

WEST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor D Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, A Carter,
J Jarosz, R Lewis, J Marjoram and
A Parnham

60 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Coulson and F Robinson, Reverend Kingsley Dowling, Liz Navin-Jones and Howard Bradley.

61 Declaration of Interests

Councillors A Blackburn, Lewis and Marjoram declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 (Minute No 67 refers) – West North West Homes ALMO – Area Panel Review – in their capacities as either ALMO Directors or members of the ALMO Outer West Area Panel.

See also later Minute No 69.

62 Open Forum

The Chair gave notice that in accordance with the Area Committee Procedure Rules, there was provision for an Open Forum session of up to 10 minutes at each ordinary meeting of an Area Committee in order to allow members of the public an opportunity to ask questions or to make representations on any matter which fell within the remit of the Area Committee.

On this occasion, no matters were raised.

63 Minutes - 19th December 2008

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

64 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Community Safety Annual Report (Minute No 52 refers)
Further to Minute No 52, 19th December 2008, and in response to a query from Councillor A Blackburn, Gill Hunter, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator, undertook to get back to Farnley and Wortley Ward Members regarding domestic violence initiatives.

(b) Forward Plan – Youth Service Report (Minute No 58 refers)

Further to Minute No 58, 19th December 2008, the Area Management Officer undertook to pursue the possibility of the Youth Service attending to give an update report at the next meeting, on 3rd April 2009.

(NB: Councillor Carter joined the meeting at 14.10, during the consideration of this item)

65 Minutes - Community Forums

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Tyersal Community Forum held on 3rd December 2008 be received and noted.

66 Emergencies and the Community Context

The Committee received a report and a presentation from Roger Carter, Assistant Emergency Planning Officer, regarding the work of the Council's Peace and Emergency Planning Unit, with particular reference to issues in the Committee's area.

Reference was made to various localised flooding problems, and the development of local Community Flood Action Plans, involving community volunteers. Members were urged to follow this up on an individual basis with Roger Carter.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

(NB: Councillor Jarosz joined the meeting at 14.17, during the consideration of this item)

67 West North West Homes ALMO - Area Panel Review

Further to discussions at recent Area Committee meetings relating to the organisation of the ALMO Area Panels, the Committee received a report from the ALMO regarding proposed changes to the manner in which the Panels operated.

Members expressed general satisfaction with the outcome of the exercise and the changes proposed to be made. In particular, the quarterly meetings with Ward Councillors would be extremely useful as a two-way channel of communication.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the ALMO be thanked for the manner in which it has addressed the concerns of local Councillors.

68 Leeds Housing Strategy

In the absence of an officer from Housing Management, consideration of this report was deferred.

69 Fuel Poverty Reduction - Role of Area Committees

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting to be held on Friday, 3rd April, 2009

The Committee received a report and presentation from Alan Jones, Fuelsavers Manager, Environment and Neighbourhoods, regarding the Council's efforts to reduce the numbers of Leeds people living in fuel poverty, and ways in which local Members and Area Committees could get actively involved, for example by financing aerial or ground-level thermal imaging surveys and / or door-to-door visits.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That consideration be given to agreeing, setting and integrating local targets into Area Delivery Plans when appropriate to do so
- (c) That the Area Management Officer liaise with Alan Jones regarding the submission of a Wellbeing Fund application for £3,000 to undertake thermal imaging in the Committee's area.

(NB: Councillor D Blackburn declared a personal interest in this item, in his capacity as a member of the Fuelsavers Board
Councillor Marjoram declared a personal interest in this item, in his capacity as a private landlord)

70 Environmental Services and Streetscene - Enhanced Roles for Area Committees

Further to the decision of the Executive Board in November 2007 to extend and enhance the roles of Area Committees in terms of the operation of certain services in their areas, including Streetscene Services and the Environmental Action Teams (EATs), the Committee received reports from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods regarding how this might work in practice.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the reports be received and noted.
- (b) That a Task Group of Members be established to take this matter forward, comprising one Member from each Ward, nominations to be submitted to the Area Manager.
- (c) That the Area Committee receive 6 monthly update reports on the work locally of Streetscene Services and EATs.

71 Community Safety - Update Report

The Committee received a Community Safety update from Gill Hunter, Area Community Safety Officer, and Inspector Tom Horner, West Yorkshire Police, including details of the latest Operation Champion, which took place on 28th-30th January 2009.

Reference was also made to 'reassurance mapping' in the New Farnley area (Inspector Horner undertook to update local Members separately on this issue) and recently introduced monthly 'PACT' meetings (Police and Community Together). Members would be receiving a schedule of these proposed meetings with the local community and were encouraged to attend.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

(NB: Councillor Carter left the meeting at 16.02, at the conclusion of this item)

72 Pudsey Town Centre Manager's Report

Nigel Conder, the recently appointed Pudsey Town Centre Manager, submitted a progress report regarding his work to date and his proposed plans and priorities for the next 12 months.

During the course of the discussion, the following main points were commented upon –

- Problems relating to pallets encroaching onto the footpath
- Efforts to incorporate businesses in Lowtown into discussions and initiatives for the Town Centre
- The closure of the bar and café and Pudsey Leisure Centre and what plans, if any, were in place for their reopening?

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

73 Well-Being Budget 2008/09 - Update

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating Members on the latest position regarding the revenue and capital Wellbeing Budgets 2008/09, Small Grants made under delegated powers since the last meeting of the Committee, and containing details of two applications for funding for consideration at today's meeting.

Further to Minute No 57, 19th December 2008, the Area Management Officer also introduced Margaret McKean, who had been invited to attend at the Committee's request, in relation to the application in respect of the proposed 'Travellers Funhouse' project at Cottingley Springs.

After questioning Margaret McKean, Members expressed reservations regarding the nature and costs of the project and the likely level of demand, bearing in mind that the Youth Service had withdrawn mobile services from the site last October due to lack of demand, reservations which were shared by the Youth Service itself.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That approval be given to the request for £5,000 (revenue) in respect of a marketing and events budget for the Pudsey Town Centre Manager;
- (c) That the application for £6,200 in respect of the Travellers Funhouse be refused, but the applicants be encouraged to liaise further with the Area Management Officer, the Youth Service and others to ascertain if a project of this nature is warranted.

74 Area Committee Forward Plan - April 2009 Meeting

RESOLVED – That subject to the possible addition of an update report from the Youth Service, a report on Parks and Greenspaces and the deletion of the report on sustainable communities, the draft agenda items for the Area Committee's next meeting be received and approved.

75 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Friday 3rd April 2009, at 14.00, Calverley and Farsley Ward (venue to be advised – possibly the Old Barn)

The meeting concluded at 16.25.