



## Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

### Outer West Area Committee

Date: April 3rd 2009

### Subject: Area Manager's Report

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Calverley & Farsley  
Farnley & Wortley  
Pudsey

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

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on a number of projects in Outer West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2008-11, which is in turn governed by the Area Committees functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008.

#### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Area Committee functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008. The report is structured around the Leeds Strategic Plan themes.

#### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Management Review agreed by Executive Board in November 2007 proposed to further develop the responsibilities of the Area Committees during 2008/9. To this end, Area Committee functions and enhanced roles were agreed in July 2008.

### 3.0 Main Issues

#### Environment

- 3.1 The Area Committee received a full report at its February meeting on Health and Environmental Action Services (HEAS) in its area. HEAS will continue to report back regularly to the Area Committee. Area Committees may wish to consider whether they wish to resource extra services in the Outer West area, particularly within the town and district centres.
- 3.2 A full report on community green space is presented elsewhere on this agenda. There has been significant progress with work under the West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project including:
- Resurfacing of the permissive bridleway through Farnley Hall Park.
  - Improvements to the boundary fencing around Woodhall Lake.
  - Path improvements in Hunger Hills woodland – part of the Leeds Country Way.
  - Ecological surveys of 10 designated nature conservation sites in the WLCP to be used to help compile site specific management plans for these sites.
  - Completion of the series of leaflets for the WLCP trail (parts 1-5)
  - Completion of panels 1-4 for the WLCP trail – which will be installed in 2009 together with the final panel to cover part 5.
  - A history panel for Farnley Hall Park
  - footpath improvement on Post Hill at the Troydale Lane end
- 3.3 In addition there have been a number of guided walks and promotion of the WLCP. A total of 28 walks were organised through 2008 with themes including woodlands, bats, birds, local history, community green gateways and trees. A further 30 walks / events are planned for the WLCP through March – Sept 2009. Farnley Hall was opened to the public for guided tours for Heritage Open Day weekend, and will be opened again in September 2009. Farnley Hall Park also played host to the West Leeds Walking Group's Walking Festival launch in July, and will also be hosting their 2009 Festival at Pudsey Park.
- 3.4 Works are also progressing with the new West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre in Pudsey Park. The building has undergone quite a transformation, having recently been extended and a new roof fitted on the whole building. The aviaries are being totally re-themed as are the aquariums as the centre will largely be dedicated to wildlife native to the west Leeds area. New features include the visitor centre, which will be used for public events, talks and other activities and an interactive woodland area aimed at youngsters. It is envisaged that the centre will be open summer 2009.
- 3.5 The Area Management Team continues to work closely with Groundwork Leeds to improve run down areas and poor quality green spaces in Outer West. They particularly focus in areas in the bottom 10% in terms of deprivation statistics. However, where additional funding is provided, this allows them to work more flexibly. The Outer West Area Committee, has in the past, supported Groundwork to deliver projects in areas outside the bottom 10% to facilitate environmental improvements and community cohesion.
- 3.6 Of particular interest, is the Green Check project. The project implements an Environmental Management System in local schools, allowing them to work towards reducing their environmental impacts and achieving the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) award. Green Check takes a 'bottom-up' approach by working closely with pupils, school staff, governors and local communities to ensure that everyone

participates in their school becoming a 'beacon of Sustainable Development'. This is referred to in the Well-being report presented to this Area Committee, with a request for £6,250 to allow Groundwork to work with additional schools in the Outer West area. In addition, Groundwork run the Junior Wardens Programme on the Bawns estate in Farnley and Wortley ward funded by West North West Homes Leeds. They also played an active part in the Bawns Environmental Week and are currently looking for a third site for master planning, funded through the ALMO. The Bawns estate may be a possible candidate for this.

- 3.7 Calverley & Farsley Members have also requested that the Area Management Team explore the potential for environmental improvements around the businesses at Stanningley Bottoms. This has been suggested as a future area of working and will be included in the Area Delivery Plan. A working brief will be drawn up over 2009/10.
- 3.8 Parks & Countryside have drawn up proposals for a play area on Swinnow Moor. They have been subject to public consultation which took place at the recent Swinnow Community Centre Open Morning. The Area Management Team has facilitated consultation with young people through Park Spring Primary School's Eco Council. The school Eco Council have presented the proposals to a whole school assembly the day before the Open Morning. Two members attended the Open Day and presented the play area proposals to the School Adviser as part of the Every Child Matters economic well-being aspect.

### Thriving Communities

- 3.9 A full Community Safety update report is attached elsewhere on this agenda, including details about capture cars and capture houses.
- 3.10 A number of area based regeneration schemes are underway in Outer West. The Farsley Town & District Centre (T&DC) scheme is nearing completion. It has included:
- Installation of CCTV cameras to Farsley Town Street and adjacent park
  - Streetscene improvements including – installation of railings around social housing (flats) to deter anti-social behaviour, benches, litter bins, painting of existing street furniture;
  - Re-surfacing of library car park, erection of bollards around perimeter;
  - Improved access to library via Automatic door
  - New library signage and fascia trim
  - Demolishing public toilets and replacing with landscaped area
  - Remodelling and new notice board in Memorial Garden
  - Resurfacing of entrances to Prospect Street and Back Lane
- 3.11 The ginnel adjacent to 52 Town Street has been cleared and re-seeded. This will be reviewed at the end of March to assess whether it has been successful or whether turfing is required.
- 3.12 It is also proposed to resurface High Street as part of Highways Private Street Works programme. In order to enhance the area, it is proposed that stone sets are laid as at Back Lane and Prospect Street.
- 3.13 It is also hoped that the railings around the cenotaph will be replaced. Costs for this work are currently being clarified and funding confirmed.

3.14 The Pudsey T&DC scheme is largely completed. It comprises:

- Re-modelled Leisure Centre car park to provide car parking lost through bus station re-development
- Market refurbishment
- Streetscene improvements, including floodlighting, enhancements to the Leisure Centre frontage
- Demolition and re-provision of public toilets
- Creation of bus lay-by on Lidget Hill
- Lidget Hill car park re-surfacing
- Heritage lighting

3.15 The bus lay-by was due to be funded through a section 106 agreement linked to the proposed Cemetery Road development. However, that development has not proceeded. Fortunately however, this work will now be funded through the Local Transport Plan.

3.16 The heritage lighting element of the scheme is yet to be completed as the Area Management Team are trying to ensure that the lighting style ties in with the bus station scheme.

3.17 A Feasibility Report on Pudsey Leisure Centre was presented to Pudsey Members earlier this year. If the proposals contained in the report were implemented, this would supersede the T&DC plans for demolition and re-provision of public toilets. The re-modelling scheme would include:

- A new, attractive entrance
- Public toilets
- Two separate commercial units
- Re-development of the wet changing facilities
- Extension of the Bodyline gym and new changing facilities
- Office for personal training activities
- More social areas in the building for clients
- A brighter atmosphere internally

- 3.18 These proposals would significantly enhance the Leisure Centre provision, improve the aesthetic contribution of the centre to Market Place and the town centre as a whole, increase pedestrian flows around the town centre and provide additional retail units, as well as facilitating the demolition and re-provision of the public toilets. However, the scheme is likely to cost around £2 million and this funding has not yet been secured, although there is the potential for the T&DC funding already secured for new toilets to be injected into this scheme.
- 3.19 The Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme has received planning approval subject to agreements being secured from relevant parties to maintain areas which are affected.
- 3.20 The decision has been taken to split the scheme into two phases, phase 1 will concentrate on the Bull Ring area (including adjacent rockery), Branch Road entrance area (signage, and trees), and steps at the top of this road (part of the Highway), at the planting of trees on ALMO land in the defined area and general street furniture. It is hoped that phase 2 of the scheme at a later date, will concentrate on securing external funding to carry out shop forecourt improvements.
- 3.21 Discussions have been held with local shopkeepers to agree the location of the bus stop which is re-locating from a different position on Lower Wortley Road, and a decision on its new location is imminent.
- 3.22 In response to a request from the local Primary School (Lower Wortley) the decision has been taken to alter the existing plans which had a bench at the side of the Bull-Ring bus stop. The school felt that this would attract young people to congregate in the area, and would potentially lead to anti-social behaviour which had previously been a problem for the school.
- 3.23 The Leeds- Bradford corridor project now has a dedicated Programme Manager. Fergus Mitchel was appointed in February 2009 and will push ahead with the work programme. If Members are supportive, he will be invited to the next meeting of the Area Committee in July to explain the key milestones for the project during 2009/10.

### Stronger Communities

- 3.24 Building on the 'What's the Big Idea' community engagement events which took place during 2008/9, a further series of events are planned for March and April 2009 under the banner 'Your Communities – Your Priorities'. The Outer West dates are as follows:
- Pudsey – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 3.30-7.30pm at Pudsey Leisure Centre
  - Calverley & Farsley – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30-7.30pm at Working Men's Club, Back Lane, Farsley

- Farnley & Wortley – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 4-7pm at St James Church

3.25 The events will involve a range of partners and focus on the Leeds Strategic Plan themes to ask people about their priorities for their area for 2009/10. The results will be summarised and fed back to Members and assessed against partner's priorities to develop the ADP for the year ahead. A full ADP for 2009/10 will be presented to the July Area Committee for comment.

3.26 The Area Management Team, with support from local residents, PCSOs and Park Spring Primary School and other partner agencies, arranged an Open Morning at Swinnow Community Centre on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February. There is currently no management committee in place for the centre. Several meetings have been held to try to establish a new committee, but whilst many people are keen to help out, they do not wish to take on the key roles of chair, treasurer and secretary. A small working group has been established to try and raise the profile of the centre and get more residents involved in its future.

3.27 The focus of the Open Morning was proposals for a new play area for Swinnow Moor. A small grant from the Area Committee funded refreshments, a banner and face-painter and raffle prize. The main aims of the morning were:

- consultation on the proposed play area for Swinnow Moor
- demonstrate potential use of the centre
- showcasing work of agencies in the local area
- sustainable management and activity timetable for the centre - if possible getting people to sign up to being on the management committee. People were asked to complete a survey form asking what activities they would like to see offered at the centre, what improvements they could suggest and whether they want to be involved in its operations. A flyer was available for people to take away advertising the next formal meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 - where a committee will hopefully be formally established. On the back of the flyer was information about booking the centre.

3.28 Over 100 people attended the event which seemed to be very successful. It attracted a wide range of ages. Promotion through the local primary school proved particularly successful. A range of partners attended, including West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, Groundwork Leeds, Pudsey Councillors, Environmental Action Team, Parks & Countryside, Recycling, Way of Life Church, Youth Service and Stanningley & Swinnow Live at Home Scheme.

3.30 The Youth Service started using the centre for a regular weekly session and a majorettes group has booked the centre for a one-off session. Stanningley & Swinnow Live at Home Scheme are also very interested in using the centre regularly but require the kitchen to be upgraded and extra radiators installed in the main hall. The costs for this work are currently being sought and will be presented to the Area Committee.

### Learning

3.31 A full report on Children's Services (including a Youth Service update) will be presented to the July Area Committee. This will compliment the Health & Well Being themed event which will take place prior to the Area Committee.

- 3.32 The Building Schools for the Future scheme at Farnley Park High School has stalled at the moment; the school is disappointed that work has not begun. The scheme had planning permission submitted and was due to be completed by September 2009. It was rescheduled for September 2011.

### Health & Well Being

- 3.33 A Health & Well Being themed event will take place prior to the July Area Committee. This will allow partners to debate health and well being issues and inform the work of the Area Committee.

### Enterprise & Economy

- 3.34 The themed event prior to the December 2008 Area Committee focused on Enterprise and Economy. The event aimed to highlight ways the Area Committee and partners could support the economy in the local area. Representatives from the business community attended, as well as experts in inward investment, local labour market issues, jobs and skills and Leeds Ahead business brokerage service. The newly appointed Town Centre Manager for Pudsey & Armley was also there to explain his plans to strengthen the two town centres. The main message coming out of the event was that there is good news in West Leeds, despite the current economic downturn. Businesses are optimistic about their future and want that message to be heard.
- 3.35 The event provided a good networking opportunity which will further enhance the services available in west Leeds. Leeds Ahead agreed to develop their work with local companies and schools to ensure appropriate training is provided. The Leeds City Council's Jobs and Skills Service is offering a neighbourhood targeted approach and an increased presence in West Leeds.
- 3.36 The Town Centre Manager (TCM) has established a Pudsey Business Forum and the first two meetings have been well attended and positive actions identified. A Chair and secretary have been identified and a local business regularly hosts the forum. The Town Centre Manager will provide a full update on his work in due course. In the meantime, there is a regular steering group meeting, including local businesses, Councillors, Police, Leeds Ahead and Area Management to help focus the work of the TCM.
- 3.37 The current focus of the TCM's work is to re-launch the market over Easter weekend and to promote a new 'Shop Local' campaign. Markets Services and local traders have been actively involved in these initiatives. The 'Shop Local' campaign involves giving away 200 eco- friendly shopping bags which will contain car stickers, badges, fridge magnets and other promotional materials, all featuring the 'shop logo' logo which has now been agreed by the Pudsey Business Forum. Some local retailers may choose to put their own discount vouchers in the bags. Retailers will be wearing 'shop local' T-shirts to promote the initiative.
- 3.38 Over the Easter weekend, there will be a number of activities and attractions including circus acts. The Market Place short stay car park will be closed off and will provide a venue for a school band, majorettes group, dance school performance and drum and bugle display. In addition, an Easter egg hunt is being arranged for children and families which finishes in Pudsey Park. Each child successfully completing the hunt will be entered into a prize draw for a giant chocolate Easter bunny.

- 3.39 The TCM is pleased to report that new businesses are moving into Pudsey town centre. B & M Stores have recently taken over the former Woolworths premises and Go Outdoors are moving into a unit on Richardshaw Lane.

### Culture

- 3.40 Plans are underway for the 5th 'I Love West Leeds festival', to be held this summer in Hainsworth Park, Farsley. The Farsley Youth Development Project are also seeking funding to stage the second Farsley Community Festival, based on the success of last year's event. Further details are included on the Wellbeing Funding report elsewhere on this agenda. The Area Committee has already supported additional summer band concerts throughout Outer West. The Area Management Team continues to support Artsmix in establishing a regular arts and crafts market throughout the year in Pudsey and where possible is attempting to tie these in with other events, for example the summer band concerts, to generate greater visitor numbers.

### Transport

- 3.41 Detailed design of the bus station is now complete and tenders will be invited within the next few weeks. A detailed implementation and phasing programme has been discussed and agreed in principle with Leeds City Council (LCC) for the bus station and highway works and it is planned to commence work during May / June 2009 and complete during March / April 2010.
- 3.42 The start and completion dates are subject to LCC finalizing the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders required for the scheme, the appointment of a suitable contractor and reaching agreement with the appointed contractor on a final detailed phasing and implementation programme.
- 3.43 The local businesses and the Pudsey & Swinnow Forum have been made aware of the proposed start and completion dates and further meetings will be held with them when a contractor has been appointed.
- 3.44 At an early stage of the building works, it will be necessary to close the existing bus station and provide three temporary stops. It is currently proposed to provide two of the temporary stops within Market Place with the third stop being provided outside the Post Office on Church Lane. The final agreed locations will be subject to further discussions with LCC and bus operators.

## **4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

### Member Consultation

- 4.1 Members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their wards. In addition each Leeds Strategic Plan theme has a Member champion to progress work in this area.

## **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 5.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions, funding is available via Well Being budgets, the Community Centres Budget and Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.
- 5.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments mainstream budgets, and external partner agencies e.g. the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected in the fact that the



Area Committee's role here is only to influence, develop and consult. However, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects here e.g. community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The functions and roles of the Area Committee aim to:

- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
- Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between Ward Members and their communities
- To co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Outer West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matters raised.

### **Background Papers:**

none