

NORTH WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor J Monaghan in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, S Bentley, B Chastney,
P Ewens, M Hamilton, J Illingworth,
J Matthews and L Yeadon

OFFICERS: Steve Crocker, West North West Area Manager
Jason Singh, Deputy Area Manager
Sheila Fletcher, North West Area Management
Paul Russell, City Development
Sean Flesher, Parks and Countryside
Phil Staniforth, Parks and Countryside
Christine George, Learning and Skills Council
Paul Forbes, Learning and Skills Council
Nicole Jackson, Chief Executive's Department
Stuart Robinson, Chief Executive's Department
Inspector Ian Croft, West Yorkshire Police
Inspector Fran Naughton, West Yorkshire Police

**MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC:**

Dr Richard Tyler, Leeds HMO Lobby
Barrie Payne, Leeds HMO Lobby
Richard Norton, Headingley Development Trust
Bill McKinnon, Friends of Woodhouse Moor
Linda Cullen, Moor Grange Action Group
Rob Damiao, University of Leeds Students Union
Scott Blakeway, Unipol Student Homes
Amanda Jackson, University of Leeds
Sophie Hughes, Leeds Metropolitan University
Max Farrar, Leeds Metropolitan University
Sue Buckle, South Headingley Community Association/
Friends of Woodhouse Moor
Rachel Harkess, Headingley Network
Joyce Pearson, Supporting the Elderly
Wendy Moore, Supporting the Elderly
Rita Lee, Spen Hill Residents Association
Violet Berry, Spen Hill Residents Association
Sarah Dixon, Peanut Press Organisation
Rob Dale, Peanut Press Organisation
Annie Faulder, North Hyde Park Residents Group
Josie Green, Local Resident
Mike Taylor, Local Resident
James Harwood, Local Resident
James Taylor, Local Resident
Tony Green, Local Resident
Keith Ruffles, Local Resident
Fiona Kirkby, Leeds Festival Chorus

Norman Bell, Leeds Symphony Orchestra
Alan West, Leeds Symphony Orchestra
Audrey West, Leeds Symphony Orchestra
M Walsh, Willows Residents Association

39 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the North West (Inner) Area Committee held at South Parade Baptist Church, Kirkstall Lane, Headingley, Leeds 6.

He made reference to a public open forum in relation to a 'Drugs and the Community Workshop' which was held prior to the Area Committee. He thanked all those concerned for their input and valuable contribution to the open forum.

In concluding, he informed the meeting that Sheila Fletcher, North West Area Management would be transferring to the South Area Management office with effect from January 2009. On behalf of the Area Committee, he thanked her for her support since August 2008.

40 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

Appendix 1 to the report referred to in Minute 54 under the terms of Access to Information Rule 10.4(3) on the grounds that this document disclosed information on how discounts could be applied to the various groups. In these circumstances it was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption in relation to this appendix outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information by reason of the fact that by disclosing these details, information relating to the financial affairs of the named groups would become public knowledge, which could have a detrimental impact on the organisations.

41 Declarations of Interest

The following personal interests were declared:-

- Councillor J Illingworth in view of him renting a Council owned allotment which was located a few metres from the proposed BMX site on Kirkstall Road – Open Forum (Agenda Item 7) (Minute 44(c) refers)
- Councillor S Bentley in view of her daughter who had attended musical instrument classes at the West Park Centre – West Park Centre (Agenda Item 10) (Minute 45 refers)

- Councillor J Illingworth in his capacity as a Director and Company Secretary of Kirkstall Valley Park – Well-being Report (Agenda Item 14) (Minute 53 refers)

42 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor J Chapman, Councillor L Rhodes-Clayton and Councillor K Hussain.

43 Deputation regarding the West Park Centre

The Committee received a deputation from a spokesperson representing each of the following five local Residents' Groups; namely Moor Grange Action Group; Spen Hill Residents' Association; West Park Residents' Association; West Park Fields Action Group and Supporting The Elderly People. The deputation made specific reference to the proposed disposal of the West Park Centre and requested the Area Committee to support the retention of West Park Centre for community use and West Park playing fields as Green Belt, Urban Green Corridor and Urban Green Space.

RESOLVED – That the deputation be received and noted.

44 Open Forum

In accordance with paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed members of the public to make representations or ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

(a) Area Delivery Plan 2008/11

Annie Faulder, North Hyde Park Residents Group referred to the Area Delivery Plan 2008/11 and sought clarification on the consultation process.

Steve Crocker, West North West Area Manager responded and referred to the Committee's resolution taken on the 31st July 2008 and confirmed that it was a three year plan which would be reviewed again in March 2009.

(b) Royal Park School

Sue Buckle, South Headingley Community Association / Friends of Woodhouse Moor referred to the Royal Park School and enquired on the latest position.

Steve Crocker, West North West Area Manager responded and outlined the current negotiations and it was agreed to include this issue within the Area Manager's Report for consideration at the next meeting in December 2008.

(c) Proposed Replacement BMX Track within North West Inner Ward

Mike Taylor, BMX Group referred to a number of potential sites for a replacement BMX track within the North West Inner ward.

Discussion ensued on the proposals outlined and the Area Committee supported the need for a replacement BMX track within the North West Inner ward.

Sheila Fletcher, North West Area Management responded and agreed to convene a meeting with the relevant ward members, Parks and Countryside and the BMX Group to discuss potential sites, together with developing an action plan.

(d) Waste Disposal Site on Kirkstall Road

A local resident referred to the redevelopment of a Waste Disposal site on Kirkstall Road and raised her concerns that local residents had not been consulted.

Following a brief discussion, Sheila Fletcher, North West Area Management agreed to look into this issue with a report back on progress at the next meeting in December 2008.

45 West Park Centre

Referring to Minute 26(a) of the meeting held on 25th September 2008, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report on the West Park Centre.

The report informed Members regarding:-

- the inclusion of the West Park Centre on the list of capital receipts
- the relocation of some existing users of the facility

Prior to Members discussing the content of the report, the Chair allowed a number of local residents, together with representatives from the Moor Grange Action Group, Leeds Symphony Orchestra and West Yorkshire Police to make representations in support of the retention of the West Park Centre and playing fields.

Detailed discussion ensued on the content of the report and it was the consensus of those Members present that the West Park Centre should be retained for use by the local community and city wide arts organisations and to oppose any development of the West Park playing fields.

In concluding, reference was also made to the Council's current disposal list and the Committee agreed to request the Executive Board to remove the building from the disposal list.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That this Committee supports the retention of the West Park Centre for use by the local community and city wide arts organisations.
- (c) That this Committee opposes any development of the West Park playing fields and requests the Executive Board to remove the building from the Council's current disposal list.

46 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2008 be approved as a correct record.
- (b) That the update on matters arising from the previous minutes be noted.

47 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Future Plans for Partnership Working (Minute 28(d) refers)

Dr Richard Tyler, Leeds HMO Lobby referred to the above issue and sought clarification in relation to the remit of the Shared Housing Group, Central Headingley Strategy Group and the Housing Strategy Group.

The Chair responded and outlined the following arrangements for the information of the meeting:-

- (i) the Shared Housing Group was a sub group of the Private Rented Sector Strategy Group, with a city-wide remit; though it was not a sub-group of Area Committee, its minutes were submitted to the Committee for information
- (ii) the Central Headingley Strategy Group was established by the Headingley, Kirkstall and Weetwood Community Involvement Team in 2004 to produce Headingley Renaissance. After the publication of the Headingley Renaissance, it ceased meeting, but was re-established by Area Committee on 7th December 2006. A meeting of the group would be convened shortly
- (iii) the Housing Strategy Group was established as a sub-group of Area Committee last year in order to develop a housing strategy for the Area of Housing Mix. The next meeting of the group would be held on 18th November 2008

48 Community Safety Update

(Withdrawn – to be considered at the next meeting in December 2008)

49 Forum and Sub Group Update Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report providing Members with full minutes from ward forums and sub groups that have taken place since the last Area Committee, together with further information of future meeting dates for the Committee's forums and sub groups.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That this Committee supports the request from the Planning Group to oppose planning applications relating to the Leeds Girls High School sites.

- (c) That in relation to the Planning Group's request for the Area Committee to consider the benefits of commissioning an Area Action Plan, the Community Planning Officer be requested to investigate a well-being funding proposal in this regard.

50 A65 Quality Bus Initiative

The Director of City Development submitted a report on the A65 Quality Bus Initiative.

The purpose of the report was to provide a brief update to Members of the Area Committee on progress with the design and procurement of the A65 Quality Bus Initiative and also seek any comments on these proposals.

Paul Russell, Principal Engineer, Highways Services made a brief presentation on the proposals and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report.

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

- the need for detailed plans to be made available within the public arena to encourage community engagement
- the general views of Members that the scheme was not working with specific reference to traffic road noise and the need for noise assessments
(The Principal Engineer responded and agreed to follow up individual issues raised via email)
- the need for a demonstration in relation to the traffic signal times at the Willow Road/Kirkstall Road junction
(The Principal Engineer responded and agreed to follow up this issue via West North West Area Manager)
- the need for the Committee to address the issue of bus lanes on the A660 at a future meeting

RESOLVED- That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

51 Woodhouse Moor Park

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report on Woodhouse Moor Park.

Appended to the report was a copy of a document entitled 'Response to the deputation regarding the provision of Park Wardens and other issues on Woodhouse Moor Park – Report of the Director of City Development' previously considered at the Executive Board meeting on 8th October 2008.

Sean Flesher and Phil Staniforth, Parks and Countryside were in attendance and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

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

- the willingness for the Area Committee to work with Parks and Countryside
- clarification of the Heritage Lottery Fund arrangements
- the need for continued public consultation in this area
- the need to engage all local residents who use the park facilities

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That this Committee notes the content of the Executive Board's report and it's implications concerning Woodhouse Moor park.

52 Leeds Colleges Merger - Consultation

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report seeking the agreement from the Area Committee on a process by which it was felt appropriate influence could be made on future delivery of post 16 and adult learning by the new merged college.

The following representatives were in attendance:-

Christine George – Learning and Skills Council
Paul Forbes – Learning and Skills Council

Christine George made a brief presentation on the proposed merger and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In response to the presentation, Members supported the proposals outlined, in principle, and noted that future reports would be presented to the Committee on this issue.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.
- (b) That a further report on the outcome of the accommodation/estates review of the new Leeds City College, once completed in 2009 be submitted to this Committee for consideration.

53 Well-being Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report on the Well-being budget, together with monitoring updates for quarters 1 and 2 on Well-being projects funded during 2007/08 that have previously not been completed and 2008/09.

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- (a) Breakdown of Revenue Spend by theme 2008/09 (Appendix 1 refers)
- (b) Breakdown of Capital Spend by theme 2008/09 (Appendix 2 refers)

Sheila Fletcher, North West Area Management presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That the WNW Area Manager be requested to follow up the following issues raised at the meeting:-
 - i) Sandy Lane Footpath – the reasons behind the delay
 - ii) Hyde Park Festive Lights – an update on progress
 - iii) Woodhouse Moor Users Survey – the omission of the survey from the report
 - iv) Yorkstone Paving - the process for deciding areas to be targeted
- (c) That in relation to the on-going developments at Kirkstall Mills, together with the other public assets within the area, the WNW Area Manager be requested to consult with the Director of City Development with a view to reporting back progress on this issue in the Area Manager's Report for discussion at the next meeting in December 2008.

54 Pricing and Lettings Policy for Community Centres

Referring to Minute 62 of the meeting held on 13th December 2007, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report on proposals for a pricing and lettings policy for Community Centres.

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- (a) A list of current users and how they may be affected by the proposed pricing policy (Appendix 1 refers) (Exempt under 10.4 (3))
- (b) A draft schedule of charges and discounts for community centre pricing and lettings policy in Inner North West Leeds (Appendix 2 refers)

Sheila Fletcher, North West Area Management presented the report and responded to Members queries and comments.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That approval be given to the development of the proposed Pricing and Lettings Policy in accordance with the principles outlined in the report.
- (c) That approval be given to a three month community and user consultation period following approval of the draft policy.

55 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 18th December 2008 at 7.00 pm (venue to be confirmed)

(The meeting concluded at 9.50pm)