

Report of: Jane Maxwell; Area Leader (East North East)

Report to: Inner North East Community Committee (Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay wards)

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Neighbourhood Improvement Update report

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an update on neighbourhood improvement activity across Inner North East Leeds within the two Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships (NIPs) – Chapeltown and Meanwood.

Main issues

2. The East Leeds neighbourhood improvement approach is now well established, driving improvements across six NIPs within Inner East and Inner North East Community Committee areas. Partner engagement has been very positive and has ensured progress has been made in all priority neighbourhoods across a range of issues. All priority neighbourhoods now have NIPs established and action 'plans on a page' in place. These have been presented to the Board for comment and endorsement.
3. The NIP approach has enabled significant progress within Chapeltown and Meanwood, with this work being led by the Community Committee funded Area Officer who is providing a catalyst for partnership working. The emphasis is on identifying new collaborative actions that are either additional to current service delivery or that replace existing service delivery with new ways of working. The agreed actions focus on sustainable improvements that are not just linked to additional funding but that re-shape and re-focus existing resources to be more effective.

4. Within Chapeltown, neighbourhood improvement was re-focused at the 'Working Together for Chapeltown' meeting in December 2015. This session provided an opportunity for around 50 partner organisations to agree priorities for Chapeltown. Work is now being driven through a series of sub-groups and work-streams focusing on young people, older people, housing and community cohesion.
5. Within Meanwood, partnership working is driven through the Meanwood 7 Estates group, which forms the local NIP. Whilst improvements are being made, it has been and will continue to be particularly important to manage residents' expectations. Leeds Citizens have been working closely with residents on the Beckhills estate. The Area Officer has been working with both Leeds Citizens and the residents themselves to support their engagement in improvements.
6. Appendices 1 and 2 highlight NIP progress and challenges across Chapeltown and Meanwood.

Conclusion

7. The report demonstrates significant neighbourhood improvement activity across Chapeltown and Meanwood. However, there are still a number of challenges which the NIPs are working together to tackle.

Recommendation

8. The Community Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.

Background Papers:

None

Community Cohesion and Engagement

- Chapeltown Neighbourhood Watch Group established and growing, with an active group of residents frequently reporting crime and grime issues across the Mexboroughs and Saviles.
- Support provided to re-establish Newton Park Drive Tenants and Residents Group with practical actions undertaken such as community clean up with partner support.

CHALLENGE: the 'Working Together for Chapeltown' partnership held a useful initial workshop but it is a large group and the preferred way of working is through smaller work-streams.

Young People

- Mandela Users Youth Group established to work with LCC to and engage young people
- Support provided to CFYDC to allow them to explore the potential of a sports / young people's facility on grounds adjacent to Prince Philip Centre
- Bonfire night diversionary activities at Mandela Centre and West Indian Centre supported with £2,400 from the Inner North East Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund
- Continued work with young people through Inner North East Community Committee funded 'Each One Teach One' project to gain accreditation for ILM mentoring
- Partners have expressed a keen interest in supporting young people that they work with to engage in an Inner North East Youth Summit, hopefully taking place by the end of year

CHALLENGE: early intervention and prevention to prevent young people filling the gaps created within Organised Crime Units by a number of recent significant arrests

Housing

- Refreshed Chapeltown Housing Investment Strategy action plan, co-produced with local housing associations and partners. Practical actions such as joint estate visits and joint repair opportunities are currently being examined.
- Workshop to allow those working in the area to 'check and challenge' the action plan

Older people

- Improving outcomes for older people through the better coordination and targeting of information identified as a priority at the initial 'Working Together 4 Chapeltown' workshop
- Leeds Black Elders currently share information about activities

CHALLENGE: Partner resources stretched in the current challenging financial climate, making it difficult to establish a group to progress this work.

Communications

- Chapeltown News website has been established through local partnership.
- The Inner North East Community Committee's Facebook page has been utilised to publicise local activities and promote events. This now has almost 400 'likes'.

Beckhill estate

- The Beckhill estate has been a long term issue in the Meanwood area. Resident group 'Team Beckhills' have come together to drive change on the estate.
- Significant work taken place with Millfield Primary and Leeds Citizens to support their engagement and agree priorities
- There have been two successful action days and a community event on the estate to try and build back community confidence in the council.
- Two meetings have now taken place to work through the two major issues of concern to residents 1) steps and pavements capital works 2) waste and enforcement issues.
- Following these meetings a clear plan of action has been agreed to tackle both issues over the next 12 months

CHALLENGE: managing resident expectations

CHALLENGE: accelerating progress on capital works and waste management and enforcement activity

Stonegate estate

- Work is taking place on the Stonegate estate to work through issues of Crime and ASB in the area.
- Conversations are taking place around CCTV with relevant housing stock holders, the Council and WYP Police and council visibility activities are ongoing.
- Partners are working together to come up with funding opportunities and ensure activity is accessible in the area
- Improving safety for older people in their homes through providing information to older people to advise on the best key safes to purchase

CHALLENGE: local engagement and intelligence required to address crime and ASB issues

Additional progress

- Zest leading on discussions to deliver a 'Pay as You Feel' café at Millfield Primary School £5,000 Housing Advisory Panel and £5,000 Well-being funding to Family Solution project from Stainbeck Church Community Café