

## INNER WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 20TH JULY, 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor H Bithell in the Chair

Councillors L Cunningham, C Gruen,  
J Heselwood, J McKenna, K Ritchie,  
A Smart and F Venner

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jonathan Butler, Joanne Fiddes, Stephen Garvani, Stephen McBarron  
**1 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents**

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.  
**2 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There were no exempt items.  
**3 Late Items**

There were no late items of business. However, there was supplementary information in relation to Agenda Item 10 Finance Report. This had been circulated to all Members.  
**4 Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interests were made at the meeting.  
**5 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jim McKenna, Steve Harris (Co-opted Member – Kirkstall) and Hazel Boutle (co-opted Member – Armley).  
**6 Open Forum / Community Forums**

In line with current guidance for the Open Forum, two submissions had been received by the Community Committee which were read out at the meeting by the clerk.

The submissions were as follows:  
Sent by Fran Graham on behalf of A Place Sit

The new owners of Bramley Shopping Centre (LCP Group) have removed all public seating at the centre. They are hoping to increase footfall to the centre and considered the benches an obstruction to this. Local residents welcome the new owners, but are deeply concerned by this situation as it impacts on health and wellbeing.

Removing the benches means that people who walk to the centre have nowhere to stop and rest.

- Local older people who need to rest between shops cannot do so.

- People who can't carry shopping while waiting for a taxi have nowhere to rest.
- People with health conditions and mobility problems have been excluded from shopping independently.
- People with pushchairs and children have nowhere to rest, breastfeed, or let children sit to eat unless they pay to use the Costa Coffee shop.
- Staff working in the shops have nowhere to take breaks outside.
- People who used the benches for social contact can no longer access this.

LCP's decision will affect vulnerable people in our community.

We believe it has reduced footfall to the centre, and is an obstruction to local people's health, wellbeing and happiness.

700 residents have joined a facebook group called A Place to Sit in response to this situation. The group is attending the centre every Saturday 10-11 to show our support for the Bramley ward Councillors' proposal to reinstate 16 benches as soon as possible, and to show our support to the owners to review their decision.

Will the community committee support our call for LCP Group to review their decision to remove benches, to respond to the Ward Councillors proposal, and reinstate at least 16 benches as soon as possible?

What further action can the community committee take to address this issue on behalf of residents?

Sent by Philip McConnell BEM. Chairperson of the Bramley Care Bears

Dear all,

Please could the concern below be raised at the highest level.

We as the Bramley Care Bears were recently made aware of the removal of the bench seats at the Bramley Shopping Centre.

The general feedback that we have received is that the residents are shocked, amazed and dumbfounded at the lack of logical reason for this.

The reason that we were given as a community was that the benches were causing an obstruction.

I am still at a loss as to understand in any way how these benches could be considered an obstruction.

There has been a local Facebook Group created so that local residents have a place to voice their frustrations and keep each other updated on feedback (if any) they might have received from the Bramley Shopping Centre owners.

We as residents will continue to raise our frustrations and our weekly sit in will continue in the friendly manner it has been so far.

If anything could be done to apply pressure for reason to the new owners this would be greatly appreciated.

We as protesters are speaking on behalf of the people who genuinely need to take a seat when they are out shopping whether it is due to age or ill health.

It is often it seems understood by some as a sign of weakness for a person or organisation to admit that a mistake was made. I would say that it is a sign of strength of character to be able to admit when an error of judgement has been made.

Cllr Gruen the ward Councillors for Bramley & Stanningley also addressed the Committee on this issue. She was concerned that the current owners of Bramley Shopping Centre the London and Cambridge Properties (LCP) had removed the benches without any consultation with ward councillors, shoppers, public groups or the wider community.

Cllr Gruen said that the three ward members had been inundated with emails raising concern that the benches had been removed. The Centre is surrounded by a number of Elderly Peoples residencies as well as Bramley Elderly Action who find pleasure in using the benches to watch the world go by.

Members were of the view that the decision to remove the benches was unreasonable and requested a meeting with the designated manager of the centre. Cllr Ritchie had undertaken an extensive survey in light of the feedback that they had received from the community. This survey produced a strong rationale for reinstating the seating at the centre. The Ward Councillors have suggested reinstating seating but with fewer seats than were there previously.

The Ward Councillors had a meeting via zoom with the designated manager of the shopping centre, although the Councillors had suggested a meeting at the shopping centre. The designated manager had made it clear that the shopping centre would be managed remotely from London. The Councillors were grateful that a meeting had been held, but were dismayed that the designated manager had made a counter proposal and found that his manner was adversarial given that the Ward Councillors only wished to work with LCP and the local community in a collaborative way. The Councillors are still awaiting a response to the proposal for the reinstating of 16 benches.

The Councillors fully support the weekly sit ins which have been held in a good humoured and entirely peaceful way. This has been fully supported by the number of people on the Facebook group 'A Place to sit'. The Bramley Councillors wanted to secure the support of the Inner West Community Committee in sending a letter to LCP to reinstate the benches as suggested.

It was noted that the Bramley Shopping Centre was not only used by residents of Bramley but also the wider Inner West Community Committee area. It was noted that Armley Ward Councillors had also received a number of emails raising concern that the benches had been removed.

Cllr Gruen asked for the support of the Community Committee to send a letter to LCP for the reinstating of 16 benches at the shopping centre.

The Chair asked the Committee if they wished to support Cllr Gruen's proposal in sending a letter on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee were in full support of the proposal to send a letter on behalf of the Inner West Community Committee with all Members signing it.

**7 Minutes - 16th March 2021**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021, be approved as a correct record.

**8 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**9 Co-optees Report**

The Inner West Community Committee was in agreement with the Chairs suggestion that the report for the consideration of co-opted members be moved up the agenda, so that co-opted members were able to take part in discussions if they so wished.

The report invited the Community Committee to consider appointing co-opted members to the Community Committee for the duration of the 2021/22 municipal year.

The Members of Inner West Community Committee considered the following nominations as set out at Paragraph 9 of the submitted report:

Armley  
Hazel Boutle  
James Gray  
Donna Bell

Bramley & Stanningley  
Jonathan Butler  
Joanne Fiddes  
Stephen McBarron

Kirkstall  
Stephen Garvani  
Steve Harris  
Jessica Haigh

Members were advised that prior to the meeting Donna Bell and Jessica Haigh who had both been nominated as co-opted members had indicated that they would not be able to take up the position due to a change in circumstances.

Further to the meeting taking place James Gray who had been nominated has also indicated that he is no longer able to take up the position.

**RESOLVED** – That the following be appointed as co-opted members to the Inner West Community Committee for the duration of 2021/22 municipal year.

Armley  
• Hazel Boutle

Bramley & Stanningley

- Jonathan Butler
- Joanne Fiddes
- Stephen McBarron

Kirkstall

- Stephen Garvani
- Steve Harris

## **10 Youth Consultation Report**

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships provided the Community Committee with the background and context on the decision not to have a youth summit in 2020/21.

The report provided the Community Committee with an update on the Youth Activity Fund consultation with children and young people. The consultation had been held with the aim to inform the Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund spend for the 2021/22 financial year.

It had been the plan to deliver Youth Summits virtually this year, to ensure that events could still go ahead even with Covid restrictions. However, with the lockdown in December 2020, and with schools closed until 8th March 2021, even virtual Youth Summits were not possible. Therefore, it was proposed that an online consultation survey would be produced to capture feedback on how children and young people wished to see the Youth Activity Fund spent in their area.

Members were informed that the consultation survey was promoted from Monday 15th February 2021 until Friday 30th April. Promotion of the survey was published across the Inner West area with information posted on the Community Committee Facebook pages, publicity sent out to local primary and high schools, clusters, youth groups and any other organisations that are funded or work with young people.

Members were informed that 48 young people from across the Inner West area took part in the consultation.

The young people who had taken part suggested the following activities as the most popular:

- Outdoor activities
- Cooking
- Sport
- Arts & Crafts
- Music

Other activities suggested included fun days, youth clubs, dance, drama, DJ/music production, coding/Minecraft.

32% preferred activities to take place after school, 25% wanted activities during the school holidays, 22% would like weekend activities, and 21% preferred evening activities after 6pm.

Members discussions included:

- The Youth Summit with Members requesting that the planning for the event needed to start now. Members suggested that the event should be held in the Banquet Hall with lunches provided at the Rose Bowl. It was noted that these venues had been used previously and had been a success.
- The members also made an appeal for those involved in providing activities for young people to submit applications for funding.

**RESOLVED** – To note the content of the report.

## 11 Finance Report

The report of the Head of Localities Partnerships provided the Community Committee with an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund, Youth Activity Fund, Capital Budget, as well as the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget for 2021/22.

The Committee were invited to review the minimum conditions as set out at paragraph 14 of the submitted report. Members agreed the minimum conditions as set out in the report.

The Community Committee were informed of the following points:

- The total revenue budget approved by Executive Board for 2021/22 was £142,540.00. Table 1 showed a carry forward figure of £157,917.78 which included underspends from projects completed in 2020/21. £75,215.06 was allocated to projects in 2020/21 which had not yet completed. Therefore, £225,242.72 was the total funding revenue available to the Committee. Table 1 provided a breakdown of projects and showed a remaining balance of £168,043.68.
- Members were invited to consider wellbeing budget ring-fences with the following being approved
  - Small and Grants and Skips £6,000 with £2,000 per ward
  - Community Engagement £1,500, £500 per ward
  - Grit Bins – allocation was £1,934.88 - Armley ward £564.34 for 7 blue grit bins, Bramley and Stanningley ward £886.82 for 11 blue grit bins and Kirkstall ward £483.72 for 6 blue grit bins.
  - Inner West Youth Summit – £1,500 had been allocated based on previous years allocation to be split £500 per ward. However, after discussions the Committee agreed to increase the amount by £250 per ward to £750 per ward.
  - CCTV cameras – allocated £6,000 towards ongoing cost of the cameras. Each ward has 2 cameras at a cost of £2,000 per ward.
- Members were invited to consider the following wellbeing and capital projects:

Project	Organisation	Ward	Cost	Outcome
Armley Festival	Armley Action	Armley	£10,000	Approved

	Team			
Youth View and Game Safety	Geeks Room CIC	Armley Bramley & Stanningley	£9,860	Declined
Leeds Hyde Park Football Season 2021/22	Leeds Hyde Park Sports Club	Kirkstall	£4,850	Approved £2,500
Bramley After School Hub Klub	Kidz Klub Leeds	Bramley & Stanningley	£4,324	Approved
Jaily Fields Park Play	Active Leeds	Armley	£5,000	Approved
Leeds Money Buddies	Burmantofts Community Project	Armley Bramley & Stanningley	£10,875	Approved Armley £5,437.50 Bramley & Stanningley £5,437.50

- Members were invited to note the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.
- Monitoring information was provided on The Memory Bank Mural.
- The Youth Activities Fund available for 2021/22 is £74,681.34. Members were advised that a total of £18,868.50 had been allocated to projects which was set out in Table 2, which left a remaining balance of £54,238.14.
- Table 3 summarised the capital budget which showed that there had been an injection of money in May 2021, to this budget. The Committee was advised that the current budget is £25,108.84.
- Table 4 showed the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It was advised that there is £82,153.84 currently available to spend. £5,570 had been allocated to Outdoor Classroom and activity equipment, at West Leeds Activity Centre.

Members discussions included:

- The timescales for the Youth Summit. Members were of the view that the session should follow a format of being held in the Civic Hall, with lunch provided at the Rose Bowl. Members were of this opinion that this format had proved successful previously.
- The Committee made an appeal to organisations and clubs from the Inner West area who provide activities for children and young people to make applications to the Committee for future funding.
- Members requested that when applications are submitted to the Committee that evidence be provided on how many recipients of the funding are from the Inner West area.
- Members encouraged bids for the Christmas Lights in Bramley.

**RESOLVED** – To note

- a. The Minimum Conditions, to also review and agree (paragraph 14)
- b. Details of the Wellbeing Budget position (Table 1)

- c. Proposed Ring Fences (paragraph 19 onwards outcomes as set out above)
- d. Wellbeing proposals for consideration and approval (paragraph 27 onwards outcomes as set out above).
- e. Details of the projects approved via Delegated Decision (paragraph 32)
- f. Monitoring information of its funded projects (paragraph 34 onwards)
- g. Details of the Youth Activities Fund (YAF) position (Table 2)
- h. Details of the Small Grants & Skips budget Budget (paragraph 42)
- i. Details of the Capital Budget (Table 3)
- j. Details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (Table 4)

## 12 Appointments Report

The report of the City Solicitor invited the Community Committee to note the appointment of Councillor Bithell as the Chair of the Inner West Community Committee 2021/22 as agreed at the recent Annual Meeting of Council. Members were also invited to note the appointment of Councillor Heselwood as the Deputy Chair for 2021/22. The report also invited the Committee to review and make appointments to those positions detailed in section 6 /and the appendices.

**RESOLVED** – That the Committee note the appointment of Councillor Bithell as the Chair of Inner West Community Committee for 2021/22 a, and the appointment of Councillor Heselwood as the Deputy Chair for 2021/22.

The Committee made the following appointments:

Organisation / Outside Body	No. of Places	Current Appointee(s)
Mary Jane Butler	2	F Venner, H Bithell, J Illingworth
Bramley Poors Allotment Trust	1	K Ritchie
Clusters		
Bramley	1	C Gruen
ACES	1	J McKenna
Headingley/Kirkstall	3	H Bithell, F Venner, J Illingworth
LHAPs		
Inner West HAP	3	K Ritchie , J McKenna, J Illingworth



LCPs		
Armley	1	L Cunningham
Bramley, Wortley & Middleton	1	K Ritchie
Champions		
Employment & Skills		J Heselwood / J McKenna
Health Wellbeing and Adult Social Care		L Cunningham
Children's Services		C Gruen / J Heselwood
Environment		J Illingworth / A Smart
Community Safety		K Ritchie
Corporate Parenting Board		C Gruen / J Heselwood

### 13 Update Report

The report of the Head of Localities Partnerships provided an update of the work which the Communities Team is engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. The report also invited the Members to make nominations to Children and Young Peoples Sub Group, and the Environment Sub Group.

It was noted that all Members of the Inner West Community Committee were welcome to attend the sub groups.

The Committee were also invited to nominate Chairs for the Armley Forum and the Bramley & Stanningley Forum for 2021/22.

Members discussions included:

- Deferring the nomination of Armley Forum Chair until the next meeting in September, so that discussions could take place with all Armley ward members.
- An update was provided by Cllr Ritchie on the good work that had taken place in relation to community safety in the Inner West area. This included the work on speed enforcement, and water safety on the canal which included a suggestion that lifesaving equipment be provided on the canal.
- Cllr Heselwood informed the Committee that the jobs fair which had to be postponed due to the pandemic would take place and work was underway to set a date.

The Community Committee were requested to note the link for Healthy Holidays.

**RESOLVED** – To note the report and make the following appointments:

Sub Group	Number of places	Appointments	Community Committee Champion
Children and Young People	3	Cllr. C Gruen – Chair, Cllr J Heselwood and Cllr H Bithell	C Gruen J Heselwood
Environment	3	Cllr J Illingworth, Cllr A Smart, Cllr J Heselwood	J Illingworth A Smart

Forum	Number of Places	Appointment
Armley	1	Deferred until September 2021
Bramley & Stanningley	1	Cllr K Ritchie

**14 Any other business**

The Chair requested that an item be brought to a future meeting to discuss ring-fencing funding for Grassroots, to support new projects and how they are supported through the Wellbeing Funding process.

**15 Date and time of next meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Inner West Community Committee will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm, venue to be confirmed.

*The meeting concluded at 19:05*