

NORTH WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

20TH OCTOBER 2005

PRESENT: Councillor M Hamilton in the Chair
Councillors Atha, Bentley, Ewens, Golton
Illingworth, Minkin, Monaghan, Morton and
Rhodes-Clayton

OFFICERS: Christine Addison, North West Area Manager
John Kearsley, City Services Department
Paul Markham, City Services Department
Andrew Crates, Development Department
Zahid Butt, Neighbourhoods and Housing Department
Suzanne Wainwright, Learning and Leisure Department
St. Clair Brown, Learning and Leisure Department
Denise Ragan, Learning and Leisure Department
Anne Kearsley, Early Years Service
Sally Threlfall, Early Years Service
Inspector Tim Kingsman, West Yorkshire Police
Mike Earle, Chief Executive's Department

**MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC:**

Donald Hood, Far Headingley Village Society
Carine Auget, University of Leeds
Penny Bainbridge, Cardigan Centre
Katrina Bell, Youth Point at the Cardigan Centre
Tara McLeod, Youth Point at the Cardigan Centre
John Greenwood, Burley & Hyde Park Community Safety
Project
Stephen Rennie, Hawksworth Wood Community Association
Barbara Salter, Hawksworth Wood Community Association
Ken Salter, Hawksworth Wood Community Association
James Robinson
Bill Rollinson, Cardigan Community Triangle and HEAL
Ken Stratford, Kirkstall Village Community Association
Martin Cook, Headingley Network
Ken Torode, Kirkstall St Stephen's School and Church
Dr Richard Tyler, Leeds HMO Lobby
Barrie Payne, Leeds HMO Lobby
Rachel Harkess, Headingley Network

45 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair consented to the submission of a late item of urgent business relating to the proposed creation of a Kirkstall Valley Park (Agenda Item 19, Minute No 62 refers). The report had been completed and circulated after the agenda despatch.

46 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bentley declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Items, 8, 9 and 10 (Minute Nos 51, 52 and 54 refer) in her capacity as a Lead Member (Learning).

Councillor Illingworth declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 19 (Minute No 62 refers) in his capacity as a Director and Company Secretary of Kirkstall Valley Park, a not-for-profit limited company which was also a registered charity.

47 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hussain and Jennings and Freda Matthews, Little Woodhouse Community Association.

48 **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 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the remit of the Area Committee.

In brief summary, the following issues were raised:

(a) Headingley Renaissance

Martin Cook, Headingley Network, reported that the 'Headingley Renaissance' document, funded by the former CIT, was now being printed and a launch event would take place on 7th November at Headingley Primary School – all were welcome to attend.

The Chair placed on record the Committee's congratulations and thanks for all the hard work which had gone into the production of this document.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

(b) Leeds HMO Lobby

Dr Richard Tyler, Leeds HMO Lobby, raised his concern regarding what the HMO Lobby regarded as a lack of detailed consideration by the Area Committee of the crucial subject of houses in multiple occupation and the imbalance in the population mix of the area covered by the Committee, the problems and issues which this imbalance gave rise to and a perceived lack of serious consideration as to how this might be addressed. To redress the situation, the options appeared to be a special extraordinary meeting of the Area Committee, which did not seem to appeal to the Chair when Dr Tyler had raised the possibility, or a regular item on the Committee's normal agenda in order that different aspects of the situation could be discussed. The HMO Lobby were proposing the adoption of the latter.

General support was expressed for the point being made by the HMO Lobby, and it was acknowledged that these issues needed to be addressed at meetings of the Area Committee.

RESOLVED – That the HMO Lobby’s representations be acknowledged, and this subject feature as a regular item on the agenda.

(Councillor Ewens joined the meeting at 7.12 pm, towards the end of this item)

(c) Cardigan Community Triangle

Bill Rollinson, Cardigan Community Triangle, raised three issues:-

- A request for traffic calming measures in the area of the ‘Triangle’ – Chapel Lane, the Broomfields, the Newports etc
- The need for the area’s Community Planning Officer to be mindful of the necessity for the conservation of Sparrow Park.
- Graffiti problems in the area of the ‘Triangle’

John Kearsley, City Services Department, undertook to pursue within that Department the traffic calming and graffiti issues

(d) Councillor Illingworth

Councillor Illingworth requested that consideration be given to the possibility of introducing restrictions on heavy goods vehicles using the A660.

He also commented on the general need to take every opportunity as a Committee, as Elected Members and as representatives of community groups in the area, to lobby for a reduction in rent levels, which would help regenerate the area

(Councillor Morton joined the meeting at 7.15 pm during this item)

49 Minutes - 8th September 2005

Referring to Minute No 26 of the meeting held on 8th September 2005, Councillor Minkin clarified that she had in fact joined the meeting after the consideration of the item relating to the suggested retention of Mission Field as a greenspace, and that is why the minutes did not contain a declaration of interest on her part in respect of this item, in her capacity as a member of the Plans Panel (West).

RESOLVED – Subject to the above point of clarification, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

50 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Streetscene Environment Services (Minute No 32 refers)

Councillor Minkin referred to the reference in the minute to Headingley Ward, and stated that this particular information, regarding levels of students, had been requested for the whole of the Committee’s area, not just Headingley.

(b) Student Housing Project Group (Minute No 26 refers)

In response to a query, the Chair reported that a Member and officer level meeting was taking place next week, following which a meeting of the Student Housing Project Group would be arranged.

- (c) Abbey Mills and St Ann's Mills Sites (Minutes No 34 and 35 refer)
Councillor Minkin reported that neither of these planning briefs had yet been issued, therefore the timescales for the submission of comments to the Director of Development would be delayed accordingly, dependent on the final publication date. The North West Area Manager undertook to pursue this, and supply Members with the information.
- (d) Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) (Minute No 36 refers)
Zahid Butt, Community Safety, undertook to let Councillor Morton have a progress report on this issue.

51 Youth Service Developments – October 2005

The Director of Learning and Leisure submitted a report updating Members on general youth service developments nationally and across the City, together with details of what was happening in the Committee's area. The report also outlined plans for Ward-based meetings with Members, as a key method by which Members could influence the Youth Service's work in their area.

Suzanne Wainwright, Youth Service, responded to queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues raised were:

- The balance and the appropriateness of the overall targeting across the different Wards comprising the Committee's area;
- Further information was sought regarding aspects of the 'Future Developments and Challenges' section of the report, in particular the proposal involving the Weston Spirit agency;
- The potential conflict inherent in the 'traditional v. new' scenario, where the Government was promoting a particular agenda for local authority youth services to adopt which might, to varying degrees, be at odds with local needs and aspirations;
- The past and current emphasis on concentrating services in areas of perceived 'most need' i.e. as a diversion from crime, and the adverse effect this had on 'ordinary' teenagers, who did fall into this category, and the Service's ability to provide traditional youth-club type facilities in areas where these were still appropriate

During the course of the discussion, the Committee received comments from Katrina Bell and Tara McLeod concerning the work of the Youth Point Project at the Cardigan Centre, and both were praised regarding their involvement.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the update report be noted;
- (b) That the report be referred to the Committee's Children and Young People Sub-Group for more detailed consideration and report back, including the issue of how the proposed Ward-based meetings will operate in practice and will feed back into the Area Committee's decision making process.

(Councillor Golton joined the meeting at 7.28 pm during this item)

52 Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre - Update

The Director of Learning and Leisure submitted a report updating Members regarding the development of the Hawksworth Wood Childrens Centre.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the progress report be noted with pleasure, and the Committee's congratulations and appreciation for all the hard work that has led up to the opening of the Childrens Centre be placed on record;
- (b) That the next Area Committee meeting on 8th December be held at the Centre.

53 Community Safety 2004/05

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report outlining the work of the Pudsey Weetwood Divisional Community Safety Partnership during 2004/05 and priorities, plans and key actions proposed for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Zahid Butt, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator, and Inspector Tim Kingsman, West Yorkshire Police, responded to queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues raised were:

- The continuing problems in Headingley Centre associated with Freshers Week, and how this should be addressed, including a suggested concerted effort via a multi-agency task force approach to the problem, in consultation with local organisations and interested parties, including the Universities;
- The issue of speeding traffic raised by Kirkstall Village Forum and how this might be addressed;
- The direct link between the current nature and make-up of the local community and the type and levels of crime this engendered. Although the burglary rate had reduced, it was still the highest level in the City;
- Plans to revive the Neighbourhood Watch initiative;
- How the next stage in the Alleygating project – creating better community spaces – might be achieved;
- Behavioural problems associated with people using take-away shops after pub closing hours, and whether the Police could do more to tackle this;
- The possible extension of current CCTV coverage to other 'hot spots', and the use of mobile microwave links as a deterrent to crime and troublemakers;
- The licensing and siting of mobile food vendors, and whether they could be moved on if they were creating a nuisance;
- The current distribution of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) across the Committee's area and their effectiveness or otherwise in tackling some of the identified problem issues;
- A suggestion that a meeting of the Weetwood Police Community Forum should be replaced by a structured, general public meeting, to allow local residents to express their views regarding the issues covered in the report and raised during the course of the discussion. Inspector Kingsman undertook to consider this suggestion.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the various issues raised and suggestions made during the course of the discussion on this item be referred to the Committee's Community

Safety Sub-Group for more detailed consideration and report back to this Committee.

54 Primary School Review – Proposals for the Far Headingley Primary Planning Area

The Director of Education Leeds submitted, as part of the public consultation exercise in respect of this Review, a report outlining proposals for the rationalisation of primary education provision in the Far Headingley Primary Planning Area, which involved the proposed closure of Beckett Park Primary School with effect from 31st August 2006.

Members and the public present outlined their opposition to the proposals, which were based purely on demographic figures, and commented on the perceived short-sightedness of the plans.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That this Committee supports the views formally expressed by the Kirkstall Ward Members and does not support the proposed closure of Beckett Park Primary School, on the grounds that Education Leeds has failed to make the case for closure.

55 Street Lighting PFI

The Director of City Services submitted a progress report regarding the proposed Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme to replace and improve the City's street lighting, and John Kearsley and Paul Markham, City Services Department, responded to questions and comments.

In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- Concerns and questions were raised regarding the proposal to introduce advertising on street lighting columns via illuminated panels. Questions were raised regarding the size, siting, road safety aspects, anticipated income, control (if any) regarding who could advertise and the nature of the advertisements, who decided where the advertisements would go, the planning control and guidelines relating to such advertisements, where the trial project would take place, and the apparent contradiction between this policy and the Council's attempts to reduce 'street clutter', including 'A' boards, fly-posting and illegal advertising on lampposts.

In response, the officers reported that presently some 10 Councils across the country currently allowed this type of advertising. The advertisements would not be placed in residential areas, high speed roads or known accident black spots, but in the main in commercial areas and on arterial roads in the City – the trial would involve the inner ring road and arterial roads in locations such as Beeston, Gelderd Road, Morley South, Hunslet, Farsley and Wortley, Seacroft and Crossgates. The trial period, through to Spring 2006, would allow time for consideration of public reaction and Members views, as well as that of the business community, and the likely impact in terms of the proposed Supplementary Planning Guidelines. The estimated potential

income to the City Council from the advertising was £1m per annum over 25 years.

Members indicated that they would wish to receive a further report addressing all the issues and concerns raised, and would also like to see the proposed Supplementary Planning Guidelines.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted
- (b) That the Committee receive a further report back to the next meeting picking up all the issues raised during the discussion and would also wish to receive photographs or other illustrations showing the size and nature of the proposed illuminated advertising space.

56 Direction Restricting To Let Boards in Part of Inner North West Leeds

The Director of Development submitted a progress report regarding the development of a Direction to remove deemed planning consent for the display of 'To Let' advertising boards relating to residential properties in part of the Committee's area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the officers work up a draft scheme based on the scheme operated in Loughborough by Charnwood Borough Council, and this be the subject of a separate meeting with Ward Members prior to the convening of the Consultation Working Group involving interested parties and key stakeholders.

(Councillor Atha left the meeting at 9.00 pm during this item)

57 Community Planning Officer – Monitoring Report

The Committee considered a report submitted by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing regarding the work of the Community Planning Officer who was funded by the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

58 Town and District Centres Regeneration Scheme

Further to Minute No 14,30th June 2005, the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report updating Members on progress in developing proposals for improvements to the District Centres at Headingley and Hyde Park as part of the Council's £5m Town and District Centres Regeneration Scheme.

RESOLVED – That the report, and the further proposed consultations and feasibility work, be noted, this to include formal consultation with the Central Headingley Strategy Group.

59 Well-Being Budget 2005/06 – Monitoring Report

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

60 Funding Officer – Update

Further to Minute No 58,9th December 2004, the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report updating Members on the success to date of the Funding Officer post in terms of providing support to and accessing funds for local organisations in the Committee's area. Sharon Knott and Richard Jackson, Voluntary Action Leeds, were in attendance for this item and spoke to the report.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted, and the officers be congratulated on their successes to date.

61 Key Messages from Area Forums

The Committee received the usual report regarding the key messages arising from the various Ward Forum and sub-group meetings held since the last meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the key messages arising from the Ward Forums and Sub-Groups be received and noted;
- (b) That in future, in order to afford this item the importance it deserves, it be placed earlier on the Committee's agenda and contain details of actions taken between meetings.

62 Kirkstall Valley Park

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report regarding the proposed creation of a Kirkstall Valley Park via a not-for-profit company, some of whose Directors were City Councillors, including Councillor Illingworth.

The report highlighted the proposals and some of the key issues which needed to be resolved and clarified for the project to proceed, especially those cross-cutting issues which also involved Leeds City Council.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted, and the proposed creation of a park in the Kirkstall Valley be welcomed and supported;
- (b) That further reports be submitted as the project progresses.

63 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 8th December 2005 at 7.00 pm, Hawksworth Wood Childrens Centre.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 pm.