

INNER WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

PRESENT: Councillor A Smart in the Chair

Councillors H Bithell, L Cunningham,
C Gruen, J Heselwood, J Illingworth,
J McKenna and K Ritchie

CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Catherine Hyde, Stephen Garvani Steve Harris

18 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

19 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

20 Late Items

There were no formal late items.

21 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interests were made at the meeting.

22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Venner, and co-opted members Jo Fiddes, Stephen McBarron, Andy Rontree and Jonathan Butler.

23 Open Forum / Community Forums

On this occasion there were no members of the public present at the meeting.

24 Minutes - 13th July 2022

RESOLVED – To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2022, as a correct record.

25 Matters Arising

The Chair advised the Community Committee that she had met with the Localities Officers, and it had been agreed that no supplementary information

in relation to funding applications would be sent to the Members where there was less than five working days before the meeting. Where applications were received after this time, they would either be approved via DDN or brought to the next Community Committee meeting.

In relation to the suggestion of workshops to discuss funding applications this would be adopted going forward. Members welcomed this approach to the funding process.

26 Co-optees Report

Members were advised that further to the publication of the agenda Mr Mamood had decided he did not wish to take up the role of co-opted member on the Community Committee. Therefore, this item was now withdrawn.

27 Highways - Annual Improvement Consultation

The report of the Executive Manager, Highways provided the Inner North East Community Committee with an update on the Highways Annual Improvement Consultation.

The presentation which was appended to the submitted report was shown at the meeting and the Community Committee were invited to make comments.

The Community Committee were informed of the following points:

- The consultation on next years' programme closed on 2nd September. Lists of the proposed works had been provided to Councillors and Parish Councils at the start of July requesting comments.
- Members were provided with an explanation of the Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice. 36 recommendations include: Lifecycle Plans, Inspections, Risk Management and Defect Repair.
- Explanation of how the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy aligns with the corporate vision and contributes to the vision for Leeds. It was noted that key factors of the strategy in Regional Context, Sustainability and Climate Emergency and Communication and Engagement.
- Funding allocations include City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) and Leeds Capital.
- Members noted that the service is currently undertaking more preventative work which is surface dressing. It was noted that the life of a road is generally 10 years.
- The service is continually reviewing all streets, and these are added to a sheet with a colour code to show what stage of repair the road is in. All roads are inspected by an engineer and a scoring system is used and checked over a 3 year cycle. The service wish to get to the position that only 10% of roads are in poor condition.
- Each year all Members receive lists of roads requiring work and the priority given to them. Members are requested to make comments. Members were advised that all emails are noted and responded to.

Responding directly to comments and questions from Members the officer provided the following information:

- It was noted that Members had provided comments on specific local roads, and these would be followed up.
- Ironworks on the highways were inspected to react to individual reports and any defects found were addressed. It was noted that any current issues with ironworks should be report to the officer and Members would receive a response.
- Members were of the view that it was important for communication to take place between different services and departments in relation to any works carried out on the highways.
- Members also thought it was important for a short communication to them in between the consultation period, so that they were kept updated.
- Members made comments on the potholes and the different techniques used to address them.
- Members suggested that speed bumps should be used on entry to roads designated as 20mph. It was the view that this should be carried out during refurbishment works.
- Members raised concerns in relation to the footpaths and pedestrianised areas on the local estates, some of which are in poor condition. Members were advised that footpaths etc were inspected separately to carriageways but used the same scoring procedure to prioritise the work required.
- Members were advised to use the Highways Asset generic email address to send in any comments they may have. The service tried to be as flexible as possible to address roads thought to be in worse condition than those listed, and in some cases, they did sometimes have to swap roads listed for those requested by Members. However, officers would do the swap after assessing the roads rather than ask Members to choose.

The Chair thanked the officer for presenting the item and attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the report and the presentation.

28 Age Friendly Leeds Strategy & Action Plan 2022-2025

The report of the Director of Public Health presented to the Inner West Community Committee the refresh of the draft Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025 to gain feedback. The report also requested support and promotion of the work of Age Friendly within the city.

The Community Committee were provided with the following points:

- Around 1 in 3 people are aged 50 and over. The number of Leeds residents aged 80 and over will increase by about 50% in the next 20 years.

- Age Friendly Leeds is one of the eight priorities in the Best Council Plan 2020-2025. The vision for Leeds is that it is a place where people age well, older people are valued, respected, appreciated and seen as assets.
- The draft Age Friendly Leeds Strategy 2022-25 has been reviewed and refreshed which has been informed by The State of Ageing in Leeds report. The process has been overseen by the Age Friendly Board chaired by Cllr Jenkins. The role of the Board is to provide strategic leadership and set the strategic direction for the Age Friendly Leeds work programme and ensure that the objectives are being met.
- Leeds is a member of the World Health Organisation Age Friendly Cities programme and has used and adapted the framework to identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older people.
- The strategy sets out six key priority areas: housing; public and civic spaces; travel and road safety; active, included and respected; healthy and independent ageing and employment and learning. Each of the priorities is headed by a domain lead. Domain leads have been identified and are working to implement the actions set out in the plan. The domain leads will feedback on a quarterly basis.
- The Leeds Older Peoples Forum (LOPF) gives practical ways for the local community to become involved to strengthen the age friendly approach and Councillors were invited to support and encourage people and businesses to get involved in:
 - The Age Friendly Ambassador Programme
 - Becoming a Dementia Friend
 - Age and Dementia Friendly Businesses
 - The Come in and Rest Scheme
 - Leeds Older People's Age Friendly Steering Group
- Public Health are working with partners to support older people in Leeds to be as resilient as possible this winter. It was recognised that the cost-of-living crisis together with the impact that the cold weather can have on older people will require an approach to ensure proactive and preventative support is provided to those most at risk this winter. It was noted there are a range of services to support older people during cold weather including:
 - Information and Advice Service run through Age UK Leeds who can offer information and advice on a range of issues such as:
 - Money Matters
 - State Benefits
 - Housing Rights
 - Consumer issues
 - Home Plus Leeds – whose aim is to enable and maintain independent living through improving health at home.
 - Lunch Clubs – Public Health fund the annual Lunch Club Grants offering a financial contribution to support voluntary groups to provide hot nutritious meals and social activities for older people in a communal environment for 40 weeks per year.
 - Sign up to receive Cold Weather Alerts
 - 'Stay Well this Winter' Grants
 - Become a winter friend

Cllr Jenkins attended the meeting and updated the Community Committee on the following issues:

- Cost of living and fuel crisis including priority register for energy companies and a pilot scheme looking at the use of slow cookers.
- Access buses – and although there have been some difficulties with this service, it should be up and running again soon.
- Bus Fare Campaign – to remove the charges for concessionary bus pass users before 9.30am on weekdays. It was noted that from Monday tickets would be charged at £2 per journey and £4 per day.
- Closure of ticket offices at railway stations.

Members' discussions included:

- Welcome this report with its emphasis on walking and activities. However, it was recognised that in the inner areas of the city there were fewer footpaths than the outer areas for walking activities and the State of Ageing Report highlights the inequalities in the city. There was a need to support through partnership working and the Board active travel and think about promoting active neighbourhoods.
- Members were concerned that the energy crisis would leave older people unable to afford their energy bills and there was a need to provide advice on this issue. It was noted that the Age Friendly Board would ensure that this remained high on the agenda and provide advice through Money Buddies and Age UK to support older people on this issue.
- Members acknowledged that the strategy was still draft and were of the view that the cost-of-living crisis need to be at the forefront of the strategy. Members were advised of the Priority Register Service to ensure that vulnerable people were not disconnected through the winter months. A leaflet was to be sent to Members providing advice on how to complete the form.
- It was noted that Bramley and Stanningley Ward Councillors had recently visited the Bramley Shopping Centre to highlight to business how to become a dementia friendly business. They were of the view that it would have been useful to have joined up with team delivering the Age Friendly Strategy. The ward Councillors recognised that there were business and staff who wanted to help to become dementia friendly, but it relied on the good will of businesses and the staff to attend training which was not provided at the most appropriate time for businesses.
- Members were of the view there was a need to build on the positives of the elderly and look at how the community could draw on their knowledge, and wisdom. It was suggested that older people may wish to attend the performing arts or become involved in the Bramley History Society. The community Committee were informed that the Leeds Older Peoples Forum were currently working with the Leeds Playhouse to record the voices of local older people to capture their voices about their experiences in Leeds. The Leeds Older Peoples Forum were working to encourage work in the culture area.

- Another suggestion was for intergenerational activities looking at recycling and upcycling and gaining from the experience of older people in doing this.
- The Community Committee were advised that the age in London for a Freedom Pass to use the public transport was lower than the age for concessionary fares and passes in Leeds. It was suggested that this be taken up with the West Yorkshire Mayor.

The Community Committee were advised that information would be made available to them in relation to dementia friendly training and if the events to celebrate International Day for Older People.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED – To:

- Note the content of the report and the refresh of the Age Friendly Strategy
- Consider what work is currently underway to support age friendly, winter planning and the cost-of-living crisis in the local area and how to build on these further.
- Consider the needs of the local ageing population and how these needs can be addressed through local age friendly work
- Consider how the work of the Age Friendly Strategy and the community approaches lead by LOPF can be embedded within work of the community committee.

Cllr Illingworth left the meeting at 19:10 during this item.

Steve Harris the co-opted member for Kirkstall left the meeting at 19:25 at the conclusion of this item.

29 Inner West Community Committee Finance Update Report

The report of the Head of Locality 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 2022/23.

The Locality Officer presented the report highlighting the following points:

- The remaining balance of the Wellbeing Fund is currently £38,854.70. Table 1 of the submitted report provided a list of projects already funded.
- Members were requested to consider one application for Sandford Road POS boundary fence submitted by Parks and Countryside for £11,994. Members approved this application.
- Table 2 at Paragraph 30 provided a breakdown of projects funded from the Youth Activity Fund. The Community Committee were asked to note the remaining balance was £50,129.42. Members were advised that the Empower Project had started. Members were also advised that feedback was being sought in relation to the Saturday Night Project.

- Paragraph 31 noted the Small Grants and Skips Budget currently had a remaining balance of £1,418.02. Table 3 showed the Small Grants funded and Table 4 showed the community skips funded.
- Members were advised that the Community Committee currently had a budget of £18,780.08 available to spend. Table 5 listed the projects already funded.
- Members requested to note there is currently £74,915.92 available to spend in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Budget. Table 6 showed the project funded for Woodbridge Fold – Parking Bays.

It was requested that discussion take place at the future workshops on how the Community Committee could spend the CIL and Capital budgets to benefit the Inner West area.

RESOLVED – To note and approve:

- a. Details of the Wellbeing Budget position (Table 1)
- b. Wellbeing proposals for the consideration and approval as set out above (Paragraph 21)
- c. Details of the projects approved via Delegated Decision (Paragraph 23)
- d. Monitoring information of its funded projects (Paragraph 27)
- e. Details of the Youth Activities Fund (YAF) position (Table 2)
- f. Details of the Small Grants and Skips Budget (Tables 3&4)
- g. Details of the Capital Budget (Table 5)
- h. Details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (Table 6)

30 Inner west Community Committee Update Report

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships updated the Community Committee on the work which the Communities Team have been engaged in, based on the priorities identified by the Community Committee.

Under the item for Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team Paragraph 9 was highlighted by Cllr Cunningham. She requested further information in relation to the metal sheeting being fitted in at the bin yard in Armley.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the report.

31 Date and time of next meeting

To note the next meeting of the Inner West Community Committee will be on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 6pm. The venue to be confirmed.

32 Any Other Business

The Chair apologised for the change of venue at short notice. However, this was due to staff sickness at the Fairfield Community Centre.

Cat Hyde, the co-opted member for Armley, thanked the Armley Festival Team for putting on a brilliant event. It had been well attended, with the Leader of Council also attending.

The Chair informed the Community Committee that this would be the last meeting for Karen as she was to take up a new role with Adults and Health Directorate. She thanked Karen for all her work in the Inner West area.

Cllr Bithell thanked Karen for all her work with the Community Committee and for the support that she had provided whilst Cllr Bithell had been the Chair.

The Community Committee presented Karen with a bunch of flowers and showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Cllr Bithell informed the Community Committee that she was stepping down from her appointment to the Kirkstall Cluster. It was noted that Children's Services would be made aware of the vacancy.

The meeting concluded at 19:45