

WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor D Atkinson in the Chair

Councillors T Hanley, J Harper, A Lowe,
J McKenna and N Taggart

Co-optees: J Bedford - Bramley & Stanningley Forum
H Boutle - Armley Forum
P Green - Bramley & Stanningley Forum
M Pugh - Armley Forum

1 Appointment of Chair

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report outlining the arrangements for the annual selection of the Chair of the Area Committee.

In accordance with the agreed procedure, the Chief Democratic Services Officer reported that a nomination for the Chair had been received on behalf of **Councillor D Atkinson** and those Elected Members present at the West Inner Area Committee meeting were asked to take a formal vote.

RESOLVED - That following an overall majority of votes cast by those Elected Members present at the meeting eligible to vote, **Councillor D Atkinson** be elected as Chair of the West (Inner) Area Committee for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year.

2 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the West Inner Area Committee for the 2007/2008 municipal year and expressed sincere thanks to the former Chair, Councillor Janet Harper for all her hard work during her year as Chair of the West Inner Area Committee.

3 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor J McKenna.

4 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Lowe declared a personal interest in Item 16, due to her position on the West North West ALMO Board.

5 Open Forum / Community Forums

The agenda made reference to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum Session at each ordinary meeting of an

Area Committee, for members of the public to ask questions or to make representations on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee. As there were no members of the public present, no issues were raised.

The minutes of the Armley Community Forum meetings held on 20th March, 17th April and 15th May 2007 were submitted for information and noted.

The minutes of the Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum meeting held on 29th March 2007 were also submitted for information and noted.

6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th March 2007

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

7 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Wyther Community Centre (Minute 83 refers)

Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager informed the meeting that the former sponsors **Stellabrook Construction** had now withdrawn their funding to support the **Twilight Twirlers** upkeep for the use of the **Wyther Community Centre**. Unfortunately, West Area Management have already put a great deal of work on the lease for their use of the building. In conclusion, Members were informed that the Twilight Twirlers have now been offered a letting for one year at a cost of £1,500.

Members from both Wards informed the meeting that they had recently received a request for MICE money from the Twilight Twirlers.

Footpaths and Ginnels Closures/Gating Orders (Minute 85 refers)

Paul Dishman, West Leeds Area Co-ordinator, informed the meeting that the work on the **Nancroft Mount alleygating scheme** was almost completed with full resident approval and Planning permission sought for installation in August and residents had thanked the Community Safety Co-ordinator for their work. It was reported that **Wellington Mount ginnel** was the next area to focus on.

RESOLVED - That the West Area Manager be instructed to monitor the lease for the Wyther Community Centre building very closely and keep Members informed.

8 Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report and appendices outlining the Committee's role in relation to its Elected Member appointments to community and local engagement category appointments to outside bodies which had been delegated to the Area Committee to appoint.

It was reported at the meeting that the **West Leeds Family Service Unit** no longer existed and it was confirmed by the Chair that she had not been contacted by the organisation at all last year. Therefore, it was decided that no appointment should be made to West Leeds Family Service Unit.

RESOLVED - That Councillor J Harper be appointed to **Bramley Sure Start** for the 2007/08 municipal year.

9 Introduction of the Locality Co-ordinator for Children and Equal Opportunities

Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager introduced Amanda Jackson, Locality Co-ordinator for Children and Equal Opportunities, Children's Services for West Leeds.

Amanda Jackson addressed the meeting and informed Members that she hoped to be in regular attendance at West (Inner) Area Committee meetings but at the moment she is based at Merrion House and will soon be based around the West Leeds area.

The Chair welcomed Amanda Jackson to her first meeting with the West (Inner) Area Committee.

10 Appointment of Co-optees to West Inner Area Committee

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report which sought approval for the annual appointment of co-opted Members to the West (Inner) Area Committee.

Members were reminded that the Area Committee could appoint up to 5 co-optees and that Hazel Boutle and Morgan Pugh were nominated by the Armley Community Forum and Jean Bedford and Peter Green by the Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum.

RESOLVED – That the following be formally appointed as Co-optees to the West (Inner) Area Committee:

Hazel Boutle – Armley Community Forum

Morgan Pugh – Armley Community Forum

Jean Bedford – Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum

Peter Green – Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum

11 Area Functions Schedules 2007/2008

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report on the Area Functions Schedule 2007/08. The report gave details on the updated Area Function Schedules and detailed the budgets available for delegated services for 2007/08.

The delegated functions to the Area Committee as at Appendix 1 attached to the report, included the following:

- Youth Service
- Community Centres
- CCTV Cameras
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)
- Waste Management – Recycling Banks
- Public Conveniences
- Well-Being Budgets

Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager pointed out at the meeting that in addition to the Well-Being Fund figures, the **Executive Board** have agreed a £500,000 one off release of **General Fund Reserves** at its meeting in April 2007 to accommodate a further **£50,000** allocation for each of the ten Area Committees on a non recurring basis and reiterated that this element of the Well-Being budget must be spent in the current financial year.

It was also pointed out that this extra allocation which has been added to the revenue Well-Being budget and is to be **earmarked** by the Executive Board **for two areas of strategic importance** for the Council as a whole. These are:

- To carry out a **conservation area review** of conservation areas in their geographical area (this is a **Best Value indicator** for the Council and it is felt that it is best addressed at a local level) and,
- Introducing **residents' only parking/extra parking provision** in particular areas of concern.

Members felt that they needed to know more about the General Fund Reserves and why there had been this surplus. It was also felt that the extra 2% revenue well-being allocation was actually a cut in the well-being budget as it is below inflation. Members also objected to being told how the money must be spent.

Members queried how much the **ALMO** had contributed towards the **funding of a Neighbourhood Warden** as this was not in their original budget. Members also reported that they were being inundated with telephone calls from residents complaining that the renovations to their properties varied dramatically, as some properties had been supplied with entirely new kitchens, bathrooms, new windows etc and other residents who may live on the opposite side of the street, have now been informed that there is a shortage of money to complete these renovations to the same standard, yet they are expected to pay the same amount of rent as those tenants who have had full renovation work completed.

In response, Steve Crocker informed the meeting that one of the Wardens for the West Inner area has been funded from money that comes from Central

Government. The cost per year for each Warden is £28,000. A second Warden had been funded for Fairfield through the Safer and Stronger Communities funding. Two more Wardens had been funded for New Wortley, one through the West Inner Area Committee budget and the other funded by West/North West Homes Leeds. The crime figures are now down in this area and it is mainly due to the Wardens doing a good job for the area.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That approval be given to the updated Area Function Schedules for 2007/08.
- (ii) That the West Leeds Area Manager be requested to supply all Members of the Area Committee with:-
 - (a) Details of the source of additional funding of £50,000 for each Area Committee and,
 - (b) Details of the source of funding contributed by West North West Homes.

12 Community Safety Issues

Inspector Steve Thomas from West Yorkshire Police gave an update on Community Safety issues in the West Leeds area for the past six weeks and informed the meeting that **crime figures continue to reduce** and that there are no significant peaks or troughs to report. It was also reported that the Raynviles and Broadleas continue to be the hot spot areas of crime and anti-social Behaviour.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- The alleged indecency incident and the co-operation given to Police via the schools involved to brief parents on the incident.
- The recent arrests on the **Fairfield estate** which led to the closure of crack houses.
- The need to deal with the nuisance caused by youths on motorbikes.
- The use of CCTV cameras in the **Bramley Shopping Centre** and whether there are other areas in Bramley that may warrant CCTV cameras.

Members expressed their delight that crime figures in their Wards are down and their gratitude to Inspector Thomas for the recent Police visits in Bramley. It was also reported that two really good operations had taken place on the **Fairfield and Broadlea estates** which also involved a local MP and the West Leeds Area Manager. The operation involved Police Officers knocking on doors talking and listening to what people had to say about their area. Residents were also informed about '**Smart Water**' a UV based liquid for identifying property.

Members reported that an ideal spot for a CCTV camera would be at the elderly residents establishment at **Ashlea Court** as there had recently been a mugging just by the Globe Public House. In response, Officers informed the meeting that a key issue is the cost of establishing CCTV schemes linked to LeedsWatch and the associated revenue costs which have to be met that

requires up to date statistical data to support the case. Members requested that Inspector Thomas monitor crime levels in this area.

Inspector Thomas also gave a brief presentation on the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) Armley application referred to in Appendix 1 of the Well-Being Budget application for funding (Minute 13 refers).

A lengthy discussion ensued and specific reference was made to the following issues:

- Members referred to numerous assaults which occurred outside the Kentucky Fried Chicken, the petrol station on **Tong Road** and various assaults and anti-social behaviour outside a number of licensed premises and fast food shops on **Armley Town Street**.
- Members also expressed their concern at the increase in the number of bookmakers on Armley Town Street. It was reported that during the day people seem to congregate outside the bookmaker premises drinking alcohol.
- It was also felt that major violent crimes and murder should be resourced by the Police Authority as it is crime that should be a priority of the Police.
- Members felt that the Police do not use the new Licensing Laws as they feel that they have a lot of powers of their own now. For example, the Police made no objections to the license for the **Upstairs Downstairs Nightclub** as no-one from the Police Authority attended that Licensing Committee meeting where local Ward Members had put their objections forward.
- It was also report that there is a huge problem of alcohol fuelled crime in and around the **Lord Cardigan Public House** especially in the summer and in the hot weather. As early as 6.20 p.m. patrons start throwing bottles into the car park causing problems for the elderly in **St Michael's Court and St Peter's Old People's Homes** which often carries on until 2.00 a.m. or even 3.00 a.m. in the early hours of the morning.
- The Area Committee agreed that a letter of complaint should be sent on behalf of this Area Committee to the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor expressing this Committee's views in relation to the lack of serious sentences handed out to offenders.

The Chair thanked Inspector Thomas for his attendance.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That Inspector Thomas be requested to organise a similar operation for the Armley area and to attend the Armley Forum to promote the use of 'Smart Water'.
- (iii) That the Area Manager be instructed to write a letter on behalf of this Area Committee expressing their views in relation to the lack of serious sentences handed out to offenders to Mr Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor.

(Note: Councillor Taggart arrived at the meeting at approximately 5.40 p.m. during discussions regarding the above item)

13 Inner West Area Committee Well-Being Budget

The West Leeds Area Manager submitted a detailed report providing details of the amount of Well-Being capital and revenue funding available for the 2007/08 financial year and the commitments already approved.

Rebecca Boon presented the report and Inspector Thomas gave a brief presentation regarding Appendix 1 – Designated Public Places Order application (Minute 12 refers).

Detailed discussion on the report and appendices followed.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the report and information appended to the report, which includes the available balance of the Area Committee's revenue and capital Well-Being Budgets, be noted.
- (ii) That approval be given to the funding for those projects approved in previous years as outlined in paragraphs 3.0, 3.1 and 4.0 of the submitted report.
- (iii) That the following decisions be made in relation to **revenue** projects as detailed in the appendices attached to the submitted report:
 - (i) Designated Public Places Order - **£12,090 - Approved**
 - (ii) Back on Track Project - **£1,600 – Approved**
- (iv) That the Small Grants proposals, as detailed in paragraph 6.1, which have been approved since the last meeting of the Area Committee be noted.
- (v) That approval be given to allocate the sum of **£3,000** for skips to allow for the purchase of skips throughout the 2007/08 municipal year.
- (vi) That approval be given to allocate the sum of **£2,000 per Ward** for Small Grant applications from Extended Schools Cluster as outlined in paragraph 7.1 of the submitted report.
- (vii) That approval be given to allocate the sum of **£5,000** for the cost of contributing to community engagement and consultation events as outlined in paragraph 8.1 of the submitted report.
- (viii) That the contents of the appended report from Listening Ear be received and noted.

14 Parks and Countryside Update for Inner West Leeds

The Chief Recreation Officer submitted a report which informed the Area Committee of a presentation which would give an update on the following issues concerning Parks and Countryside.

- The work of the service generally, including updates on quality assessments, satisfaction survey etc

- The work of the service within the area, including area specific updates on projects, quality assessments, satisfaction survey etc and,
- Plans and aspirations for the area.

Also appended to the report was a copy of the presentation.

The Chair welcomed Phil Staniforth to the meeting who gave the Area Committee an update on Parks and Countryside across Leeds and particularly in the West Inner area.

Phil Staniforth informed the meeting that in line with the 79% score on the National Satisfaction Survey, Leeds has now moved up two places on the Chart.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the contents of the report and presentation be received and noted.
- (ii) That the Chief Recreation Officer be requested to supply all Members of the West Inner Area Committee with details of the following:
 - a list of the amount being spent in other Leeds parks compared with the parks in the Armley and Bramley & Stanningley Wards
 - a list of the ten Leeds Quality parks and Green Flag parks
 - a list of Section 106 money being spent on parks in the Armley and Bramley & Stanningley Ward.

15 Area Panel Nominations for West Inner Leeds

The Strategic Landlord submitted a report which requested the nomination of Elected Members to the Area Panels of the West North West ALMO Board. Members were reminded of the ALMO review which reduced the number of ALMOs and of the Area Panels that had been created and would cover the Inner West area.

Appended to the report was a copy of the Area Panel Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED - That Councillors McKenna and Taggart be appointed to the ALMO Inner West Area Panel.

16 Inner West ALMO Update

The Chair welcomed Claire Warren, Chief Executive of Leeds West/North West Homes who submitted a report which gave an outline of the presentation. The presentation included Leeds West Homes year end performance, transitional arrangements and formation of the new ALMO Company, current performance and future challenges and future working arrangements between the Area Committee and West/North West Homes Leeds.

A discussion ensued and Claire Warren responded to Members' questions and comments.

In summary, the main issues raised were as follows:

- Formation of the new ALMO – to be given a full list of the memberships for the ALMO Board, its Sub Groups and the Area Panels and requested a full list be sent to all West Inner Area Committee Members.
- Area Panels/Budget and responsibilities – Members requested information on the budget and responsibilities.
- Current and Future Challenges/Customer Satisfaction Survey - Members felt that 72% satisfaction was too low and that parity for decent homes was not being met especially on the recent home improvements issue. It was felt that work already completed by the contractors needs to be rechecked for customer satisfaction. It was also felt that there should be more consultation with tenants on choice.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the contents of the report and presentation be received and noted.
- (ii) That the Chief Executive, West/North West Homes Leeds be instructed to supply Members of the Area Committee with a full list of memberships for the ALMO Board, its Sub Groups and the Area Panel.
- (iii) That the Chief Executive, West/North West Homes Leeds be instructed to give details of the budget and responsibilities to all Members of the Area Committee via email.

(Note: Councillor Hanley left the meeting at 7.10 p.m. during discussion of the above item)

17 Area Manager's Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to inform Members of progress on a number of projects in West Leeds as follows:

- The regeneration of the West Leeds Gateway
- The proposed improvements to Armley Town Street
- The Leeds Bradford Corridor studies
- The Fairfield Local Area Management plan
- The Local Enterprise Growth Initiative proposals for West Leeds
- The results of the recent survey of priority neighbourhoods in West Leeds
- The analysis of how far the Area Committee are in narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods

Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the progress to date on the West Leeds Gateway be noted.

- (ii) That the Area Committee endorses the need to establish project governance arrangements.
- (iii) That the Area Committee endorses the proposed programme of work for the West Leeds Gateway Regeneration Team 2007/08.
- (iv) That the progress on the plans for Armley Town Street and the Town Street heritage plans be noted.
- (v) That the Area Committee supports the continued joint working with Bradford MDC and METRO.
- (vi) That the Area Committee supports the application by the LEGI Programme Board to secure LEGI investment for West Leeds.
- (vii) That the results of the neighbourhood given in the most deprived areas be deferred to the September 2007 Area Committee meeting.

18 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

RESOLVED – That the following be approved:

Date	Time	Venue
20 th September 2007	9.00 a.m.	Fairfield Community Centre
25 th October 2007	5.00 p.m.	Stanningley Rugby Club
6 th December 2007	9.00 a.m.	Armley One Stop Shop
7 th February 2008	5.00 p.m.	Fairfield Community Centre
3 rd April 2008	9.00 a.m.	Stanningley Rugby Club