

INNER EAST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 15TH JUNE, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor A Khan in the Chair

Councillors S Arif, C Dobson, R Grahame,
A Hussain, D Ragan and B Selby

IN ATTENDANCE Phil Rone – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill CLT
Bob Field - Burmantofts & Richmond Hill CLT

Approximately 20 representatives of the local community, partner organisations and stakeholders attended the meeting.

1 **Chairs Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and brief introductions were made.

Councillor Khan, Members of the Community Committee and all present observed one minute's silence in remembrance of Annie Winters, a local community champion for Harehills, who had recently passed away.

2 **Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents**

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

3 **Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The agenda contained no exempt information.

4 **Late Items**

No formal late items of business were added to the agenda.

5 **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

6 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hyde and Councillor Maqsood.

7 **Open Forum**

Members of the public addressed the meeting under the provisions of Paragraphs 4:16 and 4:17 of the Community Committee Procedure Rules (Open Forum):

Publicity Campaigns – David Mackie suggested that publicly funded events could be more widely publicised through links between the CC and local residents/community groups social media pages.

Community Committee performance – David Mackie suggested that a Lead officer or elected Member could be identified to evaluate and monitor the performance of the city wide community committees to ensure their effectiveness.

- The CC noted that, where appropriate all of the matters raised would be referred to the relevant Member advisory sub group for further discussion and/or LCC Department.

Highways and Parking concerns – Bob Field reported on concerns regarding parking around the Gargrave Approach area, seeking a review of provision and consideration of a management scheme. Phil Rone highlighted similar concerns throughout the whole of the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward.

- The CC noted the recent Traffic Regulation Order action and surveys undertaken by Highways engineers. Local ward Councillors agreed to arrange a meeting with highways officers which Mr Field and Mr Rone would be invited to attend.

Battlescars – Jenni Groves of Battlescars, gave a short presentation seeking to raise awareness of the self-funded community group established in 2016 to deal with self-harming issues and to provide support to the individuals, their families and friends. The group aimed to bring together health, education and all relevant support services to support the individual and provide advice on self-harm management and self-care. The CC heard that the group was building a network in order to deliver city wide support and aimed to establish a volunteer programme and achieve charitable status this year.

- The CC noted the presentation and, where appropriate, the matters raised would be referred to the relevant Member Advisory sub group for further discussion and/or LCC Department.

8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That subject to an amendment to minute 69, paragraph 5, to reference the Darzi Centre (rather than the Burmantofts walk-in Centre), the minutes of the meeting held 23rd March 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

9 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

10 Appointment of Co-optees to the Community Committee

The City Solicitor submitted a report outlining proposals regarding the appointment of co-optees onto the Inner East CC, seeking confirmation that the CC wished to continue to appoint co-optees to support the work of the CC for the forthcoming year.

The report noted that at this point in the Municipal Year, only Burmantofts and Richmond Hill Community Leadership Team had met and made nominations. Members noted the comments made regarding arrangements to seek further nominations to fill the co-optee vacancies throughout the year.

RESOLVED –

- a) That approval be given to the continuing appointment of co-optees in order to support the work of the Committee;
- b) That approval be given to the appointment of the following co-optees for the 2017/18 Municipal Year:-
Philip Rone – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill CLT;
Bob Field – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill CLT.
- c) To note the intention to bring a further report seeking confirmation of additional co-optee nominations at the appropriate time.

11 **Community Committee Appointments 2017/18**

The City Solicitor submitted a report providing information on the various appointments which fall within the remit of the Inner East CC. Members were invited to determine appointments for the forthcoming 2017/18 Municipal Year for the following:-

- The themed Community Committee Champion roles;
- The Committee representative on the Corporate Carers' Group;
- Representation on the Children's Services Cluster Partnerships;
- Those local Outside Bodies to which the Committee are asked to appoint to.

Members noted receipt of comments from Councillor Maqsood regarding her appointments.

Comments made in respect of the Clusters were noted and it was agreed that this issue would be pursued with the Children and Families Directorate.

RESOLVED - That the following appointments be confirmed for the 2017/18 Municipal Year –

Committee Champions:

Children's Services*	Councillor C Dobson
Community Safety	Councillor A Khan
Environment Services	Councillor G Hyde
Employment, Skills and Welfare	Councillor R Grahame
Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care	Councillors B Selby & D Ragan

(*Children's Services Champion also to fulfil Corporate Carer role)

Cluster Representatives:

Seacroft Manston	Councillor C Dobson
Inner East	**Councillor D Ragan
	**Councillor Arif
CHESS	vacancy

** to be confirmed on receipt of information from the Cluster

Outside Bodies:

Richmond Hill Elderly Action	Councillor D Ragan
Chapelton Citizens Advice Bureau	Councillor K Maqsood

12 **Community Committee Nominations to Housing Advisory Panels**

The Chief Officer, Housing Management, submitted a report seeking Ward Councillor nominations from the Community Committee to the 'Inner East' and 'Outer East' Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs)

Ian Montgomery attended the meeting to present the report. The CC noted a request for the HAPs to provide update reports and information on the community/environmental projects to Members in the future. Nominations to the Inner East HAP were sought from the Burmantofts & Richmond Hill and

Gipton & Harehills wards (one member each). For the Outer East HAP two nominations were sought from the Killingbeck & Seacroft ward.

RESOLVED –

- a) That Councillor R Grahame and Councillor K Maqsood be appointed to the Inner East HAP from the Burmantofts & Richmond Hill and Gipton & Harehills Wards respectively and;
- b) That Councillor C Dobson and Councillor B Selby be appointed to the Outer East HAP from the Killingbeck & Seacroft ward

13 Wellbeing Report

The East North East Area Leader submitted a report providing an update on the current position of the capital and revenue budget for the Inner East CC.

Members attention was drawn to Appendix 2 of the report which contained a schedule of proposed CC priorities, linked to the Council's Best Council Plan, for consideration for the forthcoming year. The suggestion to consider these in detail at forthcoming ward member briefings and report back to the September CC meeting was agreed.

RESOLVED

- a) To note the Wellbeing spend to date and current balances for the 2017/18 financial year as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.
- b) To note the decisions on funding applications made on behalf of the Community Committee by delegated authority since the date of the last meeting.
- c) To note the new Wellbeing applications that have been received and the intention to undertake ward level consultation on these.
- d) To consider the Inner East CC priorities plan for 2017/18 (attached as Appendix 2) at ward member briefings in the first instance, with a report back to the September CC meeting.

14 Community Committee Update Report

Neil Young, Area Officer, presented an update report on the Inner East CC work programme, its recent successes and current challenges. The report outlined the work undertaken following previous workshops, through the Committee's sub groups, the emerging Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships and with local partners.

A copy of the Inner East Community Engagement Offer was included at Appendix 1 and Members noted the intention to discuss themes for future Community Workshops at ward member briefings. Members took the opportunity to highlight and encourage attendance at forthcoming events in the locality to mark the Great Get Together in memory of Jo Cox MP.

The report also included initial feedback from the Health Partnerships Team following the March CC workshop on the Leeds Health & Care Plan. Additionally, a list of applications for Youth Activity Funding approved following input from the Inner East Youth Summit was included at Appendix 3.

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the contents of the report and the comments made by Members

- b) To note the Inner East Community Engagement Offer 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 1
- c) To agree to consider the themes and workshop topics for the three remaining community committees of the municipal year at forthcoming ward member briefings
- d) Having reviewed the minimum conditions as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, the CC agreed that no amendments were required and the conditions for 2017/2018 were approved. These conditions would need to be satisfied prior to an urgent delegated decision being taken in between formal Community Committee meetings

15 Community Comment

The following matters were raised by Members of the public in relation to the formal Committee reports:

Community cohesion – Shafiq Sheikh, local resident, acknowledged that issues may exist between the different communities within the Inner East locality. He worked within the locality and asked the CC to pass any concerns they may have to him.

16 Financial Inclusion Initiatives

The Committee resolved to use the 'Community Comment' section of the meeting to facilitate comments from residents in discussions on the theme of 'Money Management' planned for the community workshop and on the contents of the report of the Financial Inclusion Team.

Diane Gill, LCC Financial Inclusion Development Team, attended the meeting to present the report and highlighted the following:

- the work undertaken in the locality to provide support, advice and mentoring by the local Debt Forum and the Money Buddy and Benefit Buddy initiatives to empower local people in difficulty to deal with their financial struggles
- the work being done to encourage people to borrow and save money safely by the Leeds Credit Union and the work in local schools to encourage early savers and their parents.
- the new Holiday Hunger initiative by the "Fare Share" group and holiday activity providers seeking to ensure pupils who received free school meals throughout the school term would not go without during the holiday period.

In conclusion, Diane asked the workshop discussions to consider how the local community, Council and partners could reach people in distress to provide information to them and signpost services/support.

Councillor R Grahame, Community Champion for Employment, Skills and Welfare, introduced discussions by emphasising the role of apprenticeships, business and NEETs initiatives in combatting poverty in the locality. He outlined the causes and impact of debt on individuals, their families and the wider community.

Neil Young, Area Officer, directed attention to the four questions set for the workshop session seeking to inform a proposed action plan for a campaign to raise awareness of personal debt services and responsible spending in the run-up to Christmas 2017:

- *What are the barriers to people seeking debt advice?*
- *What are the barriers to people knowing about what services are on offer?*
- *What can the community do to promote debt advice services?*
- *Is there anything missing from the draft campaign strategy?*

The workshop was attended by representatives of several organisations who provided support and advice – each described the nature of their operation in the locality. Discussions highlighted the following issues:

- The difficulties experienced by people who did not speak English as their first language; this was a barrier to seeking support
- The impact of the benefit changes/caps and sanctions. A particular concern being for those people with young families.

(Councillor Ragan left the meeting at this point).

- Concern that much of the advice and support was not available out of hours and could be inaccessible for people who worked but were on low incomes.
- The process for referrals from One Stop Centre officers and Housing officers
- Comments regarding the accessibility of referrals for tenants on private rented properties were noted
- Perceived deficit of jobs available 9.30 to 2.30 around family hours
- The challenge of encouraging attendance at money/debt advice sessions and the stigma attached to financial problems
- The advice and support available for people who challenged sanctions and whether there was an opportunity for the Benefits Advice Service to be involved.

The following key points were identified:

Isolation – People in difficulty isolated themselves and would not respond to leaflets, may not have phone or internet access. Outreach work could be successful, but identifying those in difficulty would be key

Information packs – Packs containing information on upcoming Community Committee workshops could be provided to residents and tenants groups, and include money management signposting as standard

Proactive measures – Providing money management information at the first point of contact was highlighted, such as when people make their first benefit claim or housing application

Health and wellbeing – The impact of poverty and debt on mental health and family wellbeing was identified

Education – People understood £20.00 per week loan repayments but not interest rates and work to educate young people and especially college/university students who will incur long term debt was identified

Role of social prescribing – GPs social prescribing did include debt advice but it would be useful to know how effective the links were from the GP to specific organisations – such as the Money Buddies

The Committee also noted the fact that the UK and Poland were the only two European countries which allowed high cost lending companies to trade. The suggestion that the CC could consider lobbying Central Government to address this was noted.

Work to take forward was identified as follows:

- ~ Mapping exercise of what services and support are available out of hours to see how the CC can support work or stakeholders to fill that gap
- ~ Consideration of how to better signpost and promote availability of support and advice
- ~ Consideration of how to reach the various communities within Inner East and break down the language barriers
- ~ How to overcome the stigma and embarrassment attached to financial problems
- ~ Identifying a counter argument against the 24/7 advertising of the high cost lenders

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the contents of the Financial Inclusion Initiatives report
- b) To note the contents of the discussions held during the Community Committee workshop on the theme of 'Money Management'
- c) To note the issues identified for future action

17 Date and Time of future meetings

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of future meetings as:

7th September 2017 at 6.00pm

30th November 2017 at 6.00 pm

22nd March 2018 at 6.00 pm

(all Thursdays with a community workshop to follow at 7pm)