



Report of the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods Directorate

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 30th November 2009

Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update

Electoral Wards Affected:
Ardsley and Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

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 Outer South Area Committee's response to the Narrowing the Gap agenda has in part been the commitment to priority neighbourhoods through Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs). At the September 2008 Area Committee, Members agreed to a new programme of Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008-2011, which included a new 'Supported Area' status to ensure a minimum level of support to Tenants and Residents Associations (TARAs) following the completion of a NIP, and in additional targeted areas. This report outlines the work achieved by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) since the last update in June 2009, and what support TARA's are receiving from the PNW as an identified 'Supported Area'.

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The report outlines the work achieved by the Priority Neighbourhood Worker since June 2009; including an update to Members on the 2009/10 Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs), details on the 'Supported Area' programme and additional community engagement work.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In response to the Narrowing the Gap aim of the Vision for Leeds 2004-2020, the Area Committee developed Neighbourhood Improvement Plans. In September 2004, the Area Committee identified several Priority Neighbourhoods on the basis of levels of deprivation and instances of recurring issues such as anti social behaviour and environmental issues.

2.2 The Area Committee commissioned South Leeds Health for All, a community development charity, in November 2006 to deliver the PNW project. In August 2008, the PNW left the post to take up alternative employment. At the time Area Management took the opportunity to review the PNW project in relation to Area Committee's enhanced community engagement role and changes to the Area Delivery Plans.

2.3 In September 2008, the Area Committee renewed its support to NIP's by approving a three year PNW project to deliver a revised programme of NIP's, including a new 'Supported Area' status and other community engagement work. Funding for the PNW post was approved by the Area Committee until 31st March 2011, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the Well being Budget. The PNW took up the position in Health for All in December 2008.

3.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Programme 2009/10 and 2010/11

3.1 As approved by Members, NIP's continue to consult with residents and Members to inform an action plan to be delivered and monitored by a multi-agency steering group with a nominated Ward Councillor as Chair. NIPs are a time limited process of ten months with a standard level of elements to them. These are:

- A community consultation event or survey to find out community views and key issues.
- A steering group is established to be chaired by a Ward Councillor and which has representatives from agencies and the local residents association.
- An Action plan that includes projects to target 3-5 key issues in the area. This includes targeted work linked with ADP actions e.g. distributing information on training and employment, financial inclusion and fuel poverty.

3.2 To support the NIP process the Area Committee ring fenced £3,000 for each NIP area and £1,000 for each old NIP that is now a Supported Area status. This revenue funding is used to support specific projects such as youth provision, environmental improvements and community events.

3.3 The table below shows the Phase 1 and 2 NIPs and Supported Areas presented to the Area Committee in September 2008. As Members are aware from the update report in June 2009, the PNW was not in post until December 2008, which meant the three phases of NIPs for 08/09, 09/10, and 10/11 where already nine months behind. Monitoring the delivery timescale for NIPs is vital work for the PNW and highlighted in the last column in the table below the actual timescales now being worked towards.

Phase 1 NIPS

Ward	Area	Actual
Morley North	Oakwell and Fairfax	Feb–Nov 09
Rothwell	Wood Lane	Oct-May 10

Supported Areas

Ward	Area	Actual
Rothwell	John O' Gaunts	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Eastleighs and Fairleighs	Current
Morley South	Newlands and Denshaws	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Northfields and Hopefield	Current
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Winthorpes	Current

Phase 2

NIPs

Ward	Area	
Ardsley and Robin Hood	Thorpe	March–Dec 10
Morley South	Harrops and Bridge Street	May –Feb 11

4.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Update

4.1 The Priority Neighbourhood Worker continues to work in targeted NIP areas, the following details the work undertaken to develop phase 1 NIPs, identify and deliver the 'Supported Area' status and other community engagement work.

4.2 Phase 1: Oakwell and Fairfax NIP

4.2.1 The Oakwell and Fairfax Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Steering Group have met monthly since February to address the key priorities previously reported; community safety, activities for young people, supporting the development of a TARA and targeting environmental issues. Achievements to date include:

- Access to a community room at Drighlington Library
- Regular detached Youth Workers in the area
- The Children's Project available for 8-11 year olds
- A summer activities club at the Local Rugby Club
- Environmental initiatives targeting littering and dog fouling

4.2.2 Following the agreed NIP process, the Oakwell and Fairfax steering group are due to hold the last meeting at the end of November 2009. The NIP will then become a 'Supported Area' status which will ensure the newly formed Oakwell and Fairfax Residents Association will continue to receive support from the PNW. The TARA has a full management committee comprising of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, the group continues to meet monthly at Drighlington Rugby Club.

4.2.3 Empowerment of residents to integrate and access other support networks has been a huge success for this NIP. The Secretary of the TARA represents Outer South tenants on the Outer South Aire Valley Homes Area Panel to decide on funding applications and also regularly attends Drighlington Parish Council meetings as a representative for Oakwells and Fairfax. Capacity building and training continues to be a significant vehicle for building confidence and skills amongst the group and the

PNW has ensured that all the new committee members have been referred to Leeds Tenants Federation for full training for their committee roles.

- 4.2.4 A successful community outing was arranged to build community pride and also increase membership to the TARA. The Management Committee are now regularly producing creative leaflet to advertise the meetings of the association and are strong voices in the community as advocates for the group as a means to resolve issues on the estate with the assistance of agencies. Consistent attendance from Aire Valley Homes, AMT and Morley NPT has effectively built good relationships between the residents and agencies to work together to resolve issues.
- 4.2.5 The next project the group has expressed an interest in pursuing is an environmental one and have applied to the GroundWork Bulb Bonanza Scheme for support. The group is still small but growing in size and enthusiasm.
- 4.3 **Phase 1: Wood Lane NIP**
- 4.3.1 Wood Lane is the second of the phase one NIPs. The PNW has written an Area Profile of the estate to gain an understanding on the location and services already present. Partners have assisted in providing information for this profile for consideration by the Steering Group when it is established.
- 4.3.2 The PNW has made contact with the Rothwell Tenants and Residents Association who are a well established group on the Wood Lane estate. The group have made a significant input over to the improvement plans for the area in front of Manor Roads shops and have nominated two representatives to attend the NIP steering group.
- 4.3.3 The Indices of Deprivation and discussions with the Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) highlighted that environmental and community safety are not priority issues. As a result a proposal was presented to the recent Rothwell Ward Member Briefing that recommended the delivery of a NIP with a focus on skills development and training, and a Participatory Budgeting initiative to capitalise on the well established TARA, so enabling further engagement and empowerment of local residents.
- 4.3.4 The first Steering Group meeting was held on 13th October 2009 at Haigh Road Community Centre in Rothwell. Councillor Wilson was elected Chair by the following partners; Rothwell TARA, AMT, AVH, Leeds Youth Service, Extended Services and Leeds Library Service.
- 4.3.5 The group identified priorities to address worklessness and to increase training and skills in local residents. The group also identified a gap in provision for age ranges eight to eleven year olds in terms of out of school activities. It was established at the Steering Group meeting that a consultation is required to identify the training needed, suitable locations and times and other requirements to encourage participation in training e.g. transport and childcare. The PNW, staff from AVH and Family Support Workers plan to undertake this consultation with local residents.
- 4.3.6 The NIP links directly with the Wood Lane 'You Choose' (Participatory Budgeting Project), as potential projects are addressing the key priorities identified at the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) Steering Group.

- 4.3.7 Joseph Priestly College have submitted a project to Wood Lane 'You Choose', where the participants will be assisted in choosing the right career for them and will learn the best way to present themselves to prospective employers. The benefits of this project will increase the employability and skills of individuals from enhanced personal confidence.
- 4.3.8 The Mother's Pride Teatime Club in Rothwell have submitted a project to Wood Lane 'You Choose', to develop a Teatime Club on the Wood Lane estate in Rothwell. The project will offer training and skills to local residents through volunteering opportunities. Attendees at the group will benefit from learning about healthy eating.
- 4.3.9 Leeds Youth Service and Groundwork have submitted projects which address the gaps in 'out of school activities provision' for children and young people.
- 4.3.10 It is planned to hold a training and skills fair to conclude the Wood Lane Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP), which will engage local residents in targeting worklessness.

5.0 **Supported Areas**

- 5.1 The role of the PNW has always involved continuing to develop community empowerment and the capacity of Resident Associations. This is particularly important following the completion of a NIP. This work has included supporting them in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects. Members asked that a stronger and more robust level of agreement was required to define this critical work. The 'Supported Area' status was agreed as a means to achieve this and confirmed at the September 2008 Area Committee.
- 5.2 The PNW has produced a plan that details a minimum level of service that will be delivered in partnership with the AVH Customer Involvement Officers to Tenants and Residents Association listed in the 'Supported Areas' category.

5.3 **Newlands and Denshaws**

- 5.3.1 The Newlands and Denshaws Management Committee members continue to receive operational support from the PNW. have been supported with drawing up an Equal Opportunities Policy. The policy was required for funding proposes and to enable the group to follow good practice. The group has had a change of Secretary, who has been referred to Leeds Federation for training.
- 5.3.2 The TARA continue to organise their own community outings and participate in local events, with a recent a mystery tour to John Bull Rock factory and Bridlington and the residents association providing a book swap stall at the Morley Literature Festival Book Market. The TARA providing a book swap stall in the centre of Morley where people brought their own books to swap with donated books. The group is currently making preparations for a Christmas party and pantomime.

5.3.2 **John O' Gaunts**

5.3.3 The PNW has attended the monthly Residents Association meetings and is supporting the upcoming Halloween event organised by the association. Committee members have attended the Oakwells and Fairfax Residents Association meetings to support a less established group. The John O'Gaunts Residents Association is well attended both at the Rose Lund Centre and Temple Lawn Older Person's Complex.

5.4 **Eastleigh's and Fairleighs**

5.4.1 At one point the Tingley TARA was operating with just two committee members but with support from the PNW and AVH Customer Involvement Officer, now has a full Management Committee and boasts one of the youngest management committee members in the Outer South as the Secretary. The secretary is enjoying this new role and along with other new committee members, has been referred to Leeds Federation for training to support their roles. The PNW continues to be an information source to residents and is assisting with booking speakers for meetings and identifying funding to support activities. A key project for the TARA at present is to focus on promoting the association to more local residents to increase membership.

5.4.2 Work continues on developments to improve Smith Lane Recreational Ground. Tingley TARA and the PNW attended the last Steering Group meeting held at the end of October where it was agreed to order equipment for the children's play area. Parks and Countryside aim to start work on site before Christmas. Tingley TARA are putting together a bid with the Youth Service for additional funding towards equipment for older youths.

5.5 **Winthorpes**

5.5.1 Historically Winthorpes did not have an established Residents Association, however the group registered with Aire Valley Homes in August 2009 with a full committee. Currently the group focuses more on social activities than tenants and residents issues. The PNW is now working with AVH to support the group with promotion and organisation of their public meetings to address issues within the area.

5.6 **Northfields and Hopefields**

5.6.1 The PNW has supported residents in taking up Committee Roles of Vice Chair and Secretary and attends the Monthly Residents Association meetings and Committee meetings. Previously the PNW organised speakers for the Resident's Association meetings and wrote the minutes but with encouragement and support a resident has now taken up the role as secretary for the group. The committee members have identified their own additional training requirements and with assistance have applied for funding to cover costs.

5.6.2 The group are now planning their own speakers for meetings and organising a newsletter and Christmas event. The group is currently focusing on promoting the group to increase membership. The group has identified the following targets to develop a Website to promote the TARA and provide more community activities for younger residents.

6.0 Outer South Area Committee Community Heroes Awards

6.1 The inaugural Outer South Area Committee Community Heroes Awards was held on Wednesday 9th September at Rodillian High School. A full evaluation undertaken by the PNW of the event is attached at **Appendix 1**.

7.0 Rothwell Families Project

7.1 The Rothwell Families Project Steering Group was set up after Health For All and South East Area Management received just under £100,000 revenue funding through the Coalfield Regeneration Trust. The group will assist with directing and ensuring the effective delivery of the project. The funding will provide a dedicated worker and project costs to tackle gaps in services to improve health and well being and training and skills development of local residents from John O'Gaunts and Wood Lane estates in Rothwell.

7.2 The Priority Neighbourhood Worker minutes the meetings and is a key link between the community groups and the steering group. The PNW has supported the Rothwell Families Project Group and the Mothers Pride Teatime Club with drawing up necessary safeguarding policies and a constitution to support a funding application to the Healthy Leeds Grant to purchase equipment for the Mother's Pride Teatime Club.

8.0 Community Safety

8.1 The PNW attends regular Tasking meetings in Morley and Rothwell. Tasking meetings are led by Neighbourhood Policing Teams and have representation from Anti Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU), Aire Valley Homes, Probation and Youth Service. This multi agency group share and coordinate information and actions to support the resolution of crime issues in the Outer South. The PNW's role is to link community safety issues raised by Members, Area Management and residents, with relevant partner agencies.

8.2 An email from the PNW a week before the monthly Morley and bi-monthly Rothwell Tasking meetings, invite Members to input any appropriate issues to the meeting via the PNW.

8.3 The next Operation Champion for the Outer South is scheduled for February 2010 in Rothwell. The PNW will attend the planning meeting and assist with engaging with local residents as part of the initiative.

9.0 Morley Literature Festival

- 9.1 The PNW supported the Morley Literature Festival Event with stewarding and evaluation of the Area Committee Project and significantly, built on the work last year to ensure the Newlands and Denshaws Tenants and Residents took part in the Book Swap on Saturday 10th October.

10.0 Wood Lane 'You Choose' Participatory Budgeting Project

- 10.1 As part of its community engagement strategy, the Area Committee signed up to the use of Participatory Budgeting (PB) as an appropriate initiative to engage with residents. Funding to support a programme of PB in priority areas across the Outer South was secured from the Aire Valley Homes Outer South Area Panel to deliver initiatives in Lofthouse and a future project in Morley North. To support their community engagement agenda, the Rothwell Wood Lane 'You Choose' Participatory Budgeting Project has received £15,000 through Area Committee revenue Well being Budget.
- 10.2 The PNW is co-coordinating the Wood Lane 'You Choose' Participatory Budgeting Project. A steering group has been established comprising of Ward Members, local residents, the PNW and staff from Aire Valley Homes. The first meeting was held on 21st August 2009 at Haigh Road Community Centre with subsequent meetings on 5th October 2009 and 11th November 2009.
- 10.3 Consultation with residents has now taken place within the boundary area of the project. A freepost return postcard asking for resident's views and concerns on their neighborhood were delivered to every household within the area. The PNW attended the Tenants and Residents Association to promote the event and attended youth work provision in the area to talk with young people. Priorities identified were; activities for young people, community engagement, community safety, and environmental improvements.
- 10.4 Leading up to the Wood Lane 'You Choose' Participatory Budgeting Project the PNW and AVH Customer Involvement Officer consulted with residents in a public meeting which generated enthusiasm resulting in a request by residents for a second and third meeting. Three support sessions have now taken place at the Rothwell Children's Centre to engage and support local residents in the project.
- 10.5 Currently the Wood Lane 'You Choose' Participatory Budgeting Project is being promoted and project applications being developed. The following is a week of planned promotional activities leading up to the event itself.:
- Door knocking and leaflet exercise within the boundary area
 - Visit to youth provision in area
 - Visit to groups where local residents attend: Rose Farm Day Centre, Nursery, Rothwell Live at Home
 - Contact with local school to talk with parents and pupils.
 - Public meeting organised for local residents
 - Attendance at Residents Association meeting
 - Family Support Workers contacting families within boundary area.
 - Aire Valley Homes Mobile Bus promoting the event and projects in various locations around the estate.

10.6 Arrangements for the event itself are now being made and residents have been supported by the PNW and Aire Valley Homes Customer Involvement Officer in completing their funding applications. The PNW has briefed potential projects in terms of the application process and what will be expected from groups and residents on Decision Day.

10.7 Projects being developed include:

- Wood Lane Junior Warden
- Wood Lane Tea Time Club
- Skills for Life and Work Programme
- Police bikes
- Wood Lane Benches
- Carers Forum
- Wood Lane Youth Project

11.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

11.1 Under the enhanced roles from the Executive Board, the Area Committees have a greater role in community engagement within their area.

11.2 The role of the PNW and the NIPs detailed in the report is in line with 'Narrowing the Gap' and Leeds City Councils commitment to community cohesion.

12.0 Legal and Resource Implications

12.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

12.3 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

13.0 Conclusions

13.1 The Area Committee's development of the PNW project has provided direct support to groups and individuals to develop and sustain their role in providing community leadership in the form of residents association. It has also assisted in ensuring their involvement in the NIP process and beyond. The community development and ongoing support to residents groups has been a catalyst for further work in the NIPs as agencies have the opportunity to consult with residents and to learn about the needs of the community.

13.2 The PNW provides a critical resource to Area Committee enabling them to effectively achieve its community engagement function and support residents in actively participating in the decision making process. These actions are vehicles to further support the role of the Ward Councillor as community champion. Input from the PNW is essential for the successful delivery of the Area Committee Community Engagement Strategy and Area Delivery Plan.

14.0 Recommendations

14.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

Background Papers

- Priority Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 18th October 2004
- Well Being Report April 3rd 2006
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 2nd July 2007
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 25th February 2008
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 1st September 2008
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker Update Report 22nd June 2009