

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner West Community Committee
[Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Kirkstall]

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Date: 6th September 2022 **To note/discuss**

Inner West Community Committee - Update Report

Purpose of report

1. To bring to members' attention an update of the work which the Communities Team is engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. It also provides opportunities for further questioning, or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.
2. This report provides regular updates on some of the key activities between Community Committee meetings and functions delegated to Community Committees, Community Champions roles, community engagement, partnership and locality working.

Main issues

Updates by theme:

Children and Young People: Cllr Gruen

3. The last Inner West Children and Young People Sub Group took place on 13th July 2022 via Teams at 10am.
 - On the agenda was updates from Barca & Youth Services regarding their Youth Work within Inner West.
 - Service update from the Head of Service for Children Looked After
 - Updates on the current Youth Activity Fund projects that have been funded through the IWCC YAF budget.

Inner West Youth Summit

4. The Inner West Youth Summit is booked for the 5th October to be held at the Banqueting Suite. An invite has gone out to all Inner West schools and a number of schools have already responded to book their place. The Communities Team will work with the Children's Champion to engage with the schools who haven't responded.

Environment: Champion Cllr Bithell & Cllr Ritchie

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team

General Staffing

5. Diane Otley the Team Leader is assisting in another area on a temporary basis which means Michelle Fisher is now acting Team leader. Michelle and other West EAO's are assisting in the enforcement of the area whilst we recruit to a temporary EAO. We hope to have a temp EAO in place by the end of August.2022. The Serious Environmental Crime Team are also investigating some of the more serious enforcement jobs.
6. We have now recruited the Assistant Chargehand vacancy in Armley with Paul Dawson who started on 11th July 2022. Paul is a fantastic addition to the team and has a background in supporting and managing teams and we are delighted to have him in this position.
7. We currently have two street operative vacancies, one in Armley and the other in Kirkstall, Bramley and Stanningley. Interviews are being held on the 24 August 2022.

Enforcement

8. Cases that require court intervention are still being delayed and are being referred to the nearest available Magistrates within the Yorkshire and Humber region.
9. Work is ongoing within the "Little Scotland" bin yards and a project team from within Leeds City Council have been assisting Dave Fisher who is our lead. In July our team cleared 63 of the yards and removed approx. 20 tonnes of waste. We have some additional resource which will help keep the yards clear until we fit the metal sheeting.
10. Michele is still the lead for enforcement at the current time for the businesses on Kirkstall Road (back onto Evaston Avenue).

Community Work

11. CNT continues to support the work that is carried out by volunteers in the area.

12. Lea Farm Road and Drive has been highlighted by Councillor Venner as needing intervention from Housing and CNT. Michelle and will be the link between Housing and CNT. Resource will be made available for any cleanup work identified by Michelle.
13. The team removed 16 tonnes of general waste, 18 fridge freezers and 2 tonnes of road sweepings from Fairfields during the recent Action Day.
14. Spen Action Day which was scheduled for the 19 July 2002 was postponed due to the extreme heat.
15. The team are working their way through the overgrown vegetation referrals and will update those who have reported these as they complete the work.

Employment, Skills & Welfare: Champion Cllr McKenna & Cllr Heselwood

16. An update was given from the Employment and Skills team at the March Community Committee meeting therefore the next update will be provided to the Inner West Community Committee meeting on 5th October 2022.

Community Safety: Champion Cllr Bithell & Cllr Ritchie

Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT)

Armley

17. There are currently 18 cases open in the Armley ward but there are not any stand out trends in the area at the moment. We do still have some ongoing legal actions on a number of persons in the area but nothing new really in the area which of course is a good sign.

Bramley & Stanningley

18. There are currently 29 cases open in the Bramley area with the stand out focus still around youth related ASB in the area. There are injunctions in place on a small number of the main perpetrators with many breach applications having been made on them. Whilst there has been some improvement in terms of calls the issues are still ongoing and unfortunately seems it could continue yet. We are continuously working with other agencies to try and tackle these issues and progress certainly has been made. The operation Leodis team are no longer working in the area so the full responsibility is now with the LASBT West team.

19. We have recently obtained a partial closure order on a property in the Bramley area for repeated issues on the estate. We are looking at a number of other individual actions on non related cases in the Bramley area.

Kirkstall

20. At the moment we have 16 cases within the Kirkstall area covering a range of ASB issues. We have 2 currently have 2 possession applications, 1 injunction application & 1 closure application all submitted to Legal. We also have a 3 month partial closure order in place for a property in the area.

21. Since the last report we have been involved in an action day on the Queenswoods. We have also set up a weekly ASB surgery at the Hawksworth HUB. This runs from 10-12 every Tuesday.

Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Champion Cllr Cunningham

Public Health

22. Please see *appendix 1* for update.

Updates from Key Services

Parks & Countryside

23. An update will be provided at the next Inner West Community Committee meeting on 22nd November 2022.

Town Centres Update

24. An update will be provided at the next Inner West Community Committee meeting on 22nd November 2022.

Armley Forum

25. The Armley Forum last met on Tuesday 20th July @ Armley Community HUB.

- WY NPT were in attendance to give and update on local issues.
- Attendance is starting to increase, with many residents stating what they want from the forum meetings moving forward after some recent consultation.

- The next meeting is arranged for Tuesday 20th September, at the HUB with attendance from Planning, Armley Common Rights Trust and Housing.

Bramley Forum

26. The next meeting is booked for Thursday 28th October @ Bramley Lawn. An invite will be sent to the mailing list shortly.

- After recent public consultation it has been decided that the meetings will now be quarterly rather than bi-monthly. With a new location more central to hopefully encourage more people to attend.
- On the agenda is Money Buddies, Barca with budgeting advice, Green Doctor and Leeds Mind and the theme is around the cost of living crisis.

Leeds Youth Service

27. An update will be provided at the next Inner West Community Committee meeting on 22nd November 2022.

Community Hubs

28. An update will be provided at the next Inner West Community Committee meeting on 22nd November 2022.

Housing Leeds

Walkabouts

29. Following a review of the estate walkabout procedure to seek and develop walkabouts as a more meaningful tenant engagement activity, and to help improve their value as an estate management tool. It has been proposed and agreed that walkabouts will reduce from one every quarter to twice a year. To advertise public walkabouts twice a year, to take place during April/May and September /October. This would be the minimum commitment of service by Housing Leeds but the amended service standard should have flexibility to be increased by local teams if they choose.

30. As highlighted by the Tenant Scrutiny Board, it is important that we do not have a 'one size fits all' approach. Across the city, we have a wide range of differing issues on estates with some areas presenting higher risk environmentally. As part of an amended procedure, Housing Managers should have the provision to risk assess their area with a needs led approach to increase the frequency of walkabouts beyond two. It is acknowledged that some areas may need more targeted intervention work and estate inspections and environmental work will be focussed outside of the walkabout procedure. For example, initiatives in Priority Neighbourhoods.

31. To ensure the estate walkabout programme is a positive tenant engagement activity as well as the ward member attendance and priorities that they have within the environment, Housing Managers will consult with elected members to affirm frequency

of walkabouts in the ward. The above changes are very much in addition to day to day proactive housing and property management and estate management activity, where issues should be captured at the earliest opportunity and resolved through a partnership working based approach.

Weekly Block Sweeps

32. Weekly block sweeps are carried out on all high-rise blocks. These inspections help look for things that will improve the block such as ordering repairs, removing items that have been left in communal areas, or identifying improvements that could be made.
33. Should you wish to get involved or are interested in becoming a 'block champion', you can help in coming along and pointing out areas of concern or sharing your ideas on how to improve your block. Please contact on 0113 378330, or via email on housinginvolvement@leeds.gov.uk if you are interested. Alternatively, you can talk to your local Housing Officer.
34. Low rise blocks inspections are also being carried out now on a quarterly basis in line with the fire safety checks.

Community Payback (CP)

35. Community Payback (CP) are committed to completing referred works but unfortunately they are still struggling to meet demand due to insufficient numbers of staff (they are recruiting) and covid restrictions that have not yet been eased within their service. If there's no break facility within 5 minutes' walk of the location of the referral, CP will not be able to complete the work until further notice. If the break facility is close by and is suitable, the larger referrals are more likely to be undertaken. CP anticipate that once they are running at full staff capacity they will be able to action outstanding referrals more quickly and we can undertake a wider range of work with access to their mobile break facility.

Annual Tenancy Contact Update

36. It is acknowledged that due to workload pressures linked to UC, Cx and following the legacy left by C-19, resources are not available to visit every tenant this year. To make best use of resources and target the most vulnerable tenants or those likely to be experiencing difficulties managing their tenancy, we are proposing the following:
 - All general needs tenants will be visited at least once every 3 years, on a 3 yearly rolling programme.
 - Where tenants are identified as a priority for contact because they have not had an ATCI for some time or because of ongoing vulnerabilities they will be visited annually.
 - For new tenancies the New Tenancy Visit will be completed in the first 28 days of tenancy and will also count as the ATCI within the first year.
 - The visit form and questions remains the same as for 2021/22.

- Non-priority tenancies may be contacted more frequently than every 3 years by visit, telephone or online survey if we believe that contact is required as a result of a change in information being made available or where contact is needed with a specific block / area, e.g. linked to improvement works. Further small pilots of the online contact will run during 22/23 to refine the process / explore improved digital solutions.
- Retirement Life tenants will not be covered by the ATCI programme and instead key tenancy related questions will be included in the Support File Review which takes place every 6 months.

Inner West HAP update:

Budget for 2022/23	£49,127.70	
Carry Forward from 2021/22	£26,242.04	
TOTAL 2022/23 BUDGET	£75,369.74	

Approved Budget Spend 2022/23	£30,064.69	
Available Budget	£45,305.05	

HAP	Number of projects submitted	Number of projects approved	Amount Committed by Panel	% committed
Inner West Total	30	16	£30,064.69	39.89%

37. Bids Approved since last update in July 2022

Address/Who	Scheme	Amount Awarded by HAP
B&S	Cross Aston Grove - Handrail	£3,500
Kirkstall	Gilberts Fence	£1,235
Kirkstall	Queenswood Spen Barrier	£3,722
Kirkstall	St Matthias Court CCTV	£2,860.52
Armley	Castleton Childrens Centre - Play	£2,485
B&S	Moorsides Kids Club	£200
Armley	Jaily Field Litter bin Provision	£834.60
B&S	Care Bears Food / Gardens	£843.40

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Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

38. The Community Committee has, where applicable, been consulted on information detailed within the report.

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

39. All work that the Communities Team are involved in is assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the wellbeing process for funding of projects complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

Council Polices and City Priorities

40. Projects that the Communities Team are involved in are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities as set out in the following documents:

1. Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
2. Best City Plan
3. Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
4. Children and Young People's Plan
5. Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
6. Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

Resources and Value for Money

41. Aligning the distribution of community wellbeing funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

42. There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

Risk Management

43. Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all projects and wellbeing applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants are able to deliver the intended benefits.

Conclusions

44. The report provides up to date information on key areas of work for the Community Committee.

Recommendations

45. The Community Committee is asked to note the content of the report and comment as appropriate.

Background documents¹

46. None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.