefield, Micklethorpe, Pendas Fields, Stanks, Swarcliffe, Swillington, Temple Newsam, Wellington Hill, Whinmoor and Whitkirk.

The next round of Forums runs from 12th to the 28th January 2016 so please have a look on our Facebook events page, give us a call, or email us to find out about your local meeting. We look forward to meeting you!

For more information about who we are and what we do, get in touch with the **Communities Team - South East** on **0113 247 5536**, via **southeast.ast@leeds.gov.uk** or check us out on social media:

 **LccOuterEast**

 **@_YourCommunity**