



Report of The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate

Meeting: Inner South Leeds Area Committee

Date: Tuesday 11th November 2008

Subject: Area Manager's Update Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston & Holbeck
City & Hunslet
Middleton Park

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

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.

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 and staff from Parks And Countryside have carried out an intensive clean up in parts of Cottingley.

2.1.2 In addition to the above, Neighbourhood Wardens have carried out environmental projects. There was a clean up at Woodhouse Hill Grove in Hunslet. Two Wardens helped with a Saturday morning clean up around the Holy Trinity building in Beeston Hill. An intensive clean up is planned for Cottingley on 21st/22nd October.

2.1.3 The Area Management Team has sent through a total of 165 referrals to the Environmental Pride Team for rubbish/litter clearing between 30th August and 15th October.

2.1.4 An outline programme of intensive clean ups for 2009 has been agreed by the Inner South Environmental Co-ordination Group and is shown below. The first four locations for the clean ups are the NIP areas. Members are asked to note the programme and are invited to suggest other hotspot areas for the intensive clean up programme for the remainder of 2009.

Month	Ward	Location
January	City & Hunslet	Garnets NIP (Trentham St., Oakleys, Garnets, Colwiyns, Woodviews) [targeted area for clean up to be agreed]
February	Beeston & Holbeck	Cardinals NIP (Waincliffes, Cardinals, Thirlmere Gardens, Redhalls) [targeted area for clean up to be agreed]
March	Middleton Park	West Granges NIP (includes Winroses, Whitebeams, West Granges, Clearings, Blakeney) [targeted area for clean up to be agreed]
April	City & Hunslet	Northcotes & Sunbeams NIP (includes Northcotes, Bismarcks, Disraelis, Coupland Street, Flaxtons, Greenmount St, Fulham Street, Sunbeams) [targeted area for clean up to be agreed]
May	Beeston & Holbeck	To be agreed
June	Middleton Park	To be agreed
July	City & Hunslet	To be agreed
August	Beeston & Holbeck	To be agreed
September	Middleton Park	To be agreed
October	Beeston & Holbeck	To be agreed
November	City & Hunslet	To be agreed
December	No intensive clean up	

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. The section below briefly summarises outcomes of this work in priority neighbourhoods in September and October:-

Middleton

- Supported Middleton Community Group
- Middleton in Bloom arranged prize giving for Garden Competition 50 people attended
- Supported work with NACRO on small environmental projects such as bulb planting and replanting the planters at Middleton Circus.

Belle Isle

- Supported the ongoing development of Aberfields and Newhalls Community Group
- Supported the first meeting held to develop West Granges and Winroses Community Group

Manor Farms

- First Bus agreed to restart bus service through part of the estate
- Supported Manor Farms Community Group

Recreations

- Supported Voice of Holbeck – Leeds United Chief Executive attended meeting in October.

Cottingley

- Supported Tenants and Residents Association Cottingley Hall – Hilary Benn and Leeds United Chief Executive attended meetings in September.
- Supported Cottingley in Bloom

Other

- Supported CAD Beeston Community Group meetings
- Supported Holbeck in Bloom

3.2 Community Centres

3.2.1 Proposals are being drawn up with Middleton Park Football Club with regards to them taking on a lease for Cranmore & Raylands Community Centre. They intend to use the building as a clubhouse facility for the football teams that use the pitches at Clapgate Primary School, which is located next to the community centre. The facility is currently managed by Cranmore & Raylands Community Association who have decided to relinquish the existing lease on the building from 31st December 2008.

3.2.2 Consultation with users of Holbeck Youth Club and Old Cockburn Centre is now complete. Information was sent to user groups around proposals from The Cupboard Project and Joseph Priestley College about taking over the management of these two facilities. Feedback has been positive from the users and a report has been submitted to Asset Management Group in order for formal lease negotiations to commence.

4.0 MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

4.1 The Youth Bus

- 4.1.1 The latest update report received (and sent to councillors) covers September 2008, the points below outline the main facts and figures:
- 300 young people access the Youth Bus in September – 94 of these were new users and the remaining 206 were young people who had accessed the service previously.
 - In the Middleton Park Ward, 119 young people aged 8 – 19 years were worked with in the neighbourhoods of Manor Farms, Belle Isle and Sissons/Throstles area.
 - 101 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, 80 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 and jewellery making. In addition Connexions information and information about services were provided.
 - St. Lukes Cares delivered activities from the Youth Bus in partnership with Crossroads Youth Project, Church of the Nazarene, Urban Bar, South Leeds Sports Centre, Frontline Project and Groundwork.

5.0 REGENERATING AREAS

5.1 Beeston Hill and Holbeck PFI Scheme

5.1.1 The Area Committee received information on the three consortia invited to submit Detailed Solutions for the works at the last meeting. The timetable for undertaking the procurement process for a contractor for the works is as follows:

June – Oct 08	Three consortia invited to submit Detailed Solutions for the works in response to the Council' bid requirements.
Jan 09	Two contractors will be selected to go through to a Refinement of Solutions phase.
Sept 09	One of the consortia will be selected as Preferred Bidder followed by completion of financial arrangements and awarding of contract.
From early 2010	Contract start.

5.1.2 Applications for the housing development on the PFI sites will be presented to Plans Panel on 25th September 2008 (interim presentation) followed by a determination at the 23rd October Plans Panel.

5.2 Middleton

5.2.1 The Middleton Regeneration Board hasn't met since the last Area Committee meeting however work continues on the current key priorities regarding the physical regeneration of Middleton (including affordable housing) as well as plans for environmental improvements.

5.2.2 In addition a sub-group on Enterprise, Economy and Employment is currently working up a sub-strategy on this theme. Following the submission an expression of interest for ERDF funds for the development of the Middleton Enterprise Centre, Yorkshire Forward has asked for LEGI/LCC to develop an outline bid. Area Management has supported (formerly 'South Leeds') Health For All in working up this outline bid.

5.2.3 At the time of writing interviews had taken place to fill the position of Middleton Neighbourhood Manager. It is anticipated that by the time of the Area Committee meeting, the successful candidate will have been in place.

5.3 Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM)

5.3.1 The Steering Group met on 23rd September 2008. They agreed to allocate the Cleaner Safer Green capital underspend from 2007/08 to Groundwork Leeds to run a 'Recycling the Year' festival. The project aims to increase recycling rates and green living in Beeston Hill. If the approach proves successful, Groundwork would consider running the project in other parts of the area, subject to securing funding. Environmental Services will work closely with Groundwork to deliver the project.

5.3.2 The Group also discussed the service response to the residents' perception survey that was funded by INM at the beginning of the year, to measure the impact of INM funded interventions across the area. The perception survey identified a number of very positive improvements in people's perceptions, particularly around crime and the fear of crime. There were still issues that people felt had not improved, or still needed further improvement over the coming years. The survey will prove useful to services to help direct provision in the INM areas.

5.3.3 2009/10 is the last year of INM funding. Citywide there is a 38% reduction in the amount of funding the city will receive and as a result, each INM area will receive a reduced allocation. The Steering Group considered a report with proposals for how the reduced amount could be allocated next year. The Group requested further work

be done on the figures. A final report will be presented to the Steering Group in December, for the Area Committee to approve at their meeting on 17th December.

5.4 Beeston Hill and Holbeck Regeneration

5.4.1 The Beeston Hill and Holbeck Regeneration Partnership Board met on 5th September 2008 and received an update on the progress of the Housing PFI and current plans for affordable housing on selected development sites.

5.4.2 The Regional Housing Board programme is progressing. A consultation event was held in Brickfield Park regarding the Beverleys area and how the design layout could potentially look. Remaining properties are being re-evaluated given the current economic climate and the fact they were first evaluated some three to four months ago. The Beeston Hill Group Repair Phase 4 is nearing practical completion, with the total scheme cost in the region of £2.3m. The Phase 5 scheme has now received Executive Board approval and work is expected to start on site in October 2008. Scheme costs for this phase will be approximately £1.5m.

5.4.3 The Board received the Beeston Hill & Holbeck Regeneration Partnership Draft Annual Review for 2007-2008. The final version will be available in November 2008.

6.0 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

6.1 Neighbourhood Wardens

6.1.1 Neighbourhood Wardens were involved in the Beeston Hill Champion (see details in section below). "Waste in garden" letters have been issued to 43 properties predominantly in Beeston Hill. Out of these, 25 are still being dealt with, 12 have been cleared by the resident and 6 have been passed onto the Environmental Action Team for enforcement action to be taken.

6.1.2 The Wardens are due to carry out high visibility evening patrols on 3rd November to tackle issues of ASB prior to Mischief Night and Bonfire Night. This is being organised by the Neighbourhood Safety Liaison Officer in partnership with West Yorkshire Police, Anti Social Behaviour Unit and youth service providers.

6.1.3 The team continues to carry out its day to day role of providing visible foot patrols, reassurance visits to elderly persons complexes, reporting environmental issues and joint working with other agencies. Due to the retirement of one member of staff and long term sickness absence of two others, the team is reduced to 3.6 members including the Senior Warden. As there are ongoing discussions about the future of the Neighbourhood Wardens Service, these vacancies are not being filled at this time.

6.2 Operation Champion

6.2.1 Operation Champion took place in Beeston Hill on 9th to 11th September 2008. Partner agencies involved include Neighbourhood Wardens, Environmental Pride Teams, Aire Valley Homes, Anti Social Behaviour Team, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire Service, Leeds Federated Housing, CASAC, Groundwork UK, PCT Stop Smoking Service, HM Revenue and Customs and Safer Leeds. Key achievements were:

Tackling environmental issues

- The bin yards work has continued with a further 49 bin yards cleared of rubbish and dumping. These were in the Holbeck area as all yards in Beeston Hill have now been cleared.
- A door to door survey was carried out in order to give residents information about their responsibility in relation to the bin yard and to promote the bulky waste collection service.
- The Probation unpaid work team were also involved in cutting back overgrown vegetation and shrubs.

Tackling crime and community safety

- A problem with lead flashing being stolen from properties around the Waverley Garth area was identified. Using funding from Safer Leeds, anti climb paint was painted onto 110 properties in the area. This paint means that the lead cannot be sold as it is difficult to remove the paint from the lead. It can also deter people from climbing onto the roof and therefore reduces the risk of other crimes occurring.
- Officers carried out a door to door survey and delivered letters in the Waverleys, Bismarks and Disraeli's in order to gather intelligence about ASB and crime in the area.
- Smoke alarms and the Warmer Living Project were promoted to residents.
- All staff were involved in identifying vehicles with property left on display so that follow up letters advising them of the risk of theft from motor vehicle could be issued.
- The Operation Champion Newsletter was given to all properties in the area.

Below is a table outlines the dates of the 2008 Operation Champion and where they have taken place and where they have been planned to 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	

8.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

8.1 No specific issues are identified.

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

Background papers

None