

INNER NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor I Wilson in the Chair

Councillors J Akhtar, K Brooks, E Flint,
A Hannan, J Heselwood, A Marshall-
Katung and J Pryor

36 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

37 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

38 Late Items

There was a formal late item which was a report on the Kings Award for Voluntary Service and the Kings Award for Enterprise Scheme.

Members were also advised there was supplementary information in relation to Agenda Item 10 – Finance Report.

These had been published and circulated prior to the meeting.

39 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interests were made at the meeting.

40 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Garthwaite.

41 Minutes - 13th December 2023

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th December 2023, be approved as a correct record.

42 Open Forum

In accordance with paragraphs 4.16 and 4.17 of the Community Committee Procedure Rules, a period of 10 minutes was allocated for members of the public to make representations or ask questions to the Community Committee.

Members of the public raised issues in relation to:

- Bins left on pavements, causing serious problems for pedestrians and were an eyesore.
- Rumours that the After-Hours Noise Service was going to be phased out.

- Residents were disappointed to have heard about a lighting installation on Woodhouse Moor led by the University on Look North News, rather than from the Council.
- Incidents of paving stones being stolen, which was dangerous and could cause injuries. It also made the area look unkempt.
- Lots of old buildings were being turned into student accommodation. It was the view that these buildings could be refurbished and used for homeless people.

Councillors responded to the issues raised, providing the following information:

- It was noted that Councillors had also not heard about the lighting installation on Woodhouse Moor, but since the news had broken, they had met with the University and WYCA. Councillors had requested that this project be withdrawn or moved to another location such as Alexandra Park. They had been informed that the funding was specific to Woodhouse Moor. Councillors had suggested that any mention of lighting should be removed from all communications and consultation. The resident confirmed that the idea of lighting had been removed.
- Councillors advised the residents that they had not heard anything about the After-Hours Service being stopped.
- There is a Public Space Protection Order in the area concerned which covers bins left out amongst other things. The PSPO in relation to bins in particular is extremely onerous to enforce given the transient nature of the population.
- Residents were informed that the Council has been marking paving stones with Smartwater to try and address the issue of the paving stones being stolen. However, it was difficult to see how effective this had been. Councillors were not aware of any areas where holes had been left for 9 months, the Council usually filled the holes as quickly as possible. A long-term solution was to replace all the paving slabs, as resetting them makes it difficult for thieves to lift them. Councillors requested residents to let them know as soon as possible if paving stones had been stolen. It was noted that the police were aware of the issue.
- It was acknowledged that student accommodation in the city was developed by private companies. However, the Councillors advised the residents that numbers of rough sleepers in the city were low compared to other large cities. The Council do have rooms for rough sleepers, and once there, they are offered assistance and support. The Council unfortunately has no spare buildings to designate for homeless people, as those the Council own are currently being sold to raise income. It was noted that the Council do an overnight head count of rough sleepers every six months and it is low in comparison to those who are presenting as homeless in the city during the day.
- Residents were informed of a consultation survey called 'Streets for All'. This consultation survey wants people to highlight any issues that stop them getting round the city. These issues can be in relation to public transport, safety or accessibility. The results will be used to develop local transport plans using Community Infrastructure Levy

(CIL) monies which developers pay to the Council for development projects. The CIL money can be directed towards local initiatives. There were leaflets at the committee meeting and everyone was encouraged to take part in the survey.

43 Life Long Learning

This item introduced a presentation from the University of Leeds Lifelong Learning Centre. The purpose of which was to show members of the Inner North West Community Committee and residents in attendance what was on offer at the centre.

In attendance for this item was:

- Esther Bissell – Leeds University Lifelong Learning Centre

This presentation updated the Community Committee on what the Community Outreach Team could offer in terms of courses in the community. The Lifelong Learning Centre is a multi-disciplinary school offering undergraduate courses, and a specialist service supporting mature and part-time learners across the University of Leeds.

The courses focus on students from under-represented groups and those without traditional qualifications. The centre provides support for current and prospective mature, part-time and Foundation Level students, and apprentices. The team work with community organisations and education providers in areas of low participation in higher education in Leeds and West Yorkshire to create opportunities for adults to access higher education.

The following points were highlighted from the presentation:

- The team offer positive messages on the benefits of further or higher education, explain and provide information on finance and entry qualifications, give impartial information, advice and guidance for adults without degrees and provide role models for adults from under-represented groups in higher education.
- The community engagement approach offers long term and sustainable support to the communities they work with.
- The team offer taster sessions which are useful and relevant to the group and provide assistance with visits to the university.
- Support is provided to the community and adult learning organisations through university volunteers and research.
- The centre can offer webinars which are free, host special degree programmes and apprenticeships.
- A drop-in adult learner session was to be held on Thursday 18th April.

Responding to questions the following information was provided:

- There are currently 2,000-3,000 mature students.
- Students are required to have level 2 English. The Lifelong Learning Centre can signpost to English courses.

- The courses run by the Lifelong Learning Centre are held during term-time between 10am and 3pm, on a couple of days per week. All courses are part-time except for one.

**44 RESOLVED – To note the content of the report and presentation.
Discussion Topic - Review of 2023/24 Funded Projects**

The report introduced the review of the 2023/24 funded projects.

Representatives from five of the funded projects had been invited to the Committee to discuss their projects and the impact they are having on the community.

Music House

Music House is located in an old building close to Notre Dame Sixth Form College and opposite the University. They offer a welcoming environment where young people can express themselves through music.

The project reaches out to young people, so they can explore all aspects of music from playing instruments, writing music, singing, and producing music. All types of music are encouraged at the Music House. The Music House invites young people to a 'Jam around the table' where food and drink is provided, and this starts conversations.

From one of the sessions a choir has evolved called Reggae Roots. Reggae Roots were invited to join the 300 strong choir who sang at the Kings Coronation on the stage in Windsor Park.

The young people who come to the project bring their talent and creativity, and Music House provides the environment for them to develop.

Members were informed that there are now four groups operating in the Inner North West area and this would not have been possible without the support of the Community Committee, Council and Housing Advisory Panel. The Music House was grateful for all the support that had been given.

Hyde Park Unity Day

The representative explained how the Community Committee had saved the one day event in 2023 after they had failed to secure expected lottery funding. A new committee of volunteers has been formed and it is proposed that future events will be smaller. The newly formed committee want to engage with the community to see what they would want for the area. To do this the plan is to advertise using social media and shop windows in the local area.

It was noted that in the past there had been noise issues after the event had finished at 8:00pm, but hopefully smaller local events would change the ethos of the day attracting more families.

Members welcomed the proposals and the work in the area and offered to assist in making contacts.

Little London Food Pantry

The Community Committee were thanked for all their support since the project had started in 2020, as part of the assistance to the community during the pandemic. This had originally been a responsive project to the pandemic for a period of 16 weeks. In April 2022 the Covid Response emergency food provision transitioned into Little London Food Pantry as a more sustainable option. Service users are required to register as members and pay a one off £1, in addition £3 per week is payable towards their shopping.

The food pantry initially operated from a room in Little London Community Centre which was not sustainable due to the multi-use nature of the building and lack of secure storage. This was followed by a period using the old LCC Housing Team reception area which ended following the purchase of a converted shipping container supported by the Inner North West Community Committee. This is sited on the carpark adjacent to the community centre which has been transformed into a small retail shop, which has a ramp to enable access for all. The shop has meant they have been able to change the range of foods they can provide, so able to cater for all communities.

Since June 2023, they have been offering a savings service, whereby, people can pay in £1 a week for a 'rainy day' This is through the help of Leeds Credit Union.

Little London Food Pantry is going well and helping to improve the quality of life in the community. Recently, the Food Pantry had opened a café on a Friday between 12pm and 2pm. They offered a warm space for people to come and socialise and a meal of soup and bread. The café also had board games, and this had proved a popular addition for people to engage and interact.

When the project had started in April 2020 there had been 24 people attending, climbing to 337 in June 2023 and now in March 2024, there are 500 people attending on a regular basis.

It was noted that the Rainbow Junction Café had a foodshare scheme on Friday's. It had been noticed that a large number of oversea students had been attending and concern for them had been addressed with the University. Members were grateful for the concern shown and the approach taken.

St Paul's Kitchen

St Paul's have been opening for a community meal every Monday since 2022, to assist the community with the cost of living crisis. Originally this project had started just for the winter months, but it has been agreed that this should continue throughout the year especially with attendance numbers growing.

They get about 40 people attending each week and it is run by volunteers. As well as a meal people get the chance to interact and socialise through activities such as sport or crafting and there are activities for children to join.

The Community Committee assisted with a grant to refurbish the kitchens as there was no ovens, and they were using portable hobs. Members were informed that some of those who come for a meal, volunteer to wash up and help out.

The project has moved into a larger space to cope with the growing numbers now attending, those attending are of different ages and attend for a variety of reasons such as food poverty and social inclusion. It was noted that one volunteer had said, it had helped to give her confidence.

Headingley Lit Fest

The Headingley Lit Fest had started in 2008 and is run by volunteers. They hold public events and invite local playwrights, poets, singers and authors to talk to children in local schools. They help them write their own poetry, stories etc. Once the children have written their pieces of work, they then perform them to the school, and their parents. The scheme has found that performing their own work gives the child confidence in themselves and makes them proud of their achievements.

It was noted that the current Lord Mayor, Cllr Garthwaite had made 3 visits to such performances this year.

One teacher had said that this project has helped children to have self believe and made writing come to life.

At the end of each presentation the Committee showed their gratitude with a round of applause to the project co-ordinators and for the staff and volunteers that make such projects a success.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the report and the information provided in relation to each of the projects discussed.

45 King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) and the King's Award for Enterprise (KAE) schemes

This report provided the Inner North West Community Committee with an update on the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) and the King's Award for Enterprise (KAE) schemes.

Kuldip Bharj attended the Committee as one of the Deputy Lieutenants for West Yorkshire. She said she was please to see and hear of so many wonderful projects being undertaken in the Inner North West area. She said that the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Ed Anderson would love to visit some of the events and that co-ordinators should contact Ms Baker one of the Deputy Lieutenants to invite him.

The report asked members to identify groups/organisations who might qualify for the schemes and explore whether there are any ways the Lieutenancy can help the committee in the work they do with the local community.

The cost of applying for the award is free, and the lieutenancy are looking at liaising with local community groups and organisations. Members were asked to provide any local group names, and/or contact details to the lieutenancy so that they can get in contact with them and provide them with some information regarding the award, as well as the criteria. The groups or organisations should be volunteer run and have been running for three years.

The Enterprise Award was for local businesses which were sustainable, accessible and innovative.

Applications will be open from June 2024 to September 2024. If Members wished to nominate any groups or organisations they should contact Ms Baker on the following email: susan.baker@ntlworld.com and/or at the following address: West Yorkshire Lieutenancy Office, Bowcliffe Hall, Bramham, Wetherby, LS23 6LP.

The Chair thanked Kuldip for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the report and the information provided at the meeting.

46 Inner North West Community Committee Finance Report

The Head of Locality Partnerships submitted a report that set out the overall delegated budget position for the Community Committee and invited Members to note the latest position, as submitted, and determine the funding applications contained within the report.

The Locality Officer informed the Committee of the following points:

- The Wellbeing Budget has a remaining balance of £13,642.41.
- The Youth Activity Fund has a remaining balance of £1,871.78. It was noted that with a limited budget next year the tow breeze events set out in the report would be put on hold to see if there was enough to fund the projects.

- It was noted that the Capital Budget had received two injections of money: £21,224.13.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has a remaining balance of £38,824.77.
- The Members had ring-fenced funding in relation to:
 - Christmas lights
 - Room rental for community engagement
 - CCTV
 - Youth Summit

Members were requested to consider and determine Wellbeing projects; Youth Activity Fund projects and a CIL project as follows:

Wellbeing Projects		
Project	Amount requested	Outcome
Caring Together	£3,300	Approved
Sabhrang, Vaisakhi Melody in the Community	£1,695	£850.00 Approved
Woodhouse Moor Tennis Project	£1,890	Approved
TVC and Cardigan Community Centre-	£4,000 - 50% from Capital Budget	Approved
LCC Run ADHD Peer Support Group	£1,000	Declined as it was the view that this should be the Health Team
PHAB: Provision of activities	£465.17	Approved
Sanskar Group	£1,000	Approved
Kirkstall Festival	£1,500	£750.00 Approved
Little London Food Pantry	£935.68	Approved
LS6 Library of Things	£2,700	Approved
Irish Arts	£1,550	Declined
Youth Activity Fund Projects		
Leeds Rhinos Multi Sport Camps	£3,750	Approved
LCC Breeze	£7,600	Deferred for future consideration
Hyde Park Source Healthy Holidays Rosebank	£4,500	Approved
LCC Youth Service: Standing Proud	£3,500	Approved
LCC Youth Service: Weetwood Youth Activities	£5,180	Approved
LCC Youth Service: Holiday Projects Across Inner North West	£2,960	Approved

Leeds United Foundation: Community Football Drop-In Ireland Wood	£5,000	Approved
CIL		
LCC Parks & Countryside – Tennis Court Upgrade Beckett Park and The Hollies	£70,890.03	Declined

RESOLVED –

- a. Details of the Wellbeing Budget position and new applications listed (Table 1) be noted.
- b. That having considered the funding applications submitted to the Committee, all applications, as referenced within the submitted report be determined as set out above.
- c. Monitoring information of its funded projects (paragraph 17) be noted.
- d. Details of the Youth Activities Fund (YAF) position (Table 2) be noted.
- e. Details of the Small Grants & Skips Budget (Table 3) be noted.
- f. Details of the Capital Budget (Table 4) be noted.
- g. Details of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (Table 5) be noted.

47 Inner North West Community Committee Update Report

This report brought to Member’s attention an update on the work which the Communities Team had been engaged in, based on the 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 Locality Officer presented the report and provided the Committee with the following information:

- The Children and Families sub-group had set a date for the Youth Summit to be held on 14th May 2024, at the Civic Hall, and then to go to Wheeler Hall for a talk on Climate Change.
- The Environmental sub-group had met online and had invited Alison Lowe the Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire to the Hyde Park area to try and address the issue of graffiti in the area.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the report and the information provided at the meeting.

48 Dates, Times and Venues of Community Committee Meetings 2024/2025

The report of the City Solicitor requested Members to give consideration to agreeing the proposed dates for municipal year 2024-25 for the Inner North West Community Committee.

The proposed dates were set out at Paragraph 5 of the report.

RESOLVED – To agree the following dates for Inner North West Community Committee for municipal year 2024-25:

- Wednesday, 17 July 24, 6pm
- Wednesday, 25 September 24, 6pm
- Wednesday, 11 December 24, 6pm
- Wednesday, 19 March 25, 6pm

The meeting concluded at 19:50