

Final report on the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan for the Receptions

Executive Summary

This report sets out the achievements of the Receptions Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) and some tasks that still need to be carried out.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Inner South Area Committee of the achievements of the Receptions Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) and sets out the tasks that are still to be carried out.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Receptions NIP covered the area bounded by Ingram Road, Elland Road, the Viaduct and Holbeck Moor and is shown on the map at Appendix 1. It included the Receptions, Colensos, Tilburys, Rydals, and Runswicks areas of turn of the century back to back and through terraced housing and some more recently constructed housing in the Balms and Ingrams areas.

2.2 The Area Committee at its meeting on 13 December 2007 approved the action plan for the Receptions NIP (there has been some amendment to the action plan since then).

2.3 The 13 December 2007 report identified the considerable consultation work which had taken place in the area before the start of the NIP. This included consultation to inform the Holbeck Regeneration Plan and consultation to inform the Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme through a participatory appraisal project which was carried out by people living in the INM areas supported by Leeds Voice. Local concerns were well documented through these processes and to avoid consultation fatigue the results of these consultations were utilised for the NIP.

2.4 The NIP was directed by a steering group chaired by Councillor Angela Gabriel and included representatives from:

Environmental Services
Parks and Countryside
Neighbourhood Warden
Area Management
Aire Valley Homes Leeds
West Yorkshire Police
Groundwork Leeds
Voice of Holbeck
Cross Ingrams Residents Association
Gaitskells Community Association

2.3 The steering group held 11 meetings between April 2007 and November 2008.

3.0 Action Plan

3.1 The themes identified in the action plan as it developed were:

- Cleaner Neighbourhoods
- Built environment/homes
- Traffic and movement
- Involving communities
- More for Young People
- Safer Neighbourhoods
- Healthy Neighbourhoods

Short term actions were agreed by the steering group to address these issues. Should members wish to see it, the final action plan is available from the Area Management Team. The main achievements through the NIP process are:

Cleaner Neighbourhoods

- The bulky waste service and the correct use of green recycling bins has been promoted in the NIP newsletter.
- Green bins have been provided in the Cross Ingrams area
- Some environment activities were carried out at Holbeck Gala
- 70 binyards were cleared during Operation Champion in May 2007 and 49 binyards in the Recreations area were cleared during Operation Champion in September; door to door information was given to residents about their responsibility for keeping the binyards clean and to promote the bulky waste collection service.
- Improvements to grass cutting in the area was achieved, including identifying responsibilities, improvements to cutting back vegetation on various paths including adjacent to the A643 and near the Viaduct, ensuring a consistent approach to grass cutting in the Cross Ingrams area; the general enquiry number for residents for grass cutting was publicized in the NIP newsletter.
- Graffiti was removed from the Viaduct.
- Unused litter bin was moved to replace burnt out bin.
- Minor relocation of bottle banks on the Spotted Cow site was carried out.
- Holbeck Moor was improved by Parks & Countryside with the hedge along Holbeck Moor Road being taken out and replaced with railings; Forestry section is due to plant a hawthorn hedge to screen the fencing by the motorway.

Built environment/homes

- Aire Valley Homes has agreed in principle to pay for the repair of damaged sections and renewal of missing sections of fencing in the Cross Ingrams area.

Traffic and movement

- Problem of motorbikes getting onto footbridge over M621 was explored but diaries kept by residents showed there was little to report so no further action was needed.

Involving communities

- There was no community or residents' group for the area and the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker has started a residents' group – the Voice of Holbeck – this is an active group covering the terraced housing in the Recreations, Colensos, Tilbury's, Shaftons, Rydalls area of Holbeck. VOH was established officially

in January 2008, although 6 months prior to this it was called Old Holbeck Residents Association.

The group holds regular 6-weekly meetings which are attended by a wide range of agencies looking at issues of concern to local people including ASB; Environmental issues such as dumping/litter/binyards; highways issues such as parking problems on match days and bus services, minor road repair problems; housing issues working with Leeds Federated Housing Association and AVHL.

Over the last year the group has established a committee and bank account; undertaken small scale environmental activities such as bulb and flower planting; installing a notice board at Holbeck Youth Centre; instrumental in getting the post office reinstated in the area; attending a range of meetings relating to PFI and Regeneration proposals for Holbeck; supporting the organisation of Holbeck Gala; and prior to meetings the group leaflets some 800 properties in its area. The group is effectively now self running.

- Four editions of a newsletter for the NIP area have been produced by Area Management Team and distributed (and a final newsletter is planned for December).
- Fuel poverty was tackled by publicizing ways to cut heating bills including promotion of the Green Doctor and the Fuelsavers services.

More for Young People

- The youth gym and the Friday evening activities at the South Leeds Sports Centre, the new jungle gym on Holbeck Moor, activities at the Holbeck Youth Centre and the Youth Bus were promoted in the NIP newsletter.
- A noticeboard to promote activities at Holbeck Youth Centre was installed.

Safer Neighbourhoods

- Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator attended a meeting of Voice of Holbeck

Healthy Neighbourhoods

- The food access group has been set up by the PCT to tackle healthy eating issues in the area in particular the lack of shops selling fresh food. The fresh 'n' fruity stall is now running at Ingram Road Primary School, Ingram Gardens and Clevelys Court. A healthy living grants has been awarded for the Allotment project. Progress is being made to set up a fresh food shop in the area as a social enterprise. Negotiations are taking place to develop a market at St. Matthews.

4.0 Future actions

4.1 Although the NIP meetings have now finished, various action points will be completed over the coming months with the Area Management Team taking the lead in taking action or co-ordinating the work of others. This includes:

- New edition for Newsletter – scheduled for December
- Pilot binyard: this is a project to knock down the walls and install a new concrete floor in a binyard in Recreation Street/Recreation View.
- Underpasses: a project is being developed for involving young people in designing a mosaic or mural in the two underpasses; the project depends upon obtaining funding.
- Viaduct: the approximate costs of lighting the viaduct have been established, funding options need to be explored.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The steering group agreed that this has been a successful NIP with a considerable number of achievements, in particular the establishment of the Voice of Holbeck residents' group which will continue; it will run its own meetings and will produce and distribute its newsletter. Some outstanding tasks, noted above in paragraph 4, will be carried forward for action after the completion of the NIP.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

Annex 1

Recreations Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Area

