



Report of The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate

Meeting: Inner South Leeds Area Committee

Date: Tuesday 8th April 2008

Subject: Area Manager's Update Report

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Beeston & Holbeck City & Hunslet Middleton Park</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report identifies a range of activity which has been undertaken in recent months by the Area Management Team and/or in conjunction with others.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update from the Area Manager on the work of the Area Management Team since the last Area Committee met. It also enables the committee to raise questions or provide advice regarding the topics contained in the report. As usual this report is largely laid out along the lines of the 07/08 Area Delivery Plan key themes which forms the focus of the Area Management Team's work plan. There is an additional section covering other work activities of the team and other issues and updates for Members to be aware of or consider.

2.0 CLEANER NEIGHBOURHOODS

2.1 Clean ups

2.1.1 Environmental Services' (formerly Streetscene Services) Environmental Pride Team and the Estate Caretakers from Aire Valley Homes Leeds have carried out clean ups in February and March in the Rochefords/Hemingways/Sussexes/Leasowes area (City and Hunslet Ward) and in Manor Farms (Middleton Park Ward). In addition the

Environmental Pride Team and Parks and Countryside cleaned up Hunslet Moor Banks (City and Hunslet Ward) except parts of the banking which were not accessible as they are within the construction site.

2.1.2 In addition to the above, Neighbourhood Wardens have carried out environmental projects, these have included:

2.1.3 The Area Management Team has sent through a total of 131 referrals to the Environmental Pride Team for rubbish/litter clearing between February 1st and March 12th.

3.0 INVOLVING COMMUNITIES

3.1 Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker

3.1.1 Following on from the last Area Committee meeting, an update report has been produced by the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker. Over February and March the main outcomes of this work in neighbourhoods has been the following:-

Middleton

- Attended estate Walkabout – 1 Feb and 5 Feb, two residents involved
- Kept Middleton Community Group updated and involved especially in the Green Master Plan/Sissons Road.
- Branding discussed and ideas suggested; green masterplan noted /features in Middleton - 24 residents were in attendance
- Attended Community Group meeting 8 March - 23 residents attended, workshop on development of green master plan undertaken; consultation with Friends of Middleton Park regarding LHF bid undertaken.

Cottingley

- Attend action day on 23rd Feb; support group to begin work on Garden Competition.
- 2 residents on estate walkabout with AVHL.
- Positive responses about TRAC and many said they would attend AGM on 5 March
- 3 residents attended, planted 100 trees
- Attended Cottingley Fayre steering group – 24 Feb, looking into possible grants
- Over 30 residents attended the AGM - new secretary agreed and 3 new committee members.

Manor Farms

- Agreed positions on committee; 5 attended and AGM/launch date agreed for 3 April.
- Confirmed AGM and committee; 4 agreed to help on clean up to plant orchard. 10 residents attended, ages 35 plus.
- Newsletter distributed and programme sent to regular attendees.
- Orchard planted – no residents able to attend
- Developed two drop in sessions as part of Manor Farms Action Days on 4th & 5th March

Recreations

- Constructed Bird boxes with school children.
- Develop newsletter; support committee for Voice of Holbeck.
- Committee confirmed; actions for committee agreed, e.g. new chair to run group meetings, environmental projects, information board for youth centre.
- Meeting run and minuted by committee; 20 residents attended

Arthingtons

- Railway meeting 6 Feb. discuss Japanese knotweed rubbish dumping on small section of track and supporting railway with contacting landowner.

Other

- Attended Holbeck in Bloom 7 Feb. took minutes.
- Attended Area Committee 19 Feb
- Attended Belle Isle 'Youth Forum' 28 Feb, took minutes
- Attend ADP Workshops 5, 7, 11, March
- Attended Holbeck in Bloom 6 March

- 3.1.2 Elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting, there is a 12 months progress report on the Priority Neighbourhood Development work plus a proposal for the Area Committee to consider for an extension into year 3 should the Area Committee want this.

3.2 Community Centres

- 3.2.1 Work on making the community centres portfolio more sustainable is still continuing. The building that has had the most focus since the last Area Committee meeting, is Watsonia Pavilion. An electrical fire occurred at the facility in February and a number of works have been undertaken to repair the damage that was mainly contained to the kitchen area.
- 3.2.2 The next meeting of the Inner South Community Centre Sub Committee will take place on Friday 18th April – this meeting will look at the usage of the buildings within the portfolio and any maintenance or repairs that need to be prioritised for the buildings.

4.0 MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

4.1 The Youth Bus

- 4.1.1 The latest update report received (and sent to councilors) covers January and February 2008, the points below outline the main facts and figures:
- 949 young people access the Youth Bus in January & February – 117 of these were new users and the remaining 832 were young people who had accessed the service previously.
 - In the Middleton Park Ward, 287 young people aged 8 – 19 years were worked with in the neighbourhoods of Manor Farms, Belle Isle and Sissons/Throstles area.
 - 496 young people accessed the Youth Bus in the City and Hunslet Ward when it visited Hunslet Moor, the Arthingtons and Balmorals.
 - In Beeston and Holbeck Ward, 166 young people aged 8 -19 years accessed the Youth Bus when it visited the Cottingley, Parkwoods and Holbeck neighbourhoods.
 - As usual activities provided from the bus included: football, cricket, rugby, basketball, rounders, dodge ball; there were also squash and snacks, music, DVDs, art, jewellery making, cake decorating. In addition Connexions information and information about services were provided.
 - St. Lukes Cares delivered activities from the Youth Bus in partnership with LCC Youth Service, Crossroads Youth Project, Church of the Nazarene, Urban Bar and Getaway Girls.

- 4.1.2 Elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting, there is a 12 months progress report on the Youth Bus plus a proposal for the Area Committee to consider for an extension into year 3 should the Area Committee want this.

4.2 I Love South Leeds Festival 2008

- 4.2.1 A co-ordinator has been appointed for the 2008 I Love South Leeds Festival – Rodney Adams commenced the role on 10th March and is currently working with key organisations on the development of the festival programme and the main three elements of the festival – Turn It Up (music competition for 11 – 19 year olds), Junior Superstar (talent contest for children up to 11 years old to enter) and South Leeds Olympics.

5.0 REGENERATING AREAS

5.1 Beeston Hill and Holbeck PFI Scheme

- 5.1.1 The Outline Business Case for the project was approved by the Council's Executive Board and submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government in November 2007. The scope of the project is as follows:
- Clearance of 685 unsustainable and low demand public sector properties;
 - Refurbishment of 291 existing housing units and ongoing maintenance during the contract period;
 - Conversion of 30 existing sheltered housing units to form 24 sheltered housing units and ongoing maintenance during the contract period;
 - Construction of up to 350 new Council homes for rent and ongoing maintenance during the contract period;
 - Construction of approximately 350 private homes on development sites.
- 5.1.2 The scope was finalised during an Options Appraisal process which included consultation with local residents (door to door surveys and public meetings) together with an analysis of technical and financial issues.
- 5.1.3 A Government outcome of decision on credits is pending and if available a verbal update may be provided at this Area Committee meeting.
- 5.1.4 All residents in properties directly affected by these proposals were notified in November of the Council's preferred option for their properties. Residents will be contacted again to notify them of the Government's decision on the credits.
- 5.1.5 The Council is applying for Outline Planning permission on all sites included in the PFI scheme. The applications for Holbeck Towers, Cambrian Street and Folly Lane sites were submitted at the end of March. Public drop-in sessions were held in February at St Matthew's Community Centre and the United Free Church, Malvern Road to provide information and an opportunity to comment on these proposals. Approximately 80 people attended these sessions and their feedback was included in the Statement of Community Involvement which accompanies the application. Further drop-in sessions have been arranged (dates to be confirmed) for the remaining development sites in the scheme with the intention of submitting Outline Planning applications on these by end of April.
- 5.1.6 A Communications Manager has been appointed to ensure effective resident, community and stakeholder involvement in the project. This includes involving the community in further details regarding Planning and design.

- 5.1.7 The Council is seeking approval from government to jointly procure the Beeston Hill & Holbeck PFI scheme with Little London. Four bidders have been invited to submit Outline Solutions for both schemes. It is expected that the preferred bidder will be in place and ready to start on site by spring 2010.

5.2 Middleton

- 5.2.1 The last meeting of the Middleton Regeneration Board took place on February 26th. The meeting reviewed the visit to Wythenshawe, Manchester and also looked at the emerging physical regeneration strategy for the Central Middleton area.
- 5.2.2 Consultation on brand / logo for the Middleton Regeneration Strategy, as part of the Area Committee funded Marketing and Community Engagement project, is ongoing. So far the Middleton Partnership Manager has met with a number of groups to discuss the branding ideas and feedback will be provided at future Board Meetings.
- 5.2.3 Health & Well Being and Community Safety Thematic sub groups are still continuing to assist with further development of the Middleton regeneration strategy and action plan. Three further groups focusing on Employment & Economic Development, Education & Young People and Cohesion & Engagement are still to be established. All these groups are time limited and will cease once it is felt that the relevant action plan sections are robust enough to take forward into the delivery phase.

5.3 Neighbourhood Improvement Plans - NIPs (see also Priority Neighbourhood Development worker)

- a) **Manor Farms NIP** – Two community action days took place on the 4th and 5th March – the action days incorporated an intensive community clean up and two drop in sessions where local people could get advice on a number of issues. The third newsletter was also distributed to every household in the NIP area.
- b) **Arthingtons NIP** – walkabout relating to dumping issues around Middleton Railway has been undertaken and a course of action has been agreed to address these problems.
- c) **Recreations NIP** – the residents group now meets on a monthly basis and has established a committee.

6.0 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

6.1 Neighbourhood Wardens

- 6.1.1 Since February Neighbourhood Wardens and Neighbourhood Safety Liaison Officers have completed approximately 35 visits to sheltered housing schemes, over 55 groups and voluntary sector organisations. The purpose of the visits are to raise awareness of distraction burglary, provide crime reduction equipment and check security of properties. Visits are also scheduled throughout April. Focus is now being placed upon vulnerable residents living independently in the community.

Neighbourhood Wardens have been involved in a project in Cottingley with the local primary school in conjunction with Aire Valley Homes and Bikeshed Productions to involve young people in the regeneration of their area. Neighbourhood Wardens have

been working with the Arson Task Force in local schools to warn children against the dangers of arson and fires.

6.2 Operation Champion

6.2.1 Operation Champion took place 10th-12th March in Beeston Hill. The target neighbourhood included the Woodviews, Stratfords, Maud Avenue, Westbournes, Bromptons, Lindens, Garnets and remaining occupied properties on the Beverley's. Activity during the operation included:

- Aire Valley Homes, Environmental Pride Team and Neighbourhood Wardens cleared 37 bin yards in the Woodviews area. 5 bin yards were steel sheeted until further work can be undertaken to mechanically remove waste this is to prevent further dumping and reduce the risk of arson. New bins were delivered to ensure each house is able to dispose of its waste appropriately.
- Neighbourhood Wardens completed visits to vulnerable or elderly residents residing in the community to raise awareness of distraction burglary and check home security.
- Arson Reduction team carried out assemblies in local primary schools to warn against arson and raise awareness of the consequences.
- DVLA, HM Revenue and Customs, Civil Warrants undertook enforcement activity during the operation. A truancy sweep took place during the operation.

6.2.5 Below is a table outline the dates of the 2008 Operation Champion and where they have and will take place:-

Month	Dates of Operation Champion	Area
January	15-17 January	Middleton
February	27-28 February	Rothwell
March	10-12 March	Beeston Hill
April	15-17 April	Holbeck
May	7-9 May	Hunslet
June	11-13 June	Beeston Hill
July	16-18 July	Belle Isle
August	6-8 August	Far Beeston
September	9-11 September	Beeston Hill
October	8-10 October	Outer
November	3-5 November	Beeston Hill
December	No Operation this month	

7.0 Area Committee Forward Plan

7.1 Thematic sub-partnership/Area Committee responsibilities and Elected Member links.

At its February meeting, this Committee supported the principle, as part of future area based partnership working, of nominating Elected Members with an interest and the availability to act as champions for the specific LSP and ADP themes dealt with by the thematic sub-partnerships. It is also suggested that the same Elected Members could also be the champion for the Area Committee function/responsibility which is associated most closely with the relevant thematic sub-partnership and ADP thematic priority.

Attached in appendix 1 is an initial proposed schedule of the thematic sub-Partnerships aligned to dates of Area Committee meetings in 08/09 before which such partnerships would host a public engagement event. The attached table also

has a column showing which Area Committee functions/responsibilities fit with the relevant thematic sub-partnership and relevant LSP/ADP theme.

This Area Committee is requested:

- to agree in principle (pending discussions with the relevant lead agency and partners) the order in which each of the thematic sub-partnerships would host a pre-Area Committee meeting public engagement events.
- to provisionally nominate for 08/09 an Elected Member who would be willing to act as a champion/key link on behalf of this Area Committee for at least one of the various thematic priorities/sub-partnerships and the associated Area Committee responsibilities.
- To note that the nominations would be provisional subject to ratification and approval through normal council procedures and any Constitutional amendments that may be made in May 2008, and as such will be confirmed at the first Area Committee meeting of the new municipal 08/09 year.

7.2 Community Engagement

At its February meeting, this Area Committee supported the proposal to deliver two specific community events per ward per year. Attached in appendix 2 is an initial proposed schedule of such events which will be offered in the area for the forthcoming year. To assist in developing the schedule, suggestions from Ward members are welcomed for:

- any existing events in each Ward that the Area Committees' own Community Engagement event could link up with should Ward Members wish this,
- any venues and/or areas of a Ward that the events could be held in and focus on,
- any suggestions of particular local community groups the events could be run in association with.

Following suggestions from Elected Members at this meeting the Area Management Team will then begin planning with relevant local organizations, agencies, Council services and publicise the schedule in advance to local groups and residents.

8.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

8.1 No specific issues are identified except those referred to in paragraph 7.1

9.0 Legal and Resource Implications

8.1 No specific issues are identified

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is asked:

- a) to note the contents of this report
- b) make comment as appropriate on any of the items in this report
- c) for The Area Committee (as in 7.1) to
 - i) to agree in principle (pending discussions with the relevant lead agency and partners) the order in which each of the thematic sub-partnerships would host a pre-Area Committee meeting public engagement events.

- ii) to nominate an Elected Member who would be willing to act as a champion for at least one of the various thematic priorities/sub-partnerships and the associated Area Committee responsibilities for 08/09.
 - iii) to note that the nominations would be provisional subject to ratification and approval through normal council procedures and any Constitutional amendments that may be made in May 2008, and as such will be confirmed at the first Area Committee meeting of the new municipal 08/09 year.
- d) for Members (as in 7.2) to make suggestions regarding the community engagement events schedule:
- any existing events in each Ward that the Area Committees' own Community Engagement event could link up with should Ward Members wish this,
 - any venues and/or areas of a Ward that the events could be held in and focus on,
 - any suggestions of particular local community groups the events could be run in association with.