

## SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2005

**PRESENT:** Councillors Beevers, Dunn, Elliott, Finnigan, Galdas, Grayshon, Leadley, McArdle, Mulherin, Renshaw, Smith and Wilson.

### 1 Election of Chair

The Committee received a report from the Chief Democratic Services Officer which outlined the procedures concerned with the election of a Chair to the South (Outer) Area Committee for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor R Finnigan be elected as Chair of the South (Outer) Area Committee for the 2005/2006 Municipal Year.

(Councillor R Finnigan took the Chair)

### 2 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made, however further declarations were also made throughout the course of the meeting - please see Minute Nos. 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18:-

Councillor Leadley - Personal interests in Minute Nos. 11(b)(vii) and 11(b)(ix) Small Grants Application as a Member of Morley Town Centre Partnership. Personal and Prejudicial interests in Minute Nos. 13 and 14 as a Member of Gildersome Action Group. Personal interest in Minute No. 18 as an occasional Morley in Bloom helper. Personal interest in Minute No. 19 as a Member of the Management Committee for Lewisham Park Youth Centre.

Councillor Beevers - Personal and Prejudicial interest in Minute No. 18 as a Member of the Morley in Bloom Committee.

Councillor Smith - Personal interests in Minute Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 19 due to his capacity as Executive Member with responsibility for City Services.

Councillor McArdle - Personal interest in Minute No.19 as a Member of Lewisham Park Management Committee.

Councillor Wilson - Personal interest in Minute No. 11(b)(i) as a Member of Carlton Village Residents Association.

Councillor Elliott - Personal and Prejudicial interest in Minute No. 18 as a Member of the Morley in Bloom Committee. Personal interest in Minute No. 19 as a Member of the Gala Committee.

Councillor Grayshon - Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 18 as Secretary of the Morley in Bloom Committee.

Councillor Finnigan - Personal and Prejudicial interest in Minute Nos. 13 and 14 as Member of Gildersome Action Group. Personal interest in Minute No. 18 as an occasional helper with the Morley in Bloom Committee.

### **3 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of John Davis of the Learning and Leisure Department.

### **4 Minutes – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

**RESOLVED** – That, subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2005, be confirmed as a correct record:-

Councillor Renshaw's reason for declaring a Personal and Prejudicial interest in Minute No. 87, Tingley Athletic Football Club Ground Development, should have read that Councillor Renshaw had been involved in the proposal on behalf of local residents and had signed a petition relating to the issue, instead of stating that she was a member of the Football Club.

### **5 Open Forum**

In accordance with Paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed a period of up to ten minutes for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

#### (a) Vote of Thanks to Police in Rothwell

Stuart Beaumont, a Rothwell resident and member of Rothwell Community Forum, wished to give a vote of thanks to Police in Rothwell, for the improvements that had been achieved which had made a real difference to the community of Rothwell.

#### (b) Issues Relating to Grass Cutting Within the South Outer Leeds Area

Several local residents present stated that following the problems experienced with grass cutting in the area, the grass at Winthorpe had eventually been cut. In response, Members were advised by a representative of City Services Department that the recovery programme was now in its third and final phase and therefore improvements in the service should now begin to be seen.

In response to several questions raised by Councillor Dunn, Mark Forbes, Head of Support Services, stated that a decision had been taken to select an external contractor to provide the grass cutting service within Leeds. However, with regard to further questions, Mark Forbes stated that he would provide more detailed answers to questions regarding the penalty clauses within the grass cutting contract and the issues surrounding the removal of cuttings, following the conclusion of the meeting when he was in possession of all the information.

### **6 Co-opted Members**

The Committee received a report from the Chief Democratic Services Officer which reminded Members of the provisions contained within the Area Committee procedure rules for the possible appointment of up to four non-voting co-optees to the Area Committee.

Members raised concerns relating to the difficulty in co-opting one candidate who was truly representative of each Ward, therefore it was deemed appropriate to continue with the current arrangements and appoint co-optees with specific areas of expertise when required, to assist with the Area Committee's Work Programme.

**RESOLVED** - That the current arrangements for appointing co-opted members onto the South (Outer) Area Committee remain unchanged, with co-opted members possessing specific areas of expertise being appointed as and when required, to assist with the Committee's Work Programme.

## **7 Local Authority Appointments To Outside Bodies**

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report detailing the procedures of Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies.

With regard to Thomas Lee's Poor Estate of East and West Ardsley, Members stated that they believed that several of the charity's patrons were now deceased, and therefore questioned whether the charity was still active. The Committee requested that further information on Thomas Lee's Poor Estate of East and West Ardsley be sought and brought back to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That further details relating to Thomas Lee's Poor Estate of East and West Ardsley be sought and submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee;
- (b) That Councillors Elliott and Galdas be appointed to the South Homes ALMO for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

## **8 Area Committee Function Schedules**

Members received a report from the Area Manager outlining the Area Committee Function Schedules for 2005/2006 which were delegated to the Area Committees by the Executive Board for the forthcoming Municipal Year. This was in addition to the associated revenue and capital budgets for the same period, which were also included within the report.

The Committee was advised that it had recently been announced that underspends from the previous year's Wellbeing budget would be carried over to the current Municipal Year.

Following a discussion relating to the provision and maintenance of public conveniences within the South Outer area, Members requested that a breakdown of the £21,765 which had been allocated by the Executive to the South Outer area for this resource, be submitted to the Area Committee. Members also requested that the possibility of pay toilets being installed in Springhead Park be investigated.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report and the Area Committee Function Schedules for 2005/06 be noted;

(b) That a breakdown of the revenue allocation from the Executive towards public conveniences within the South Outer area, be circulated to the Area Committee;

(c) That Members receive further information regarding the possibility of installing pay toilets in Springhead Park.

## **9 Highways Services Performance Report**

The Director of City Services submitted a report in relation to the range of Highways Services provided by his Department, including performance figures for 2004/05 and the proposed maintenance programme in the Committee's area for 2005/06.

In brief summary, the main issues to arise from the discussion were:-

- The provision and priorities for maintaining unadopted roads;
- The provision for lighting unlit roads which were not currently identified within the PFI scheme;
- The possible replacement of road bumps with chicanes as an alternative measure for traffic calming;
- The damage that repairing potholes in hot weather had done to properties within the area;
- The success rate of completing repairs within one day of being reported, and the problems experienced which had hindered the Department's emergency repairs performance;
- The co-ordinated approach taken with utility companies to provide a more efficient repair service;
- The proposal that stretches of road which did not meet a minimum standard could be placed on the PFI register for repair;
- The impact that the Traffic Management Act would have on the Authority's maintenance service.

**RESOLVED** – That the report, including the Highways Performance figures for 2004/05 and the maintenance programme for 2005/06 be noted.

(NB Councillor Leadley declared a personal interest in this item as he currently resided upon an unadopted road)

## **10 Waste Solution For Leeds**

The Committee received a progress report submitted by the Director of City Services relating to the development of a Waste Solution strategy for Leeds in response to new EU targets for the diversion of significant proportions of municipal waste from landfill.

Members were advised that failure to meet the allotted targets set by the EU would result in the Government receiving fines which would most likely be passed down to the offending Local Authorities. However, the Committee noted that a Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) had been established, which gave each Authority a decreasing number of allowances between 2005 and 2020.

The Committee was informed that consultants were currently carrying out assessments to identify the most viable options for waste treatment in Leeds, the results of which would be known in August, when the views of members of the public and Elected Members would be sought.

Following the presentation of the report, several issues were raised and discussed. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

- The number and location of recycling depots within Leeds;
- The measures that could be taken to ensure that issues such as recycling were taught within schools;
- The balance that existed between cost and quality of service when identifying waste solutions for Leeds;
- The part that waste reduction and recycling could play in solving the Waste Solution issue;
- The progress that had been made in relation to waste disposal, when compared with other UK cities;
- The 'proximity principle', which states that waste should be disposed of close to where it was generated and the proposal that waste could be disposed of more efficiently on a West Yorkshire basis rather than on a Local Authority basis;
- The Government guidelines which had been received regarding Waste Solutions and the likelihood of funding to meet the set targets being received;
- That an invitation be extended to a Recycling Officer to attend a future meeting of the Area Committee so that further questions on the subject could be answered;
- That the possibility of another seminar informing Members on the range of technologies available for waste disposal be investigated.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report detailing the progress towards the development of a Waste Solution for Leeds City Council be noted;
- (b) That a Recycling Officer from City Services be invited to a future meeting of the Area Committee to answer any further questions on the subject;
- (c) That the possibility of arranging a further seminar on the range of technologies available for the treatment of waste be investigated with City Services.

(Councillor Grayshon left the meeting at 18:00 during the consideration of this item)

**11 Area Committee Wellbeing Funding – Current Position Statement and Small Grants Applications**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the South Area Manager which outlined several small grant applications for the Small Grants Fund. The report also updated Members on the balance of the Area Committee Wellbeing funding and Small Grants Fund.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the balance of the Wellbeing funding and Small Grants Fund be noted;

(b) That the following decisions be made in respect of the small grant applications submitted for consideration at this meeting:-

- (i) Carlton Village Residents Association - Carlton Village Gala - £500 - Approved;
- (ii) Different Stages Theatre Company - 'Brass at the Church 2006' - £500 - Approved;
- (iii) Eastleigh Senior Citizens - Coach Costs for Trip - £500 - Refused;
- (iv) Leeds/Morley Scrabble Club - £100 - Refused;
- (v) Rothwell Entertainments Committee - Rothwell Carnival - £1000 - Approved;
- (vi) Winthorpe Residents Association - Winthorpe Youth Club - £500 - Approved;
- (vii) The Free Marketeers - Morley Sunday Outdoor Market - £500 - Approved;
- (viii) Tingley Youth Band - Audio Tutor - £480 - Approved;
- (ix) Morley Town Centre Partnership/Area Management - Morley Visitors Leaflet - £1000 - Approved;
- (x) South Leeds Health for All 'Play and Learn Scheme' - £500 - Approved.

(c) That the alterations to the small grants fund process, as detailed within the report, be approved.

(NB Councillor McArdle declared a Personal interest in Minute No. 11(b)(ix) as a member of the Morley Town Centre Partnership.

## **12 West Ardsley Community Centre**

A report was submitted by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which outlined an application for up to £10,000 Wellbeing capital funding to assist with essential repairs and alterations to the West Ardsley Community Centre.

Members gave their support to the application and stated that the repairs should be completed prior to the conclusion of the six month Dispersal Order pilot scheme, to give young people in the area somewhere to congregate.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and the details of the proposed initiative be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of up to £10,000 Wellbeing capital funding towards the overall cost of the project be approved;
- (c) That the Area Committee's desire for the repairs to be completed prior to the conclusion of the Dispersal Order pilot scheme be noted.

(NB Councillor Leadley declared a Personal interest in this item, due to his capacity as school governor of Hill Top Primary)

## **13 Gildersome Springbank Green Doorstep**

In the absence of Councillor Finnigan, Councillor Smith took the Chair for this item and the next (Minute Nos. 13 and 14).

The Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing outlining an application for £5,000 of Wellbeing capital funding to

assist with the funding of the Gildersome Springbank Green Doorstep initiative.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and the details of the proposed initiative be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of £5,000 of Wellbeing capital funding towards the project be approved.

(NB Councillor McArdle declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in this item as a Member of the Gildersome Action Group, took no part in the discussion and left the room during the consideration of this item)

**14 Gildersome CCTV Scheme**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report detailing an application by Gildersome Action Group for £18,010 worth of funding to assist with the establishment of a CCTV system around Gildersome Meeting Hall.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the details of the proposed initiative be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of £18,010 capital Wellbeing funding towards the project be approved.

(NB Councillor McArdle declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in this item as a Member of the Gildersome Action Group, took no part in the discussion and left the room during the consideration of this item)

**15 Morley Leisure Centre – Disabled Access Improvements**

Councillor Finnigan assumed the position of Chair on his return to the meeting at the beginning of this item.

The Committee received a report from the Director of Learning and Leisure which outlined an application for funding to improve the user experience for the disabled users of Morley Leisure Centre.

In response to Members' enquiries, the Committee was informed that the likelihood of receiving support from the Disabled Access Fund was slim, due to the limited resources available and the number of Council run centres in Leeds which required improvement, hence the need for support.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report and the details of the proposed initiative be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of £15,000 capital towards the overall cost of the project be approved.

**16 Dispersal Order Consultation**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report which outlined an application for Wellbeing revenue funding for a six week consultation exercise with young people following the conclusion of the Ardsley and Robin Hood Dispersal Order pilot.

Members were informed that the consultation would cover various issues raised by the Dispersal Order pilot such as the fact that it had pushed a number of youths to estates on the fringe of the Dispersal Order area.

The Committee noted that the initiative would involve a number of consultative and training exercises, culminating in the participants giving a presentation to the Area Committee, Community Safety groups and the Police.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and the details of the proposed programme be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of £2,430 revenue of Wellbeing funding towards the project be approved.

**17 West Ardsley Youth Centre – Bike Project**

Members received a report outlining an application for £4,160 Wellbeing revenue funding for a programme of activities engaging eight young people from West Ardsley and Tingley at BUMPY in Birstall.

The Committee raised concerns in relation to the absence of a Youth Service Officer at the meeting to answer questions on the initiative, however Members were of the opinion that they did not wish to defer a decision on the Bike Project, as it would delay the establishment of the initiative.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report and the details of the proposed initiative be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of £4,160 of Wellbeing revenue funding towards the project be approved in principal, with the Chair and Ward Members making a final decision on the funding of the project following the receipt of further information from Youth Services;
- (c) That a further report providing more detailed information on the project be submitted to a future South (Outer) Area Committee for Members' information.

(NB Councillor McArdle declared a Personal interest in this item as his wife was the minute taker for the Board of the BUMPY Charity)

**18 Morley in Bloom – Funding For Town Centre Environmental Improvements**

The Committee received a report from the Director of the Neighbourhoods and Housing Department which requested £1,000 capital and £1,000 revenue Wellbeing funding to Morley In Bloom for the purchase of goods and equipment to enable a number of environmental improvements to be made in and around Morley town centre.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and the details of the proposed initiative be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of £1,000 capital and £1,000 revenue of Wellbeing funding to Morley in Bloom to enable the planned environmental improvements to be carried out be approved.



(NB Councillor McArdle declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in this item as a Member of the Morley in Bloom Committee, took no part in the discussion and left the room during the consideration of this item)

## **19 Area Manager's Update**

A report was submitted by the South Leeds Area Manager which detailed a range of activities that were either currently taking place or scheduled to take place in the Outer South Leeds area.

Following a summary of the report's main points by the Area Manager, the following issues were raised and discussed:-

- Support for the Neighbourhoods and Housing Department's bids for Town and District Centre Regeneration Funding, namely Morley Bottoms Regeneration and in Rothwell, the Marsh Street Car Park Enhancement Project;
- The current situation in relation to the Signpost Project, with particular regard to the recent recruitment of six sessional staff and the current evaluation of the project by Leeds Metropolitan University;
- The compilation and distribution of a leaflet which detailed all of the activities being held in the area for young people over the summer;
- With regard to the Horticultural Enterprise Scheme, Steve Burt of Education Leeds stated that all schools within South Leeds would be invited to take part in the initiative which planned to take pupils out of the classroom and into the community. Following the identification of several areas within South Leeds which were deemed appropriate for the initiative, Members requested that a revised scheme detailing the new costings of the project be submitted;
- The current position relating to the recruitment of a Town Centre Manager and the latest information regarding the organisation of the next Gardening Scheme meeting;
- The prospect of a report being submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee detailing how Members could assist with the progression of new developments within the area and whether a regeneration strategy for South Leeds could be established.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the Morley Bottoms Regeneration bid and the Rothwell, Marsh Street Car Park Enhancement Project bid be approved as the Neighbourhoods and Housing submissions for the Town and District Centres Regeneration scheme;
- (b) That a report from the Area Manager detailing how the Area Committee can further assist the regeneration of the area be submitted to a future South (Outer) Area Committee meeting;
- (c) That a presentation in respect of the Signpost Project be given to the South (Outer) Area Committee at a future meeting;
- (d) That funding previously allocated to the Horticulture Scheme continue to be used to develop the scheme;

(e) That a report detailing the alterations to the costings and business plan for the Horticulture scheme be received at a future meeting of the Area Committee.

## **20 South Leeds District Partnership Action Plan**

The Area Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which outlined the progress made in relation to the development of a District Partnership Action Plan 2005-2008.

In response to Members' enquiries into whether Ward Members could have a greater input into the Action Plan and whether more detailed information on issues relating to the District Partnership could be received, it was proposed that the most effective means of ensuring Members' involvement could be to place a standing item on future Area Committee agendas, to enable Members to receive regular updates.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report and District Partnership Action Plan be noted;
- (b) That a standing item be placed on future South (Outer) Area Committee Agendas detailing any relevant information from the District Partnership.

## **21 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED -** That subject to the consideration of the rescheduling of the September and April meetings, due to clashes with political group meetings, approval be given to the following dates and times for the South Outer Area Committee meetings in 2005/2006:-

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at 5.00pm

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 5.00pm

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at 5.00pm

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 5.00pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 at 5.00pm

Meeting closed at 19:53