

INNER NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor J Akhtar in the Chair

Councillors K Brooks, E Flint, A Garthwaite,
C Howley, J Pryor and N Walshaw

1 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

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

2 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

3 Late Items

There were no formal late items. However, some supplementary information (Minute No.11 refers) in the form of additional Wellbeing applications, was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

4 Declaration of Interests

No interests were raised at the meeting.

5 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor A Marshall-Katung and Councillor J Bentley.

6 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held 11 March 2021 and the consultative notes from the meeting held 15 July 2021, be approved as accurate records.

7 Appointment to an Outside Body - Leeds Bradford Airport Consultative Committee

The report of the City Solicitor sought the Committee's consideration of an appointment to an Outside Body for the Leeds Bradford Airport Consultative Committee (LBACC). This matter was previously discussed at the Inner North West Community Committee in March 2019 following a request for representation made by the North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association.

LBACC felt that an additional Councillor from the Inner North West Community Committee would be appropriate, and a Community and Local Engagement appointment will be beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from a ward perspective.

The Community Committee unanimously supported and confirmed the nomination of Councillor N Walshaw to the LBACC.

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the recommendation made by Member Management Committee on 16th July 2021 in respect of appointments to LBACC.
- b) To appoint Councillor N Walshaw to the LBACC.

8 City Plan Engagement

The Head of Locality Partnerships submitted a report that introduced a verbal update on the development of a City Plan for Leeds in the Inner North West Community Committee Area and an opportunity for input from elected members and residents to feed into the Plan.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor J Dowson, Deputy Executive Member for the Leader's Portfolio
- Amy Beswick, Policy Officer

Councillor Dowson provided some context behind the development of a new City Plan, replacing the Best Council Plan that was launched ten years ago. It was noted that there have been significant changes since the last Plan locally, nationally, and globally. The next steps of the plan were highlighted, in terms focused work with organisations and the consultation process.

The Policy Officer in attendance provided members with a presentation that set out key ambitions and drivers which will help shape the new plan, and then sought feedback from Members on their priorities for Leeds and in particular, the Inner North West Community Committee area for the next ten years.

Members discussed priority themes in terms of the biggest issues for the Inner North West Community Committee area. They were relayed as follows:

- *Addressing health inequalities.* Members commented that the pandemic exacerbated inequalities in the most deprived areas and emphasised the need to reduce the life expectancy gap, as well as ensuring homes in the public and private rented sector are up to standard. It was suggested that the Council work with the Leeds Poverty Truth Commission on their findings and to collaboratively work with groups in the community that are able to put forward schemes to benefit residents. Concerns were also relayed in terms of addressing mental health, and the funding limitations to provide support to parents and youth work provision.

- *Educational attainment, skills, and good employment.* Members discussed disparities across the city and recognised that training and educating young people in the most deprived areas of the city, are a key issue for Leeds and commented that the plan should aim to work with key partners such as the universities and public sector organisations to ensure good quality, high paid jobs.
- *Transport options and reliability.* Whilst it was acknowledged that trends with transport use have changed due to increased home working, members commented that accessing transport remains an issue and the focus of the plan should aim to address increasing routes to ensure residents are able to access places of work, education, and health facilities across the city.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report, together with members comments.

(Councillor A Garthwaite and Councillor J Pryor arrived during discussion of this item)

9 Open Forum

In order to facilitate the Open Forum whilst Community Committees were being held remotely, the process had been adapted so that members of the public were able to submit written representations in advance of the meeting on any matter which fell within the Committee's terms of reference. Now that meetings resume in person, approximately 12 local residents attended the meeting and were invited to make representations.

Councillor N Walshaw commented on the rise in anti-social behaviour issues affecting the Headingley and Hyde Park area and proposed that a forum be arranged that will include Community Committee Members, residents' groups, Universities of Leeds, relevant responsible authorities, West Yorkshire Police, landlords and Faith Leader. The Chair requested that a Terms of Reference for the forum be established. Community Committee Members unanimously agreed to this approach and it was noted that details regarding confirmed representatives, the venue and dates will be confirmed in due course.

The Community Committee noted a deferred representation from the meeting held 15th July 2021, the submission was received from Leeds Residents Anti-Social Behaviour Group and read:

The Headingley and Hyde Park area have over 10,000 HMO, Student properties. Due to students been exempt from paying Council tax rates, the Council receives a subsidy from the government to cover the loss of Council tax rates on these 10,000 HMO Properties. Can this subsidy be ring fenced for Headingley and Hyde Park area to help go towards the cost of providing enhanced council services in the area e.g., Extra ASB Teams, street cleaning and refuse collections, removing graffiti etc to help to try and improve the area that council rate payers have to live in.

A written response will be provided to the Leeds Residents Anti-Social Behaviour Group, as well as a briefing note provided by Central Finance that will also be shared with members regarding compensation given to Leeds City Council in relation to student exemptions for Council Tax.

Residents from the Headingley and Hyde Park area, raised a number of issues relating to ASB and highlighted the following matters:

- The limitation of resources to tackle issues with students in the locality, mainly relating to noise and broader issues regarding the 'Otley Run'. Residents felt that the issues they're facing, are having a detrimental impact on their mental health;
- The ownership of Leeds Universities for their students, and clarity on additional funding provided by Universities for additional security measures;
- Concerns were relayed regarding the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Headingley, and Hyde Park not being enforced, and residents queried whether there are any patrols in the area;
- Issues surrounding Headingley Cricket Ground in relation to urination, drugs, and coaches parking across residents' drives. Additionally, it was commented that there are a lack of marshals patrolling the area and increased noise issues when the stadium is hosting events such as boxing. Further to this, Councillor A Garthwaite explained that following conversations with the Cricket Ground, it was confirmed that additional marshalling will be provided, and anti-urination paint will be used.

John McKimmings, ASB Team Manager responded to the variety of issues raised and confirmed matters can be picked up more widely in the proposed ASB forum. John outlined the role of the PSPO and how they're enforced, as well as confirming that the police have carried out seizures and challenged groups of people causing issues.

Sarah McLean, Coordinator for Litter Free Leeds was in attendance and read out her written submission as follows:

Hyde Park is one of the areas in Leeds that is suffering from gross neglect which is resulting in anti-social behaviour. Can the Inner North West Area Committee please provide an update on why enforcement action appears not to be taking place and to provide a detailed report on what action they do intend to take to turn around what is a failing area within the City.

The issue is clear –

- Bins not being emptied on a regular basis resulting in them overflowing onto the pavements. One student house claimed that their bins hadn't been collected since July.
- Rotting bags of food waste left by the side of waste bins attracting foxes and vermin who break into them and disperse the contents more widely
- A couple of Litter Free Leeds volunteers have taken it upon themselves to try and tidy up the area, but this is unsustainable mainly due to the unacceptable level of overflowing bins

- The large recycling bins in certain parts of Hyde Park fill up very quickly and the contents again spill out onto the pavements
- The Council litter bins are in the main in a very poor condition and certainly don't look welcoming and inviting to use to dispose of litter
- Discarded cigarette butts, broken glass and fast-food packaging can be seen everywhere
- The presence of so much graffiti is also increasing littering in that it generally weakens the establishment of anti-littering norms and attracts drug dealers to the area
- Bin stores are again very neglected and are used as dumping grounds for unwanted items with no-one appearing to take responsibility for them again showing signs of urban disorder and neighbourhood decay
- Paths and paving are full of weeds again showing signs of neglect.

The whole area needs to be drastically improved to ensure a safe place to live, visit and work.

John Woolmer, Chief Officer Environmental Services (LCC) was in attendance to respond to the submission provided by the Coordinator for Litter Free Leeds and confirmed a written response will be provided to Sarah outside of the meeting. John explained that there are a number of matters that need addressing, and it was confirmed there is already particular focus in the Headingley and Hyde Park area. It was acknowledged that a re-design of routes on a city-wide basis are being considered, as well as considerations around smaller refuse vehicles, electric vehicles, and additional staff. It was confirmed that the Inner North West Community Committee area will be an initial priority as well as high-rise properties and the Harehills area. John suggested to attend the proposed forum in relation to ASB.

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the submissions provided, written and oral, together with the information provided on behalf of Environmental Services and the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team.
- b) To note that, in conjunction with Community Committee members and the relevant parties referenced above, a forum will be arranged and Chaired by Councillor N Walshaw to discuss a range of ASB issues, particularly in the Headingley and Hyde Park area. Details will be confirmed in due course with the intention of the first meeting be held in October 2021.

(Councillor C Howley vacated the meeting at 19:40, during consideration of this item)

10 Library Service Update

The report of the Chief Officer Community Hubs, Welfare and Business Support provided the Inner North West Community Committee with an overview of the activity of Leeds Libraries during the past 18 months and outlined key priorities for the service as part of the Service Recovery Strategy.

The following were in attendance for this item:

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Thursday, 6th January, 2022

- Andrea Ellison, Chief Librarian
- Kate Midwood, Senior Librarian

The Chief Librarian informed members that the report provided a city-wide overview on changes to the structure of the service and schemes / projects that have taken place during the pandemic such as digital services, as well as an update on the services key priorities over the coming months. Members were informed that a service update on a more local basis will be provided at the Inner North West Community Committee next year.

In response to Member’s questions, the following information was highlighted:

- The importance of ensuring children are engaging in activities over school breaks. Members heard the Library Service are keen to increase the number of children participating and are introducing a ‘Reception Leading Stars project’.
- To ensure residents and elected members are informed of the services offered and whether advertisements in relation to digital support can be put on bin lorries across the city. Councillor J Pryor confirmed that he will seek further clarity on how the service can seek funding. The Chief Librarian also confirmed that information can be provided to members via briefings, and information can be passed onto the Localities Team to publish info on the Community Committee FB pages.
- Digital support sessions will be provided online from the 18th October 2021, and there are plans for weekly sessions at Central Libraries.
- Clarity sought on information relating to business start-up grants will be provided to Councillor K Brooks following the meeting.

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the contents of the report and verbal update, along with members comments.
- b) To note the intention to receive a regular update on services within the Inner North West Committee area, at future meetings.

11 Inner North West Community Committee - Finance Report

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships presented 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 2021/22.

Details of additional Wellbeing applications for consideration, had been circulated to members and published prior to the meeting.

The projects set out in the submitted report, and supplementary information were discussed, and agreed as follows:

Project title	Wards	Amount requested	Decision
All Hallows/Rainbow Junktion	Headingley & Hyde Park	£7,000 (Capital) & £28,000 (CIL)	Agreed

Art Camp Half Terms & Christmas	Little London & Woodhouse and Headingley & Hyde Park	£3,375 (Wellbeing)	Agreed
Unorthobox	Weetwood	£500 (Capital)	Agreed
Dress For Success	Little London & Woodhouse, Headingley & Hyde Park and Weetwood	£500 (Wellbeing)	Agreed
Dance Sessions at The Cardigan Community Centre	Little London & Woodhouse and Headingley & Hyde Park	£749 (Wellbeing)	Agreed

Members received the following information:

- An update on the Wellbeing Fund. A full breakdown and projects were provided at Table 1 of the submitted report. The remaining balance is £5,665.41.
- Covid Funding 2021/22 remaining balances per ward.
- An update on the Youth Activities Fund.
- A breakdown of the Small Grants & Skips budget 2021/22.
- The Capital budget for 2021/22 and an update on the remaining balance being £21,142.47.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy budget for 2021/22 and as summarised in Table 5 of the submitted report. The remaining balance is £121,867.78.

RESOLVED – To note and approve:

- a) The projects as outlined above
- b) Details of the Wellbeing Budget position (Table 1)
- c) Review the minimum conditions
- d) Monitoring information of its funded projects
- e) Details of the Youth Activities Fund (Table 2)
- f) Details of the Small Grants and Skips Budget (Table 3)
- g) Details of the Capital Budget (Table 4)
- h) Details of Community infrastructure Levy (Table 5)

12 Inner North West Community Committee Update Report

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships provided the Community Committee with an update on the work which the Communities Team was engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. It also provided an opportunity for further questioning, or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

The Localities Officer presented the report and briefly provided an update in terms of the Environmental Sub-groups focus on graffiti in Hyde Park and the intention to deliver workshops across schools to receive wider engagement from children across the Inner North West Community Committee area.

It was noted that the report detailed projects that had been delivered over the summer period.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report.

CHAIRS CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked all for their attendance, particularly the local residents for addressing their concerns and assurance was provided that issues raised will be addressed by working with partners.

13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as Thursday, 6th January 2022 at 6 pm.

(The meeting concluded at 20.25)