

## **SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE**

**13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2004**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Finnigan in the Chair  
Councillors Beevers, Dunn, Elliott, Galdas,  
Grayshon, Leadley, McArdle, Mulherin,  
Renshaw, Smith and Wilson

<b>OFFICERS:</b> Dave Richmond	South Area Manager
Jacqui Ingham	South Area Management Team
Mark Forbes	City Services Department
Helen Franklin	City Services Department
Roger Foyle	City Services Department
Fred Duff	Learning and Leisure Department
Simon Frosdick	Learning and Leisure Department
Steve Speak	Development Department
Mike Earle	Legal and Democratic Services Department

### **43 Chair's Welcome**

The Chair welcomed people to the meeting and invited those present to introduce themselves and to state which Department or organisation they represented.

### **44 Late Items**

The Chair gave notice of one proposed late item of business, relating to member representation on the Leeds South Homes ALMO Board (Arms Length Management Organisation).

The Chair indicated that in accordance with his powers under Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, he had agreed to admit this item to the meeting as a late item of urgent business in order to provide continuity in terms of the Council's representation on the Board at the earliest opportunity (See Minute No 56).

### **45 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **46 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of John Davies, Director of Learning and Leisure, and Martyn Harrison, Social Services Department.

### **47 Open Forum**

In accordance with Paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair invited members of the public present (10) to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

In brief summary, the main issues raised were:-

- Problems regarding the emptying of green bins in Winthorpe View, Thorpe on the Hill, Ardsley & Robin Hood. Roger Foyle, City Services

Department, apologised for the problem and undertook to investigate to ensure that the problem was solved.

- Operation of CCTV cameras in Morley Town Centre. The Chair undertook to arrange a meeting involving local Councillors, Police and Community Safety representatives and representatives of Morley Chamber of Trade and Commerce to discuss the issues.
- The possible development of part of Copley Lane allotments. Fred Duff, Learning and Leisure Department, stated that he was aware of a possible land swap proposal. He undertook to furnish Ward Councillors and Ron Peters, Rothwell and District Allotment Holders Association, with further details.
- The use of Planning Act Section 106 monies to enhance existing green space in Rothwell, and a proposal to create a Tribute Garden in Rothwell in honour of Jane Tomlinson, possibly involving a small grant application to the Area Committee.

The Chair indicated that he was content to leave the former issue to the Ward Councillors to sort out. With regard to the latter proposal, Simon Frosdick, Learning and Leisure Department, undertook to liaise with Stuart Beaumont, Rothwell in Bloom, regarding taking the matter forward.

- The problems facing a local voluntary youth club in complying with legal registration requirements. Simon Frosdick undertook to ensure that someone with expertise in this area liaised with the Chair, Ward Members and Steve Campbell, Thorpe Residents and Community Group, to provide the necessary assistance required.

(N.B. Councillor Dunn joined the meeting at 5.20 pm, during the consideration of this item).

#### **48 Minutes – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004**

**RESOLVED** – That subject to a minor amendment to Minute No 28, to change ‘Morley Entertainment Council’ to ‘Morley Entertainment Committee’, the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **49 Streetscene Services**

The Director of City Services submitted a comprehensive report regarding the Streetscene service operated by his Department, in consultation and co-operation with other Council Departments, with particular emphasis on the area covered by the Area Committee.

The Department was represented at the meeting by Mark Forbes, Helen Franklin and Roger Foyle, who responded to queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- Performance Indicators – The Area Committee would receive six monthly reports in respect of the performance indicators highlighted in the report;
- The replacement of the City’s street lighting via a PFI (Private Finance Initiative) scheme;
- Residents parking schemes – A Policy Statement was being prepared for submission to the Scrutiny Board (City Services), after which it would be referred to Area Committees for comment;

- Highways maintenance and improvement schemes and the backlog of investment required to bring the network to an acceptable standard;
- Environmental enforcement issues, including flyposting, flytipping and litter;
- Traffic management matters, including the proposed HGV ban at Ouzlewell Green and Wakefield's stance on the situation. Mr Forbes undertook to let a Member have an update on the latest situation;
- Sharp Lane, Middleton Fall Lane, East Ardsley / A.61 junction improvements, including the possibility of traffic lights. Mr Speak undertook to supply further information to a Member;
- Spink Well Lane proposed closure and problems associated with a previous illegal travellers camp on adjoining recreation land;
- Waste Management Strategy to substantially reduce the amount of waste being disposed of at landfill. Incineration of refuse was raised, and Mr Forbes undertook to ensure that a Member was supplied with further information;
- Bridge Street proposed pedestrian crossing. The Chair requested officers to provide a Member with a progress report;
- Roadworks – The Chair requested a response to an issue raised regarding the length of time taken to complete road/footpath works and reinstate the area and remove temporary barriers – reference was made to problems in Ropery Lane;
- Traffic calming measures – The Chair requested officers to supply a Member with a copy of the criteria for introducing traffic calming measures
- Street cleansing standards/methods, particularly in Morley North, and the possibilities of the Town Council eventually assuming responsibility for this service.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the Director submit a report to a future meeting on priority neighbourhood action.

(N.B. Councillor Smith joined the meeting at 5.55 pm, during this item).

**50 Parks and Countryside Service**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Chief Recreation Officer regarding the City-wide Parks and Countryside Service operated by the Learning and Leisure Department. The report highlighted areas within the South Wedge which were the responsibility of the service.

Fred Duff and Simon Frosdick, Learning and Leisure Department, attended the meeting and responded to comments and queries. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- Hembrigg Park playing pitches and changing rooms – improved drainage work had been done on the pitches, which were not yet ready for use and £18,000 of S.106 money was earmarked for changing room improvements. Both the pitches and changing rooms would be available for next season;

- Improvements to Ardsley Sidings recreation ground and the need for similar improvements for Thorpe recreation ground, including anti-motorcycle barriers;
- Oulton Hall golf club and the present uncertainties regarding its future. The Chair requested officers to let Rothwell Ward Members have more information on the present situation.
- The grass-cutting service, which from next year would be monitored by the City Services Department;
- Allotment land, fencing at allotments and the amount of allotment land controlled by the estate of Lord Dartmouth. Mr Duff promised to provide further details when he submitted the Allotments Strategy to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That it also be noted that further reports will be submitted early in 2005 regarding the Department's Playing Pitch Strategy, the Fixed Play Strategy and the Allotments Strategy, together with an evaluation of the market testing exercise for Streetscene Grounds Maintenance.

(N.B. Councillor Renshaw left the meeting at 6.39 pm, during this item).

**51 Leeds Regeneration Plan 2005-2008 and Review of Leeds Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy**

The South Area Manager submitted a situation report regarding the development of the above strategies, and what the implications were for Area Committees and District Partnerships. The report highlighted at Paragraph 5.1 the current regeneration issues within the Committee's area. The Area Manager reported that the District Partnership was holding an 'away-day' in February, and if Members had any suggestions or proposals to contribute towards the proposed District Regeneration Plan then these should be fed into him before the end of January.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That Members forward to the Area Manager by the end of January, any suggestions or proposals to contribute towards the proposed District Regeneration Plan, or any issues they would want the consultants to be aware of.

**52 Review of Leeds City Council Community Centres**

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing regarding progress on a City-wide review of the control, condition, useage levels, lettings policies and charges in connection with City Council owned Community Centres, some of which were leased to other organisations, but the majority of which were directly managed by the City Council.

The report invited the Area Committee to comment on a draft lettings and charging policy appended to the report, and the South Area Manager

indicated that Members could forward their comments to him individually during January if they so wished, and he was also happy to consult any local Centre users on behalf of the Committee, if that was the Committee's wish.

Members indicated that they felt unable to comment constructively on the generalities of the proposed lettings and charging policy in isolation without some idea of the proposed level of charges and the likely degree of delegated power for Area Committees over these Centres. Comment was also made regarding the draft 'concessionary hire' conditions, and concerns were expressed regarding the ability of local groups and organisations to meet hire costs and the potentially detrimental and discouraging effect this would have on local voluntary and community groups.

It was also pointed out that the Northfields Centre was in fact in Ardsley and Robin Hood Ward, not Rothwell as listed at Appendix 1.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted, including the list of Community Centres in the area set out at Appendix 1, and which Department was currently responsible for them.

### **53 Unauthorised Encampments in Outer South Leeds**

At the Committee's request, the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a detailed report regarding unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments in the Committee's area and the Council's policy on this issue.

Tom Wiltshire, Travellers' Officer, Neighbourhoods and Housing Department, attended the meeting and responded to comments and queries. It was reported that the Scrutiny Board (Neighbourhoods and Housing) would be considering at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December whether or not to re-open its Inquiry on this subject.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted, and an update report be submitted to the next meeting in February.

### **54 Community Safety – Crime Statistics**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report containing crime statistics for the area for the first half of 2004/05 compared to the same period for 2003/04.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of a Police representative at the meeting. Officers were requested to liaise with the Police regarding their attendance, and to request representation at the next meeting in order to discuss how anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) were working in the area.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

### **55 Area Committee Well-Being Budget**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report regarding the proposed establishment of a Community Skips Scheme and Fund and also containing details of five applications for grants from the Small Grants Fund.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That approval be given to the proposed establishment of a Community Skips Scheme, as set out in the report, utilising £5,000 from the Well-Being Budget;
- (b) That the following decisions be made in respect of the Small Grant applications detailed in the report:-

Newlands and Denshaws TRA - £366 – Approved  
Rothwell Allotments Association - £464.13 – Approved  
Woodkirk High School - £1,000 – Approved  
Nepshaw Lane Playing Fields - £914 – Approved  
Fayre Care Christmas Hampers - £500 – Refused

**56 Leeds South Homes ALMO Board**

**RESOLVED –** That Councillor Galdas be appointed to replace Councillor Smith as one of the Area Committee's two elected Member representatives on the Board of Leeds South Homes.

**57 Dates and Times of Future Meetings**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2005 at 5.00 pm  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at 5.00 pm  
Venues to be advised.

The meeting concluded at 7.42 pm.