

City and Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board Progress Summary 2013/14

Background

The Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB) structure was put in place to bring together leaders to drive change and improvement in defined areas in Leeds so that areas became increasingly attractive and popular places to live. The boards provide effective governance and leadership arrangements that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of local communities, providing for better, more responsive and personalised services to residents. In January 2012 the Beeston, Holbeck & Hunslet NIB was established to cover the Wards of Beeston and Holbeck and City and Hunslet. The board operated with mixed success and following a review with Members and the Area Leader it was proposed to explore the creation of separate boards for each Ward.

City and Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board

In August and November 2013, two workshop events took place with good representation from organisations across all services to identify and agree a set of priorities for the ward. The first event held in August identified a list of key issues; the second event held in November identified a number of work streams and potential projects which would address some of these issues.

Wellbeing Revenue Funding

At its November meeting, Inner South Area Committee approved an allocation of £30,000 Wellbeing revenue funding to support emerging priorities from the action plan.

Current Position

Since the November meeting the following projects have been progressed

Progress to date

a) Dewsbury Road Town and District Centre 2. (Lead – Tom O’Donovan)

- Up to 200k approved to improve part of Dewsbury Road.
- Consultation and engagement work has been undertaken with Members, Traders, Public, local business, the wider community and at three primary schools. Ward Members approved £3,699 Area Committee Wellbeing Funding for Groundwork to lead on schools engagement.
- Results of consultation are being gathered together, these will be shared with Members and stakeholders and will inform the detailed designs for the improvements.
- Capital works likely to be delivered over the next 12months.
- Work is underway to establish a Town Team /traders groups with local traders to sustain the momentum that T&DC2 has instigated.

- b) Improvement works on The Harlechs and Bude Road. (Lead - Tom Smith)
- Community engagement work and visual audit identified Harlechs and Bude Road as two areas to target.
 - Proposal developed to redesign bin yard on Harelch Crescent to discourage fly tipping and make it easier to clear. Ward Members approved £5,712 Area Committee Wellbeing Funding.
 - Joint Action: Love Beeston Clean Beeston, Leeds Federated Housing, Environmental Locality team and Groundwork Leeds delivered clean-up day in February.
- c) Environmental Small Grants scheme (Lead - Tom Smith)
- Ward Members approved £2,500 Area Committee Wellbeing Funding to support small scale local environmental improvements. Scheme will be administered by the South East Locality Team.
 - The funding will encourage practical involvement from local residents and will be launched in June 2014.
- d) Replace the lost bin on junction of Lodge Lane and Beeston Road. Ward Members approved £300 Area Committee Wellbeing Funding.
- e) Support for NEETs
- Hamara Bridge 2 Success project – Ward Members approved £12,080 Area Committee Wellbeing Funding. Project will provide intensive support to 13-19 year olds that are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. The project includes IAG, accredited training and volunteering / placement opportunities. (Lead - Farzana Jabar, Hamara)
 - Connexions drop in now established at Hillside. (IGEN)
 - Support for NEETS delivered at Old Cockburn Sports Hall at weekly Senior Youth Group (Lead Adrian Lee)
 - Hunslet Club in partnership with Youth Service run weekly sessions offering information, advice and guidance to NEETs.(Lead Adrian Lee)
 - Hunslet Club have delivered vocational training courses for pre NEET young people (Bricklaying, Mechanics, Hair and Beauty and Catering) 54 young people so far have completed B-Tec courses.
- f) Improvement works around Hemmingway Garth (Lead - Mark Wheelwright)
- Housing Leeds and Groundwork delivered a series of community engagement events to consult on physical improvements to the Hemmingways.
 - Phase one of the capital works is underway (fencing and improvements to the 4 low rise blocks).
 - Phase two of the capital works will focus on the public realm. A funding strategy is being developed to deliver the next phase of improvements over the next 12 months.
- g) Youth Activities Fund Delegation to Area Committee – Engagement with Children and Young People: Young person’s Youth panel established to influence youth activities fund (Ian D. Jones/Adrian Lee)

- Young people recruited onto panel – directly influencing funding allocation for youth activities in City and Hunslet Ward.
- h) Leeds City Council Asset Review – delivered engagement with Third Sector Leeds, Third Sector Goes Local, Aspire to Succeed and LCC around specific assets in the area.

Other Issues

There were a number of issues raised last year that require further work.

- Develop improved ways of promoting services and information to local community. I.e. Use of social media, local networks, publications and individual organisation's communication strategies
- Further research required into need for additional work club at Baptist Church/ employment support in the ward. Currently have Job shop service at Dewsbury Road One Stop and Hunslet Library.
- Continue to develop partnership working arrangements and support community engagement with SC4L / Keepmoat. Construction of new homes within the ward will continue over the next two years. Keepmoat will maintain these properties and surrounding grounds for the next 20 years.
- Improvements to environment around Penny Hill shopping centre- need to establish what improvements are needed and engage partners in driving forward.
- Further develop services to combat social isolation and loneliness. Some good work is being delivered within the ward. How can this be improved to reach people that remain isolated?