

OUTER NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2022

PRESENT: Councillor E Thomson in the Chair

Councillors P Alderson, B Anderson,
C Anderson, C Campbell, R Downes,
J Garvani, S Lay and P Wadsworth

17 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

There were no refusals of inspection of documents.

18 EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no exempt items.

19 LATE ITEMS

There were no formal late items. However, there was supplementary information in relation to Agenda Item 8 – Outer North West Community Committee Finance Update Report, which had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS'

No declarations of interests were made at the meeting.

21 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bromley, Flynn and Shemilt.

22 Minutes - 27th June 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2022 be approved as a correct record.

23 Matters arising

Minute 9 – Finance Update Report

The Committee had discussed an option to fund a dedicated parking officer for the Outer North West area. Cllr Anderson provided an update to the Committee. The Committee noted that other areas of the city had dedicated parking officers and the cost per annum would be £28,000. However, the service was still recovering after the pandemic and there were ongoing issues with recruitment to positions. Members agreed to discuss this issue further and identify areas that would need cover and bring the matter back to the Committee. Cllr Anderson requested Members to contact him with their suggestions.

Minute 11 – Community Committee Appointments

Minutes approved at the meeting
held on Monday, 30th January, 2023

It was noted that Members appointed to Clusters were still not getting information in relation to meetings and requested that this be followed up. It was also noted that Cllr Thomson had not been contacted in relation to her appointment to the Local Care Partnership for Aireborough and Aire Valley. This was also to be followed up.

Informal meeting held in relation to the closure of Queensway Primary school.
It was noted that an informal meeting in relation to the closure of Queensway Primary School had taken place on 19th October 2022. The Community Committee requested that the notes of this meeting be noted. It was the view that the some of the notes made at the meeting appeared to be incorrect.

Members were of the view that the Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education may have been aware of the meeting organised by Alex Sobel MP. Members aired their disappointment that the Community Committee Chair had not shared the meeting details with other Community Committee Members.

The Chair apologised for the lack of information at the informal meeting and in relation to the meeting held on 31st October, the Chair said she had a lot to learn.

24 Open Forum

In accordance with Paragraphs 4.16 and 4.17 of the Community Committee Procedure Rules, at the discretion of the Chair a period of up to 10 minutes may be allocated at each ordinary meeting for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Community Committee. This time may be extended at the discretion of the Chair.

The Chair of Governors from Queensway Primary School, along with other governors and parents of pupils from the school attended the meeting, to make representation against the proposed closure of Queensway Primary School.

The Community Committee were provided with the following information: The Chair of Governors had held his position for 2 years. He acknowledged that the school has had some difficulties. However, since September the school had grown in numbers and in attitude.

He said that OFSTED had visited earlier than expected but the school had continued with the visit.

He informed the Committee that at no point prior to the summer holidays had the school, the governors, parents or staff been included in discussions in relation to the numbers attending the school. He said had this been the case there would have been a wider debate and motivation to increase the number of pupils.

The closure of Queensway Primary would have an impact on parents some of whom were vulnerable single parents coping with vulnerable children who

have special needs. The Chair quoted the Public Sector Equality Duty saying that it was clear to see that the most vulnerable families would be impacted if the school closed.

Not only would the school be closing and causing stress to children and parents, but staff were facing potential redundancy. The teachers were continuing to work under this cloud.

It was their view that the process had been poorly managed with information being slow to filter to the school, the school felt let down by the Council.

Another Governor said that the school supported lots of children who have special educational needs some having additional difficulties. Parents whose children attend the school say that their child would not attend other schools in the area, but they had been able to get their child to attend Queensway. It was the view of this governor that proper consultation had not been undertaken and that the Council had not fulfilled the public sector equality duty. It was her view that consultation for closure should have taken place with all the schools across the area not just Queensway. She was of the view that there should be a plan to inform parents what is going to happen.

The committee was informed that many of the children who attend Queensway require one to one provision and this is offered at Queensway. One parent thanked Councillors Wadsworth, Alderson, Downes, Lay and Campbell for their support.

Another parent whose child attends Queensway spoke of how her child would not go to other schools in the area but had settled at Queensway. She was upset that she would be forced to home educate her child and was of the view that it was not the best way for children especially with special educational needs should be taught. She explained the experience she has had with other schools in the area for her older child and explained that Queensway provided action plans specific to a child and one to one provision.

The parent informed the Community Committee that the parents who take their children to Queensway were vulnerable themselves sometimes being single parents with no family support, they were unable to afford the petrol for car journeys to schools further away. Queensway was more than just a school for children it also offered support for the most vulnerable parents providing a foodbank to ensure families are having meals.

Cllr Downes said that the Community Committee understands and were taking this issue seriously. The Committee had heard how passionately the speakers had spoken in relation to the proposed closure of the school and what it meant to them and their families. He advised the people in attendance that he was taking a White Paper to full Council on Wednesday 16th November. He said that as a child he had moved schools due his father's work and recognised the impact that moving schools has on young children.

He informed the people present, that officers had looked at the facts and figures in relation to the closing of Queensway. However, it was the details of the needs of the children who attend the school which should be looked at.

Member's discussions included:

- Concerns that this could happen to another community in the city
- The valuable resources in the teaching staff and what would happen to them
- The lack of consultation with the school, the parents, and local ward councillors. The fact that this issue had not been brought to the attention of the Community Committee or that the Children and Families Champion had not been made aware of this issue.

Cllr B Anderson put forward a motion for a resolution to be made by the Community Committee which was voted on and a recorded vote was requested. It was also suggested that the resolution be reported to full Council and the mechanism for doing so be reviewed by Governance Services. The clerk said that she would seek advice on this matter and report back to the Community Committee.

RESOLVED - This Outer North West Community Committee recommends that the consultation exercise on the Queensway Primary School proposed closure is withdrawn until clarification is received in respect of the issues raised by the Governing Body in the Open Forum at our meeting on Monday 14th November including setting out clearly the alternatives and how the Council will deliver these to affected children and parents.

The Committee further calls on the Executive Member responsible to apologise to the local schools, Governing Bodies, parents and pupils for not following the set out procedures and for not communicating effectively with those mentioned above plus the local Ward Members, in respect of the emotional distress caused to them. The Community Committee further calls on the Executive Board Member responsible to set in process a consultation in respect of potential redundancies and what steps the Council will take to support the Staff.

Under the provisions of the Council Procedure Rule 16.5 the following Members voted in favour of this resolution:

Cllr E Thomson
Cllr P Wadsworth
Cllr P Alderson
Cllr R Downes
Cllr C Campbell
Cllr S Lay
Cllr B Anderson
Cllr C Anderson

The following Member voted to abstain:

Cllr J Garvani

25 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.

Members' discussions included:

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- Taking on board the promotion of ‘come and rest’ initiative
- The need to work closely with neighbourhood networks
- Strategies needed to be inclusive of all citizens not restricted to particular age groups
- How the strategy needs to influence the priorities for older people
- Cross representation of parties on boards and to ensure that other boards are looking to promote and influence priorities set out in the strategy

It was suggested that the team from Age Friendly Strategy should attend the Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care sub-group and this could come back to the January 2023 meeting.

Members were disappointed that the strategy had not suggested measures to show success of the strategy and had not included specifics in relation to the Outer North West area.

Members also commented on the use of acronyms and jargon in the Strategy.

RESOLVED - To note the content of the report and for the report to be brought to the Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care sub-group and revisited.

Cllr Lay left the meeting during this item at 15:15.

Cllr Downes left the meeting during this item at 15:30

26 **Outer North 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 Community Committee received the following information:

- The remaining balance of the Wellbeing Fund is currently £24,197.45. Table 1 of the Submitted report listed a breakdown of the projects funded.
- Members were requested to consider 2 projects:

Project	Organisation	Ward	Amount	Outcome
Guiseley Christmas Lights	Communities Team	Guiseley & Rawdon	£200	Approved
Refurbishment of the toilet facilities at Wharfemeadows Bowling Club	Wharfemeadows Bowling Club	Otley & Yeadon	£12,656.00	Deferred for further discussion on amount to be allocated

- Listed at Paragraph 22 were the projects considered and approved by Delegated Decision Notice

- Monitoring information was provided at Paragraph 25 on the Summer Bands in the Park.
- Table 2 showed the projects funded through the Youth Activity Fund and it was noted that the Committee had a current balance of £31,041.84 available to spend.
- The Committee noted that in the Small Grants and Skips budget there was a remaining balance of £3,054.73 with Table 3 of the submitted report providing a summary of projects funded.
- The Committee were informed that they have a budget of £46,109 available to spend as a result of new capital injections. Capital allocation was broken down by ward and summarised in Table 4 of the report.
- The Community Committee was asked to note there is £252,022.97 in the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget. Table 5 provided a breakdown for each ward and the projects funded.

Member's discussions included:

- Questioning the funding pots used for some of the projects approved by delegated decisions; these will be checked and corrected.
- Clarity on what was being paid for as part of the funding for Summer Bands in the Park. Members also requested signs or banners in future to show that the Community Committee had supported the Summer Bands in the Parks and help advertise the events.
- Members were informed that at the recent meeting of Children's and Young Peoples' Sub-Group there was a drive to spend the money allocated to the Youth Activities Fund. The Children's Services Champion requested ideas from Members given the upcoming Christmas Holidays and February half term. The Chair also requested ideas from Members on cross boundary working to support projects for children and young people.

RESOLVED – To note:

- a) Details of the Wellbeing Budget position (Table 1)
- b) Wellbeing proposals for consideration and approval outcomes as detailed in the table above.
- c) Details of the projects approved via Delegated Decision
- d) Monitoring information of its funded projects
- e) Details of the Youth Activities Fund (YAF) position (Table 2)
- f) Details of the Small Grants and Skips Budget (Table 3)
- g) Details of the Capital Budget (Table 4)
- h) Details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (Table 5)

27 Outer North West Community Committee Update Report

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

The Community Committee were informed of the following updates:
Children and Families Sub-Group

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- Although Cllr Flynn the Children and Families Champion was not at the meeting, the Committee were informed that the sub-group had met on 9th November 2022. Members were asked to note that the Children and Young Peoples Summit would take place on Friday 3rd March 2023. The event would take place in the Civic Hall with lunch provided at the Rosebowl.

Environment and Community Safety Sub-Group

- Members were advised to contact the Chief Officer Environmental Services Communities, Housing & Environment to check the route review for their area so it can be included in the new bin collection review plan for the city.
- The trial for glass recycling was due to start, but the areas had not yet been confirmed. There was also a proposal for food waste, but this was still not definite.
- Members were advised that disposal of inert waste was now allowed, but had not yet been publicised.
- The Serious Environmental Crime Team has started to address issues on repeated fly-tipping.
- It was noted that leaf fall was an issue for the Outer North West area, however, not all the trees had shed their leaves yet.
- Members were informed that they would be receiving an email inviting them to visit Leeds Watch. Members were advised to take up this opportunity to visit as the services that the team could offer were interesting.

Transport Sub-Group

- It was noted that the Highways Asset Manager had attended the sub-group.
- Cllr Wadsworth the Transport Champion requested the Localities Officer to chase up on a meeting with three people who had attended a Local Forum in relation to a number of road/traffic issues in the area.
- The Sub-group had been informed of progress at the Dyneley Arms junction. It was acknowledged that there had been improvements to this junction.
- Consultation was taking place in relation to the widening of Scotland Lane and an event was due to take place at Yeadon Library in relation to this and the parking issues for the new Parkway Station.
- The next sub-group would be discussing public transport. It was noted that Labour Councillors had organised a meeting in Horsforth to discuss public transport. The Chair acknowledged that she had attended this meeting and was exploring other similar meetings to be held in other areas of the Outer North West area.

Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care

- Cllr C Anderson informed the Committee that the sub-group had met on 18th October and had invited the officer dedicated to dementia support. Cllr Anderson provided the Community Committee with statistics for those suffering with dementia in the city. It was noted that there are a number of support groups for dementia sufferers and carers and that you do not need to be a dementia sufferer to access the groups.

It was noted that the next meeting of the sub-group is scheduled for 5th December.

Employment and Skills

- The report contained the regular six monthly update in relation to Universal Credit and the Employment and Skills Service.

The update report also contained the numbers for social media for the Community Committee. It was noted that the most popular post was in relation to the Community Committee.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the report.

28 Date and time of next meeting

To note the next meeting of the Outer North West Community Committee will be on Monday 30th January 2023 at 1.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 16:25