

Report of: Head of Stronger Communities

Report to: Outer North West Community Committee

Wards: Adel and Wharfedale, Guiseley and Rawdon, Horsforth and Otley and Yeadon

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Date: 2nd March 2020

to note

Outer North 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 Families: Councillor Pat Latty

3. 90 young people attended the youth summit event at Civic Hall on Tuesday 11th February from 15 local schools and youth partners. All of the young people were fantastic representatives for their school or youth group. Schools/groups attending included: Adel St John the Baptist C of E Primary School, St Marys Catholic Voluntary Academy, Otley All Saints C of E Primary School, Westgate Primary School, Rufford Park Primary School, The Froebelian School, West End Primary School, Westbrook Lane Primary School, Broadgate Primary School, St Margaret's C of E Primary School, Horsforth Featherbank Primary School, Guiseley School, Prince Henrys Grammar School, Yeadon Westfield Junior School. Feedback received on the day was very favourable.
Feedback submitted by young people for youth activities will be collated and this will be passed on to local councillors to influence decision making around youth activities.



Environment: Councillor: Barry Anderson

4. Councillor Anderson to provide a verbal update.

Workshop took place on Friday 14th February at Greenacre Hall. The workshop included the Climate Change Emergency Strategy, Climate Emergency proposals including tree planting, relaxed mowing, Waste Service Review update, updates on National Resources and Waste Strategy and what that means for Leeds and a presentation on recycling.



Community Safety: Councillor Barry Anderson

5. Councillor Anderson to provide a verbal update.

Transport- Cllr Wadsworth

6. Sub group met on Friday 6th December 2019.

Employment, Skills & Welfare: Councillor Ryk Downes

Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care: Councillor Graham Latty

7. The Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care sub group will meet in March 2020.

Updates from services

Health and Wellbeing update February 2020

8. Looking out for vulnerable citizens during cold weather in 2020 -Become a Winter Friend-
9. Winter friends support people most at risk from winter-related health conditions in Leeds. By watching this video you can become a Winter Friend and help those most in need to increase their winter resilience.

Winter Health Advice for the over 55's

10. Straight forward advice from the meteorological office for the over 55's on staying healthy during spells of cold weather. For more information please visit;
11. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/health-wellbeing/winter-health-advice-for-over-55s>
12. . Looking out for our Neighbours -Reach Out to a Neighbour This Winter-
13. The Looking Out for Our Neighbours campaign returns to combat loneliness and social isolation this winter. Small acts of kindness can create a big difference and that's why we're bringing back this campaign.
14. The winter phase, has been launched and builds on the success of the campaign earlier this year when local people carried out over 46,000 acts of kindness in their local Neighbourhoods across Bradford district and Craven; Calderdale, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield.
15. During winter months, 'Looking out for our neighbours' is particularly important, as those who are older or vulnerable can easily become isolated or lonely as a result of bad weather or the added social pressure that comes with the festive season.
16. According to research from Age UK, over one million older people say they go more than a month without speaking to a friend, neighbour or family member.

Community Hubs Update

Otley Community Hub

17. The Story and Rhyme Time continues to grow. A special event with Santa attending, and mince pies and coffees for the parents/carers was held December. The Librarians supported visiting storytellers and Activities: Wrongsemble, A Witches Tale. Multi-

Sensory Social Otley Science Festival. 2 events were held in the Library – Litcraft & Twine

18. The Cards for Good Causes sale did really well selling £3,500 worth of cards for charity

Guiseley Library

19. As reported previously the joiners and Library footfall continue to grow. We are awaiting official statistics. On customer feedback some people cannot believe how well the library, sports activities and café have integrated together. “You could spend the day there”

20. There is now new seating and activity area upstairs on the mezzanine floor that will shortly be equipped with books.

21. The Librarian held a Special Storytime for Halloween with cauldron and props and are very well attended. Monthly Chatterbooks sessions are held upstairs.

Yeadon Hub and Library

22. Yeadon Hub has hosted a drop in for Fostering for Leeds Librarians have delivered after school events: Sphero Zombies and Sphero Sorcery (Robots running around the floor)

23. For the first time Yeadon sold the Cards for Good Causes at Christmas and raised £850.

Housing Update: Outer Northwest Area – Horsforth Housing Management Office

Voids Levels (empty properties)

24. Housing demand within all areas of the Outer Northwest remains high especially for houses, with waiting times for all but all but one bedroom accommodation being significantly above the city-wide average.

Applicants on Band A bidding for a 1 bedroom property can expect waiting times as follows:

- Guiseley & Rawdon an average 54 weeks
- Otley & Yeadon, an average 52 weeks,
- Adel & Wharfedale an average 32 weeks
- Horsforth an average 40 weeks,
- **The Leeds average is 44 weeks.**

Applicants on Band A bidding for a 2 property can wait in

- Guiseley & Rawdon an average 70 weeks
- Otley & Yeadon, an average 61 weeks,
- Adel & Wharfedale an average 59 weeks
- Horsforth an average 51 weeks,
- **The Leeds average is 46 weeks.**

Applicants on Band A bidding for a 3 bedroom property can wait in

- Guiseley & Rawdon an average 86 weeks
- Otley & Yeadon, an average 72 weeks,
- Adel & Wharfedale an average 76 weeks
- Horsforth an average 64 weeks,
- **The Leeds average is 47 weeks.**

Applicants on Band A bidding for a 4 bedroom property can wait in

- Guiseley & Rawdon an average 117 weeks
- Otley & Yeadon, an average 76 weeks,
- Adel & Wharfedale an average 106 weeks
- Horsforth an average 69 weeks,
- **The Leeds average is 56 weeks.**

25. Work continues to reduce void levels by advertising properties on notice, viewing in repair when health and safety permits, and maintaining deadlines for customer proofs and lettings contact.

26. Viewings, sign ups and final fixes remains a priority with daily liaison with our contractors and contract management teams to secure timely property repairs and return.

Since April 2019 the number of properties we have allocated is as follows:

Ward Area (Wk33)	Properties Let 2019/20
Guiseley & Rawdon	21
Otley & Yeadon	51
Adel & Wharfedale	27
Horsforth	35
Total	134

The percentage of stock currently in void is as follows;

Ward Area (Wk33)	Total Stock	% of stock void
Guiseley & Rawdon	701	0.57% (No.4)
Otley & Yeadon	1393	0.65% (No.9)
Adel & Wharfedale	640	0.47% (No.3)
Horsforth	887	1.24% (No.11)
City Average	54,978	0.73% (No.403)

Income Collection

27. The Horsforth Housing Office has responsibility for management of council housing stock within the Guiseley & Rawdon, Otley & Yeadon, Adel & Wharfedale and Horsforth management area. Collection rates remain reduced from the same period in 2018/19 with Universal Credit contributing toward this along with significant turnover in staff.
28. Staff members continue to focus on income collection as a result, whilst having ongoing awareness individual tenant circumstances.
29. Officers provide appropriate advice and assistance to customers experiencing difficulties in relation to payment of rent, assisting with Universal Credit and other welfare benefits where appropriate to maximise their income and ability to sustain rent payments.
- 30.
31. Following recent recruitment, the Outer West/Outer Northwest area has seen an increase in our dedicated Enhanced Income Officers staffing resource who have specific role responsibilities for undertaking more complex support work of this type with customers where needed.
32. Additionally following successful recruitment, two part-time officers have been appointed to the longstanding fulltime Team Leader(Tenancy) vacancy at Horsforth, with a further longstanding part-time 21 hours Team Leader (Lettings) vacancy also being filled through staff transfer.

33. These appointments have increased capacity to manage both lettings and rent accounts more effectively to ensure court protocol compliance where recovery action on outstanding debt to the council is necessary.

Management Office	Collection Rate (BV66a) Wk31 Payment Week
Horsforth	97.05%

Annual Home Visits (AHVs)

34. The completion of annual home visits remains ongoing with staff working towards reaching the year-end AHV target of 100% of all tenancies visited within the current financial year.

35. The Horsforth office is currently achieving above milestone target at this point in the year, with the completions target set at 83% at Wk33 (12/11/19) and the office achieving 88.1% completions.

36. Work continues on successfully gaining access to a reducing number of tenancies where access has been not been secured in the previous 12-24 months, with enforcement action undertaken where appropriate.

Management Office	Annual Home Visits Completed Wk33
Horsforth	88.1% (2,652)
City total	79.7% (39,883)

Environmental Actions Estate Walkabouts

37. Housing officers continue to carry out the scheduled quarterly estate walkabouts identifying repair works, untidy gardens, tenancy breaches and potential environmental improvement works whilst out on site, often being accompanied by customers and ward members.

38. 100% of all scheduled quarterly estate walkabouts for 2019/20 have been successfully completed by the Horsforth Housing Management Office to date with positive engagement and support from ward members as appropriate.

Outer Northwest - Housing Advisory Panel Projects 2019/20

Outer Northwest - Housing Advisory Panel Project Considerations 2019/20	
1.	Farrar Lane Garden Consumables, Adel – to supply a storage shed and gardening supplies to Farrar Lane Retirement Living complex. Approved £609.14

2.	Union Court Garden Storage and outside furniture, Otley Approved £2593.00
3.	Duncan Avenue knee high fencing, Horsforth – to stop parking on grassed area – Funding Declined
4.	Kineholme Drive knee high fencing, Horsforth – to stop parking on grassed area – Funding Declined
5.	Bennet Court Sewing Club, Otley – to supply equipment for tenants of Bennet Court to run a sewing club Approved £958.71
6.	Fairfax Flats Bin Stores, Otley – to install two sets of bin storage and bins at the flats – Approved £8,945
7.	Adel Crag Community Association banner and shelter – to supply a community group with a banner and event shelter. Approved £302.98
8.	Whiteley Croft garden party and BBQ, Otley Approved £536.35
9.	Wharfedale View iPads, Yeadon – to supply the retirement life team with iPads to facilitate regular ICT sessions Approved £1,873.75
10.	St James Walk and Drive Landscaping, Horsforth – Approved £1,817.10
11.	Holtdale Garth Drying area, Adel – To remove drying area that is being used for fly-tipping – Approved £1,050.00
12.	Queensway Bin Stores, Yeadon – To install bin store and appropriate bins at 113 Queensway flats Approved £3,268.46
13.	Shakespeare Garages Fence, Guiseley – To replace a rotting wooden fence around the area of the garages at Shakespeare Road. Approved £4,335.40
14	Moorhaven Court Supported Housing Complex Seating. Approved £468.84
Total Spend To Date	
£ 26, 289.89	

39. Summer Bands in the park 2020- Funded by the ONW community committee.

Below are the dates that are booked and the bands that are performing for the concerts sponsored by Outer North West Community Committee:

Micklefield Park, Rawdon:

Sunday 12 July - Stroke of Genius Big Band

Nunroyd Park, Guiseley:

Sunday 21 June - Spa Sax

Springfield Park, Guiseley

Sunday 16 August - Guiseley Brass Band

Tarnfield Park, Yeadon:

Sunday 31 May - Leeds Sax Quartet

Wharfemeadows Park, Otley:

Sunday 28 June - Herr Jens's Band

Concert sponsored by Otley Town Council:

Wharfemeadows Park, Otley:

Sunday 19 July - Otley Brass Band

Concert sponsored by Arts Planning team of Leeds City Council:

Tarnfield Park, Yeadon:

Sunday 5 July - Guiseley Brass Band

40. All the concerts last between 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Community Engagement: Social Media

41. Information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Outer North West Community Committee Facebook page is provided at **Appendix 1**.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

43. 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

44. 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

45. 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

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

Risk Management

47. 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

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

50. 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.