

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner South Community Committee:
(Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside, Middleton Park)

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Date: 24th November 2021 **To Note**

Inner South 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.

Updates by theme

Children and Families: Champion Cllr Almas

3. In preparation for the planning for this municipal year's Youth Summits, the Communities Team recently met with the Voice & Influence Team. At this meeting, the Voice and Influence Team offered their support to reflect on previous year's events and learning to inform future ways of working. However, they expressed their concerns around staff reductions and service pressures, which would impede their ability to support the Youth Summits going forward. They also shared concerns around bringing young people together from different schools/groups for a physical event, as there continues to be concerns over COVID-19 infection rates, particularly in schools. We are seeking the latest advice on this matter.

4. A Children's and Families Sub Group meeting has a provisional date booked in for the 29th November 2021, to enable further discussions to take place, in light of this information.

Environment and Community Safety: Champions Cllr Gabriel (Environment) & Cllr Iqbal (Community Safety)

5. The Inner South Environmental and Community Safety Sub Group met via MS Teams on 5th October 2021.
6. A discussion took place on various issues including anti-social behaviour and rough sleeping, which were fed in to LASBT. As we were leading up to Bonfire Night, a conversation also took place on the strategy that Housing Leeds would be implementing to tackle issues with anti-social behaviour on housing land, including removal of combustible materials over this period.
7. Parks & Countryside provided an update on tree planting and the creation of a woodland site in the Middleton Park ward, where various sites have been identified. All the woodland creation elements have been accepted as part of the White Rose Forest Delivery Pathway and will acquire external funding. An Environmental Impact Assessment is currently being prepared, which is a legal requirement and officers from the Forestry Commission have been invited to attend a site meeting to discuss the project in detail before the Environmental Impact Assessment is submitted in October.
8. The Selective Licensing Team gave an update on the visits that have been conducted throughout the Selective Licensing Scheme, as officers are now mopping up the last remaining properties to be inspected. The team have managed to inspect 1,000 houses and have made some significant improvements to homes. They have also offered other support to tenants, such as signposting to other organisations and agencies, including providing information on how to access benefits.
9. Waste Management provided an update on their brand-new depot which is being built at the back of the RERF facility. This three-story building will be ready for spring of 2022 and has been purpose built and designed. Work is also due to start in the near future on a piece of work called the 'route review', meaning that the whole of the city will have their bin routes looked at.

Health & Wellbeing and Adult Social Care: Champion Role (Vacant) & Chair of Health & Wellbeing Sub Group Cllr Burke

10. Health & Wellbeing Sub Group planning meetings have taken place and terms of reference for the group have now been officially agreed. Another sub group meeting will be arranged in the near future and conversations will start around the possibility of ring fencing some monies via the Community Committee, to focus on key health and wellbeing themes (mental health & wellbeing and Vitamin D promotion), identified via Public Health but also as a result of localised conversations with communities in Inner South, through various engagement activities.

11. The first engagement activities looks likely to be around Vitamin D promotion, delivered via a leaflet that can be distributed to organisations such as churches, community groups, local supermarkets, as well as via mailing lists and social media.
12. These engagement activities will require volunteers to get involved, as the aim is that these activities will also include providing samples of Vitamin D 'gummies' at fetes and events to promote this important message. Informal conversations will also take place around health and wellbeing that will allow the sub group to discuss and focus on other key themes that have been identified through these activities.

COVID-19 Focused Work

13. Public Health is continuing to focus its work on reducing or eliminating the barriers some communities face in accessing COVID-19 vaccinations, alongside work to support 'Living with COVID-19'.
14. An analysis of vaccine uptake revealed several areas with lower uptake, so Public Health are now looking at measures to assist with some of these access barriers including, locating pop-up vaccination sites in community places situated near the residential areas of concern and pop-up women's only vaccine sites, in partnership with Asha.
15. Focused work on exploring the needs of the community to support living with COVID-19 has commenced and will feed into discussions on how to maintain COVID-19 safety. The testing centres at St Georges Centre and Rowland Road Working Men's Club continue to be used by the community and is being closely monitored.

Better Together

16. The Better Together providers are now delivering an enhanced model of support using a combination of COVID-19 related support for those in greatest need, as well as providing group provision, community engagement and outreach.
17. Overall 198 people engaged with Better Together group provision, with 25 different groups running over the past quarter. The groups tended to be physical activity based, friendship groups or art and craft groups, with an average attendance of 8 people per group (a mixture of face to face and digital groups). The Better Together providers are continuing as the lead provider for the Inner South Test and Trace Service.

Your Space

18. Quarterly figures are due for submission at the end of October and will be reported with the next community committee report.

Beeston & Middleton Local Care Partnership

The Digital Health Hub Group

19. The Digital Health Hub Group are pushing forward in their plans and are supporting the work with the successful organisations.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Group

20. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Group met for its first face to face meeting on the 20th October, where the members of the group took part in a workshop using a population health management approach.

The Health Inequalities Bid Group

21. The Health Inequalities Bid Group is continuing, with new links made and leaflets distributed. Several groups are now running with the aim of increasing confidence and identifying training i.e. 'Coffee and Connect' morning at Holbeck Together.

The Big Leeds Chat

22. The Big Leeds Chat came to Beeston Festival to talk to people about how the past 18 months have felt for everyone; what could improve their health and wellbeing and what would make Beeston a healthy, happy place to live. 63 conversations were recorded over the day and the data will now be analysed by Healthwatch who will provide a Beeston and Middleton Local Care Partnership summary, however preliminary analysis has shown a mixture of positive and negative experiences of living through the pandemic.

23. Issues raised included finance, bereavement, stress and mental health. People generally thought having access to free healthy activities would improve their health, suggesting dance nights, board and card games nights, as well as physical activities. These were repeated when asked for suggestions on making Beeston a healthier and happier place to live, alongside more family activities and specific youth activities.

COVID-19 Grants

24. The Public Health COVID-19 grants aim to ensure that COVID-19 messages and support are targeted at those at increased risk and mortality from infection. They support local community groups to connect safely and promote vaccine uptake, testing and support for isolating if needed.

25. The distribution of the grants have been led by Forum Central (in a consortia that includes Voluntary Action Leeds, Healthwatch and Leeds Community Foundation). Community Champions have been empowered to deliver and develop evidence-based messages and keep people connected during the pandemic and they have been able to quickly adapt to trends and communicate key messages through innovative and effective approaches.

26. The COVID-19 grants have focussed on reducing health inequalities, targeting those at increased risk from infection and increasing vaccination uptake. There has been some consistent challenges, which the grants have tried to address; challenges around accessing accurate, appropriate and accessible information, financial issues, ability to isolate, social isolation and boredom, mental health and concerns about changes to restrictions.
27. Larger grants were made available to local Inner South Neighbourhood Networks and other local organisations such as; Belle Isle Senior Action, Middleton Elderly Aid, Hamara, Holbeck Together and MHA Communities South Leeds, to deliver specific work with older people in the community. In terms of COVID-19 small grants, a number of local organisations have been funded; Ciaran Bingham Foundation Trust, Health for All and DAZL.

COVID-19 Community Champions

28. Registration is still open for the COVID-19 Community Champions project on Be Collective: <https://bit.ly/3cdmtpN>. Leeds City Council are working in partnership with Voluntary Action Leeds, Forum Central and Hamara to deliver the COVID-19 Community Champions, so are looking for people who live or work in Leeds who want to support their friends, family, neighbours and community to have the information about COVID-19 vaccines. The aim is to work with a diverse range of community champions who are keen to get involved, whether they are already an active volunteer for an organisation, or are new to volunteering. You can read more about the role of Community Champions [here](#).
29. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us by emailing: communitychampions@leeds.gov.uk

Winter Planning

- Public Health takes a life course approach and aims to increase the effectiveness of interventions throughout a person's life. It focuses on a healthy start and targets people at critical periods when they are more vulnerable to the effects of cold weather e.g. pregnancy and older age. Cold weather presents risks to certain groups as listed below but living with COVID-19 can add and pose additional risk to those who are clinically and socially vulnerable, including:
 - pregnant women
 - people living with frailty
 - people with long term conditions
 - those who are extremely clinically vulnerable
 - children under the age of 5

Becoming a Workforce Winter Friend

- Anybody working or volunteering in Leeds is encouraged to familiarise themselves with the 9 evidence based, high impact interventions to support their colleagues, service users, friends and families stay safe. A short animation programme is being refreshed for 2021 and is due to be launched mid-November. It includes information and signposting for Influenza vaccines (being updated to include COVID-19), checking medications, keeping your home warm, physical activity, hot food and drink and social connectedness.

Winter Wellbeing Checklists

30. To support winter friends and the wider workforce to have proactive conversations about winter, [Winter Wellbeing Checklists](#) are available for adults and for children and families. They are a useful tool to help those 'at risk' of illness due to cold weather.

Community Engagement: Beeston & Holbeck

Beeston Festival

31. Beeston Festival took place on Saturday 18th September 2021 and members of the Communities Team were in attendance enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of a brilliant community event, whilst attempting to get attendees to participate in a quick survey which was designed to get a feel of what people thought of their local neighbourhood. 25 responses were obtained and the Communities Team also used the opportunity to advertise local residents groups and encouraged people to provide their details so that they could pass these on to other relevant groups, in an effort to help bring like-minded people together. The analysis of the questionnaire results will be made available in due course.

Holbeck Core Group

32. The Holbeck Core Group met on the 7th October 2021 and gave partners an opportunity to update on work and initiatives that had been progressing in the area. A presentation was delivered by colleagues from Active Leeds about the Get Set Leeds Local Project and the Active Through Football Initiative.
33. Customer Service colleagues informed they were now reconvening a full service at Dewsbury Road Community Hub, following the restrictions that had been imposed due to COVID-19. They will also be introducing longer opening hours from the 1st November, opening from 9am to 7pm over 4 days a week, Monday to Thursday.
34. "The Get Online Week" which is an annual digital inclusion campaign will be celebrated at the hub from the 18th October. The campaign will be supported by reintegrating digital sessions for service users who are wanting to apply for jobs and learn digital skills.

35. The £3.7million Group Repair Scheme which sets to improve homes in the Receptions, has started working on 142 back-to-back properties. The scheme which is being managed by the Private Sector Housing Team will make improvements to roofs, windows, doors and undertake other energy efficiency works to help make homes safer and warmer.
36. Highways provided an update on the £1 million Streets for People Project that was being developed to make improvements to the street scene in the Receptions area of the priority neighbourhood. Following a series of drop in engagement events, residents' views have been taken into account to develop the scheme further. The next stage is to undertake a letter drop to households as part of the consultation proposals.

Community Engagement: Hunslet & Riverside

37. Ward Member and officer engagement at residents forums, tenants and residents associations, member surgeries and consultations have led to positive projects and initiatives including:

- 22 damaged litter bins replaced
- Beeston Hill Wombles launched
- Hunslet Carr Wombles launched
- Supporting community litter picking groups
- Love Where You Live schemes underway
- Friends of Brickfield Action Group
- New community litter pick kits
- Dewsbury Road improvements
- Clearance of a significant number of blocked gullies at Beeston Hill/Hunslet
- 14 defibrillators installed with the final location currently awaiting installation
- Supporting voluntary, community sector network for the ward

Play Streets Enablement Project: Beeston & Holbeck and Hunslet & Riverside

38. Play Streets offer a space for play for children on their own street, for a couple of hours, usually once a month, using a temporary traffic order to limit vehicular traffic. Play Streets are led by residents and managed by volunteers and the ethos of the Play Streets Enablement Project is to engage directly with locally trusted organisations, to facilitate links with residents who may be interested in organising Play Streets and would benefit from support to do so.
39. The project has been developed by the Public Health Children and Families Team at Leeds City Council, using funding from the Physical Activity Ambition/Get Set Leeds Fund, with a completion date of December 2021.
40. There are now 6 regular Play Streets in the Beeston & Holbeck and Hunslet and Riverside wards as a result of this project at the following locations:

- Barton Road/Barton Place
- Maud Avenue
- Westbourne Avenue
- Disraeli Terrace/Biswell Street
- Lodge Lane
- Crosby Place

Community Engagement: Middleton Park

41. The community consultation for the New Forest Village Plantation improvements went ahead at St George's Community Hub in late September. The event was used to feedback the findings of the initial Plantation Improvements survey and provide residents with the opportunity to discuss their ideas and priorities with the Parks & Countryside Team. Large maps of the greenspace, stickers and post-it notes allowed for creative and engaging conversations to take place, particularly with young people.
42. Over 25 residents attended the event throughout the day and the Parks & Countryside Team were able to affirm residents' priorities and key locations for action. A Greenspace Improvement Plan will now be drafted in conjunction with ward members and fed back to residents for their ongoing involvement.
43. Middleton Leisure Centre is set to open its 3G football pitches to local young people on Friday evening's, starting in late October. The 'free play' sessions will be led by LCC Youth Service and will involve engagement from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. This partnership initiative has developed in response to recent youth anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at the leisure centre.

Middleton Park Neighbourhood Improvement Board

44. Middleton Park Neighbourhood Improvement Board used to meet every quarter to drive forward partnership projects focused around ward-based improvements. In response to the wide variety of partnership projects in the ward and the pace at which neighbourhood improvements need to be implemented, the board has been replaced by monthly ward-based briefings. These monthly task and finish style meetings provide a regular space in which partners can come together to drive projects forward at pace.

Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator

45. The Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator undertakes annual counts of vacant units in all district centres. These are only vacant premises in the district centres and of course figures constantly vary as people are constantly occupying or leaving premises. The annual autumn count provided a view of general trends and so far this year, despite the dire predictions following lockdowns, the number of occupied premises is holding up.

46. The Dewsbury Road Town Team has been very active and increasingly developing a very positive working relationship with Councillors and partners on initiatives to further benefit the shopping area, including additional litter bins and suggestions for ongoing improvement to cycleways. Also progressing are the Town & District Centres projects for Dewsbury Road which include planting, artwork, a pram shelter, benches and cycle racks. It is hoped all these projects will be completed before summer 2022.
47. The street furniture at Middleton Circus is to be repainted using Welcome Back to High Streets funding, obtained from Central Government. A contractor has been appointed and the work will be carried out in early spring 2022.
48. Belle Isle Tenants & Residents Association is working with Regeneration to repaint some of the Council shopfronts. Work on this is expected to start soon.
49. The Middleton Park Traders Group is preparing for its next meeting. This will be the first one it has held since the start of lockdown. Items to be discussed include ways forward with the planters on Middleton Circus as Parks & Countryside are unable to maintain them. It has been agreed with Parks & Countryside that some of the planters will be relocated to other locations away from the shopping area, for maintenance by community groups and schools.

Community Engagement: Social Media

1. **Appendix 1** provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Inner South Community Committee Facebook page and COVID-19 Facebook Groups.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

3. 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

4. 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:
 - Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
 - Best City Plan
 - Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

Resources and Value for Money

5. 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

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

Risk Management

7. 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

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

10. 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.