



Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing

Outer South Leeds Area Committee

Date: Monday 2nd July 2007

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley & Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities
Women
Disabled people
Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, which are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda. One of the issues it addresses is the local implications of the funding limitations in regard of the Neighbourhood Wardens Service.

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Management Team are engaged, and that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

2.0 South Leeds District Partnership

2.1 The South Leeds District Partnership is due to meet 10th July 2007. This will be the first meeting of the Partnership with its revised membership. The Partnership will receive updates on the Holbeck Housing PFI, the newly formed Cohesion and Culture sub-partnership, Intensive Neighbourhood Management initiative, post 16 education review, a highlight report focusing particularly on the work of the District Housing Partnership including the progress of funding bids to the Regional Housing Board and current changes in organisations.

- 2.2 The South Leeds Community Safety Partnership last met at the end of March and received positive feedback on a revised format of the multi-agency crime and grime initiative now known as Operation Champion (formerly 'Cava'). Agencies were asked to fully contribute to the operation especially as it is now monthly in the areas hit hardest by the highest crime rates.

Police crime analysis data was presented for the past 6 months indicating a general downward trend of crimes across South Leeds although hotspots are identified for certain crimes and areas such as theft in Morley Town Centre, and theft from motor vehicles.

The Partnership made recommendations to improve the efficiency of local multi-agency tasking group. Comments were put forwarded on a resident survey proposed by the Police to be carried out on behalf of the Partnership. The survey would obtain more detailed views from residents on what is most important for them in making neighbourhoods safer. The information will be useful for Neighbourhood Improvement Plans and inform other work of the Area Committee and the Area Management Team.

- 2.3 The District Housing Partnership met on the 14th June, key issues discussed included the working of the partnership now that it covers the full area managed by the new ALMO. Other items included future Housing Corporation bids and the potential to develop a back to back strategy.

3.0 Morley Literature Festival

- 3.1 The festival organising committee is busy preparing for the festival under the guidance of Paula Truman the festival director. In particular most of the events have been penciled in, and ongoing discussions are taking place concerning corporate sponsorship. These issues are managed by the festival committee which is chaired by Councillor Judith Elliott.

4.0 Town Centre Management

- 4.1 Both Town Centre Partnerships are progressing well; at the most recent meetings the following items were under discussion:
- Rothwell TCP (held on 17 May) - about 30 people attended. – on the agenda were presentations on possible gateways to the town and police crime statistics together with a discussion about uniform street furniture, markets, late opening and plans for the 600th anniversary celebrations in 2008 to mark the granting of the royal charter.
 - Morley TCP (held on 11 June) - about 25 people attended - on the agenda were presentations on new leisure centre, street lighting and gateways. Together with discussions on car parking needs of town, markets, and events.

Items of particular note relate to:

- 1) Local marketing campaign: tender is completed and has been issued. Doordrop is due for completion in Morley and Rothwell districts by mid July.

- 2) Morley and Rothwell events calendars finalised and quarterly leaflets distributed in both towns
- 3) Discussions held with cafe owners to develop a Morley Thursday's promotion with special offers from cafes and encouraging late night opening.
- 4) Discussion on Markets with Town & Country Markets North of England Director Ray Ingle - agreed to work in partnership to bring an outdoor market to Morley.
- 5) Copies of the minutes of all TCMB meetings in 2007 are appended for information.

5.0 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme

- 5.1 Colas, in association with Mouchel Parkman's project management, have almost completed the enhancement work on Marsh Street Car Park, which has been overseen by the Area Co-ordinator in the Area Management Team. In particular the major works have been done as scheduled (i.e. in the main the hard surfacing of the car park) although, at the time of writing, some works are still to be carried out such as erecting and activating new street lamps. Taking a bit longer, but nonetheless still part of the contract, will be fixing an information board and carrying out some landscaping works.
- 5.2 Given the majority of the main works are complete it seems the right time to officially and publicly reopen the new improved car park. The Area Management Team has suggested having plenty of 'honking of the (car) horns' (!) as part of the reopening event which could either be attached to a local existing event such as the Rothwell Carnival or be held as a separate lunch hour event.
- 5.3 Rothwell Ward Members views are welcomed in order that arrangements for the reopening can be made in liaison with the lead Member holding the portfolio for the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme, Councillor Andrew Carter.
- 5.4 Work is still progressing on the planning for the regeneration of Morley Bottoms, detailed and complex negotiations are presently being undertaken with significant partners and interested bodies.

6.0 Neighbourhood Wardens

- 6.1 The Neighbourhood Wardens budget across the city is under significant pressure and as a result for 2007/8 it will be necessary to deliver the service against a restricted budget. As a consequence the Area Function Schedule presented to and approved by the Executive Board earlier this year reflected the current pattern of deployment of wardens across the city, taking into account vacancy patterns. To meet these pressures and to allow the full structure including the current vacancies to be recruited to a Neighbourhood Renewal growth bid was submitted. However whilst a 2% increase to allow for inflation was achieved, due to pressure on the NR fund the full bid could not be accommodated. This will consequently require a process of vacancy

management during this financial year. In line with this, at this point in time it will not be possible to recruit a neighbourhood warden for John O'Gaunts, unless additional funding could be found for this, for example from the Area Committee Well-Being budget.

- 6.2 There is also some uncertainty about the availability of future funding which could be utilised to support the Neighbourhood Warden Service. The outcome of Central Government deliberations under the comprehensive spending review will determine the future availability of NRF which plays a significant part of the Wardens overall funding package. These considerations will take place in the autumn. This could have significant ramifications for the size and shape of the Warden Service.
- 6.3 However, Leeds City Council has decided to invest significantly in Police Community Support Officers. With the assistance of finance made available from the City Council, during this financial year there will be 5 PCSO in each ward across the City. Whilst these posts clearly do not undertake entirely the same role as Neighbourhood Wardens, they will nevertheless be expected to make a significant impact on community safety issues.

7.0 Cleaner Neighbourhoods

- 7.1 The last Area Committee agreed that a sub group be established to consider this section of the Area Delivery Plan. The sub group comprises Councilors Golton, Gettings, Dunn and Elliott, along with Steve Smith (City Services) and representatives of the Area Management Team. The first meeting was held on Thursday 21st June. An Environmental Pride initiative has recently been put in place and will be monitored by the sub group.
- 7.2 Operation Champion a multi agency crime and grime initiative took place in the Newlands and Denshaws estate in Morley between 29-30 March 2007. The targeting of operations follows a detailed consideration by the Police of available crime and anti social behaviour data. The initiative is supported by a wide range of organisations including West Yorkshire Police, Fire Brigade, Youth Services, Leeds City Council, and South Leeds Homes. Whilst not detailing all of the activity undertaken, some of the headline outcomes are as follows:

• Information packs delivered	800
• Bulky waste removed	8 tonnes
• Notices served re controlled waste	16
• Prosecutions re controlled waste	4
• Fire safety assessments requested	63
• Requests for information	100
• Leeds South Homes tenants visits	12
• Asbu/vitim support/LSH joint visits	12
• Police arrests	1
• Casac visits	62
• Untaxed vehicle reports	45
• Stop/search	7
• Civilian warrants executed	17

- Contacts with young people by youth service 35
- Truancy sweep 0
- Mounted Police visit to Newlands Primary

8.0 Staffing

- 8.1 Pending the possible restructuring of regeneration services, a temporary agency appointment has been made to the vacant PO2 position. Sarah Henderson has joined the team having previously been a regeneration officer in Leicestershire.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the above information.
- 9.2 The Area Committee is asked to consider the implications of loss of the Neighbourhood Warden for John O'Gaunts and recommend whether a warden post should be commissioned from the Area Committees Well Being budget.