

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner East Community Committee – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills. Killingbeck & Seacroft wards

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For decision

Community Committee Update Report

Purpose of report

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

Main issues

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

Sub Groups

2. The Environmental Sub Group met on 30th November 2015. On the agenda for this meeting was long term burial provision, a waste management update and an update on the Service Level Agreement for the localities team. Specific issues discussed included a piece of work to introduce a bulky waste collection service at high rise properties and the process for reporting and collecting fly tipping over weekends and bank holidays. It was also reported that 'duty of care' visits to commercial premises would be taking place across the ward to ensure that appropriate waste removal contracts are in place. There was also discussion about a new piece of work in Harehills and Burmantofts around fly tipping where potential savings made from reducing the amount of fly tipping in the community through an education campaign could be used to fund some positive community projects.

Ward Member Meetings

3. Meetings for each ward have taken place since the last Inner East Community Committee, discussing standard agenda items such as Wellbeing applications and locality environmental issues as well as more bespoke pieces of work.
4. Elected Members for Killingbeck & Seacroft have identified a problematic issue on the industrial estate on Limewood Approach where heavy goods vehicles are parking up for long periods, including overnight, which is causing associated issues with the local environment as well as highway obstructions. Members have instructed the Area Officer to undertake a piece of work with Highways and the locality environmental enforcement team to liaise with local businesses to identify the perpetrators and work with the businesses to find a solution to the issue. Members will be updated on the progress of this work through their ward member meetings.
5. The Area Officer (Inner East) has also been working on coordinating a city-wide Wellbeing application from Radio Asian Fever (a.k.a. Fever FM). The application for the Community Voices project (see Item 5 Wellbeing Report) is to multiple community committees which has involved behind the scenes work to coordinate this with officers and elected members from each area. Last month, a meeting was held at Fever FM involving the Chief Officer for Communities, the Executive Member for Citizens and Communities, the Inner East community committee chair, ward members and the Area Officer to shape the application and progress its journey through the approval processes of the various community committees. Decisions regarding the outcome of the application are expected in April.

Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships

6. Across the East North East area, a more robust neighbourhood improvement framework is being established. This includes the formation of local Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships, building on the previous neighbourhood management model and providing the opportunity to target smaller neighbourhoods where there is a need to accelerate progress.
7. Within the priority neighbourhoods identified within Inner East Community Committee, the following progress and challenges should be noted:

8. *Burmantofts & Richmond Hill*

Throughout the autumn stakeholder engagement was undertaken by the ENE Communities Team. These initial conversations built support for the concept of a Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership (NIP) and lead up to the inaugural meeting which took place on 9th December 2015. The first meeting of the partnership was well attended by representatives from approximately 30 organisations across the public and third sector. Using existing data and local insight from partners, four broad priorities were agreed which shaped the initial focus of the partnership. These were:

- Poverty - (employment support; financial inclusion; crisis support)
- Aspiration - (educational attainment; civic pride; family support)

- Housing - (private rented conditions; additional support for Housing Leeds tenants)
- Cohesion - (Language barriers; integration activity)

Following this initial meeting, four informal workshops have since taken place to develop the actions under each priority. This part of the process will eventually result in a manageable number of practical work streams that the NIP can progress over the course of the year.

9. ***Killingbeck and Seacroft***

Killingbeck and Seacroft have a strong track record of multi agency partnership, with an already existing Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership focused on community improvement which has been in place for a number of years. A partnership meeting to refresh current local arrangements and agree key priorities going forward took place 20th February 2016. It was an inspiring meeting with over 30 partners attending, including local ward members, strategic services and third sector partners. The partnership were presented with the 2015 indices of multiple deprivation statistics for the ward and took part in two workshop style discussions to reflect on the data.

Further meetings will take place to agree a set of priorities for collaborative actions moving forward, however the early discussions indicate the following as emerging priorities:

- Poverty (very high levels of deprivation and Child Poverty, unemployment and benefit prevalence – impact of welfare changes)
- Crime (domestic violence and abuse)
- Poor health (lung disease, diabetes, childhood obesity)
- Educational outcomes (KS4 and NEET)

Three emerging cross cutting themes which oversee all the priorities were also identified. These are:

- Communication
- Mental health
- Cohesion

The partnership also identified specific neighbourhoods as priority areas to focus on and highlighted that collaborative work is already underway in these neighbourhood, confirming that we are directing resources to areas of highest need. In addition, the Community Leadership Team (CLT) raised the site allocation plan as a priority; in particular the type of housing required and how existing infrastructures will need to change to support the proposed growth. Further meetings will be held over the coming months to agree and develop specific actions and work streams for each of the priorities.

10. Gipton

As with Killingbeck and Seacroft, Gipton also has a strong track record of multi agency partnership working with an existing Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership that has focused on community improvement for a number of years. The partnership has been influential in driving cohesive programmes of work to reduce duplication and improve efficiencies while delivering key messages to the community.

The re-launch of the Gipton Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership took place 4th March 2016. The meeting followed the same format as Killingbeck and Seacroft with current data presented to partners and them asked to agree the emerging priorities, focus on specific neighbourhoods and programmes of work to address inequalities.

11. Harehills

Previously the Harehills Local Management Team meeting brought together key council services to create a team for Harehills. This group met in July 2015 with a view to forming a new Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership (NIP) by inviting partners to sit alongside council services. The first formal meeting of the Harehills NIP took place in September 2015. Conversations took place with several partners about how the NIP could support local community organisations to develop, and how to facilitate better partnership working between council services and local partners. The Harehills NIP have since met twice to explore governance issues, to analyse statistical information about the area and to agree a work programme moving forward. Four key themes emerged from these discussions, which were:

- Youth Engagement
- Cohesion
- Private Sector Housing
- Environment.

The first planning session took place on 16th December 2015 to develop a collaborative action plan to drive forward neighbourhood improvement around the themes of improving cohesion and improving outcomes for young people. Over 40 people attended this planning session which brought together a wide range of partners.

The second planning session took place on 12th January 2016 to develop a collaborative action plan to drive forward neighbourhood improvement around the themes of improving private sector housing and improving the environment. Again, over 40 people attended this planning session consisting of a wide range of partners.

The feedback from both planning sessions highlighted common suggestions of improvement around all four key themes. Work programmes around the core themes are in their early stages and are being shaped through the NIP action plan. Even at this early stage, a number of positive examples of partnership working have emerged, such as the Strategic Youth Panel, Eastern European Engagement Sub Group, the Keep Harehills Tidy group and discussions to form a Harehills Housing

Advice service for residents and landlords. Work is also taking place with leaders of places of worship to explore how these community spaces can be opened out for wider community use.

12. The inaugural meeting of the Inner East Neighbourhood Improvement Board – which oversees the work of the various Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships - took place on 8th March. Details of this meeting will be reported to the next Inner East Community Committee in June.

Community Champions

13. Work is ongoing to develop the role of the Community Champions for Inner East. Community Champions support the work of the sub groups as well as working with their parent department to support work within their portfolio. The community committee chair has committed to community champion meetings occurring within each community committee cycle to ensure that champions in post are able to share their key areas of work, share good practice and address any challenging issues collectively. The last meeting of this group took place on 7th March 2016. At this meeting, members reported back on how they felt their role was developing and what needed to be done to ensure that members could undertake the role to its maximum potential. It was clear that there was inconsistency in members experiences of the role and this will be taken up by the Communities Team at a senior level.

Community Committee Performance Management Framework

14. A new performance management framework has been developed to help drive forward the priorities and achieve defined and measurable outputs from the community committee meetings. An action tracker document has been created for this purpose and is attached at Appendix 1. It provides a review of all agreed community committee actions, including those established in the community committee workshop sessions, with actions being allocated a progress rating of red, amber or green. This process provides clear accountability around actions established by the community committee and is also intended to serve as a mechanism to aid the community champions in their role by keeping them abreast of work streams within their portfolio. The action tracker is monitored through the Community Champions meetings, and went to the last meeting on 7th March.

Community Events

15. An Operation Champion took place in Burmantofts & Richmond Hill on 26th January. It was a joint operation involving Housing Leeds, the Communities Team (ENE), the Environmental Action Team (ENE), West Yorkshire Police and a host of other partners. The location for the operation was the Ayesgarths, Glensdales, the East Parks and Temple View Terrace and Place. The various teams worked together to undertake litter picking, bin yard clean ups as well as advice sessions on reducing household bills, employment and housing benefits. The community committee funded several skips for the event and a number of staff from the Communities Team and

Environmental Action Team took part in several litter picking sessions with pupils from Richmond Hill Primary School.

Communications & Social Media

16. The Communities Team ENE have continued to use the Inner East Community Committee Facebook pages to promote the work of the committee as well as advertising community events and local opportunities. At the time of writing, the Inner East Community Committee Facebook pages had been “liked” by 251 people, an increase from 229 at the time of the last Community Committee in December 2015. Throughout the months of January and February, 79 posts were posted on these pages reaching 3,987 people. The Facebook pages continue to be an important communications tool between the council and local residents and services and work is ongoing as to how this resource can be further utilised.
17. Since the December meeting of the community committee, it has been identified that there was a gap in terms of publishing the key outcomes of community committees following the meetings. Much of the content of community committee meetings is communicated following the meeting in the form of this Community Committee Update Report, the recently introduced action tracker and the Inner East Community Committee newsletter. However, it was felt that something more timely and user-friendly was required in addition to these channels. As a result, a new Inner East post-committee bulletin will be produced following each committee meeting. This will be sent out to the usual mailing list and also posted on the Facebook page. In addition to this, it has also been decided that a link to the published minutes of committee meetings will also be sent out using these same channels so people have a formal record of what was discussed and resolved at community committee meetings.

Challenges and Opportunities

18. From 15th February 2016 West Yorkshire Police will commence a new operating model. These changes will see the work undertaken by Inspectors, Sergeants and Police Constables altering. The aim of these alterations is to enable the service to better meet local service demands. The changes will mean:
 - Inspectors taking on a locality based role and thematic responsibilities across the locality, deploying response Officers across the locality and maintaining a footprint at a partnership working area level (community committee areas)
 - Sergeants assuming control of the local partnership working area neighbourhood teams
 - Police Constables becoming ward officers and PCSOs being deployed in response to local demand

The new structure will ensure greater flexibility in meeting existing and future challenges, whilst maintaining and building on the neighbourhood policing structure. A

presentation providing further detail on these changes will take place during the standard business part of this meeting.

Conclusion

19. The work of the Communities Team in partnership with council departments, external partners and with elected members is working towards the priorities of the Community Committee and the aspirations of the new neighbourhood improvement approach. This programme of work should be seen as a work in progress which is consolidating the Community Committee's role as a local decision-making body by strengthening the links between the local authority and the communities it serves.

Recommendations

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