

INNER WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor C Gruen in the Chair

Councillors J Illingworth, A Lowe,
J McKenna, K Ritchie, A Smart and
F Venner

CO-OPTEEES: M Babs-Apata, H Boutle, E Bowes, A Gaskin,
S McBarron, S Meadley, E Mitchell

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP - PARKS AND GREENSPACES

The Inner West Community Committee held a workshop on parks and greenspaces in the Inner West area.

Councillor Gruen, Chair of the Inner West Community Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the topic for discussion.

Attendees had the choice of four workshops to attend Play, Parks, Volunteering and Kirkstall Valley Park. The members of the committee and members of the public in attendance had the opportunity to attend two of the four workshops.

A range of lively discussions took place. The outcomes of which will be fed into a future Environment Sub Group.

FORMAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE BUSINESS

29 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

30 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

31 Late Items

There were no late items.

32 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made.

33 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hanley and Yeadon.

34 Open Forum / Community Forums

In accordance with paragraphs 4.16 and 4.17 of the Community Committee Procedure Rules, at the discretion of the Chair a period of up to 10 minutes may be allocated at each ordinary meeting for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Community Committee. This period may be extended at the discretion of the Chair. No member of the public shall speak for more than three minutes in the Open Forum, except by permission of the Chair.

On this occasion, none of the members of public in attendance chose to speak.

35 Minutes of the previous meeting - 8th October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2014 were approved as a correct record.

36 Matters Arising

Minute No. 25 Wellbeing Update Report

In relation to an enquiry from Armley Members to ascertain when Armley Ward would receive back capital funding from the demolition and sale of the old New Wortley Liberal Club.

Members were informed that the council is currently in the process of applying for outline planning permission for the development of the site. If planning is approved Armley Ward will be due a refund of £29,500 capital funds once the sale has gone through.

Minute No. 25 Wellbeing Update Report

To look at match funding for the Youth Activities Fund from Clusters.

A review of the Youth Activities Fund is currently underway by the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Board. This will include analysis of various funding arrangements city wide. Following the conclusion of the enquiring further work will be carried out in Inner West to look at match funding opportunities.

37 Parks and Countryside Annual Report

The Bereavement Services Manager presented the report of the Chief Officer Parks and Countryside.

The report provided an area of key assets and services provided in the Inner West area.

The report detailed capital improvements in the community parks, sport pitches, and fixed play in the area for the last 12 months and planned improvements to be delivered in the next 12 months.

The officer informed the Committee of the Parks and Green Space Strategy approved at Executive Board in February 2009 with one of the key proposals contained in the strategy is for all community parks to meet the Green Flag standard for field based assessment by 2020.

The Green Flag Award Scheme represents the national standard for parks and green spaces. It has been developed around eight key criteria;

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

Kirkstall Abbey which is located in the Inner West area currently has the green flag award and was chosen to be put forward as it is a City Park.

The Bereavement Services Manager went on to explain to the Committee that for a community park to reach green flag status a management plan is required. The plan takes about 6 months to complete and the resource requirement equates to approximately £17,000.

Leeds has developed an assessment method for community parks based on the Green Flag criteria known as Leeds Quality Parks (LQP) standard.

Member's attention was drawn to the table at paragraph 6 of the submitted report which showed the parks that had met the LQP standard.

The Committee were informed that work had taken place during 2014/15 at: Burley Park, Dunkirk Hill, Bramley War Memorial, Rodley Park, Armley and Gotts Park.

Members were informed that work is proposed for 2015/16 at Armley and Stanningley Park.

The officer highlighted paragraph 9 of the submitted report which focused on the site based gardener who had been employed through funding by Community Committee Wellbeing Fund. The Committee were pleased with the work that had been undertaken by the site based gardener.

The Committee discussed the report Members voiced their surprise at the low scores for Armley and Gotts Park and Bramley Falls Wood.

Members requested that some areas of the scoring system be reviewed.

Members discussed the use of Section 106 money and how it could be used creatively.

Members also asked about community involvement, what it was and how it could be used effectively in community parks.

RESOLVED – That the Inner West Community Committee noted the content of the report.

Cllr Lowe left the meeting at 18:40.

38 Community Committee Update Report

The report of the West North West Area Leader provided updates to the Community Committee on the work of the three sub groups of the committee: General Purposes, Children and Young People and Environment.

The report also provided updates on new pieces of work and partnership working that has taken place in the area since the last meeting.

The Committee were informed that the Inner West General Purposes Sub-Group was held on 10th November at the new Police Headquarters at Elland Road. Prior to the meeting members of the sub-group were taken on a tour of the new headquarters.

Key issues discussed at the Inner West General Purposes sub-group were:

- Domestic Violence - Members keen that the Community Committee should have domestic violence as one of its workshop themes at a future meeting.
- Town and District Centre Committee Topic – A paper had been circulated at the meeting which included summaries of the discussions had at the July Community Committee workshop. The paper summarised the challenges, opportunities and drivers in the three centres of Armley, Bramley and Kirkstall.
- Communications and media – Members of the Inner West Community Committee were invited to use the Inner West Facebook page to post community events and information.

The Chair clarified for Members who were new to the Committee that the General Purposes Sub-Group was open to all members of the Inner West Committee.

The Children and Young People Sub-Group met on 23rd October and discussed the following issues:

- Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation
- Engaging Children and Young People
- Summary of geographically targeted youth work

The Sub-Group had agreed that a new approach would be taken to establish a Children and Young People's Board for the Inner West supported by local youth work providers.

The Environment Sub-Group met on 27th November and discussed the following issues:

- Dog fouling – It was agreed at the meeting that a 'Dog Watch' pilot similar to the one in Garforth would be launched in the new year to recruit dog walkers to report crime and anti-social behaviour. Members were asked to suggest 'hot spots' for the pilot.
- Leeds Neighbourhood Approach – The Sub-Group had been updated on the project to tackle poor quality rented accommodation with the focus on Armley.
- Locality Team Update – New zonal teams will be operational from 1st January 2015 which will provide a more flexible, localised service.

The Committee were informed that Armley and Bramley Christmas Lights have been switched on both events were well attended and feedback was positive.

Members were informed that 350 Winter Warmers Packs had been provided by the Community Committee to be handed out to targeted vulnerable people across Armley and Bramley.

The Community Committee were informed that the funding for the Lazer Centre is due to cease next April 2015. A working group has been formed to look at ways in which the services and facilities can continue after April 2015.

RESOLVED - That the Committee endorsed the report.

Cllr. Venner left the meeting at 19:00 during this item.

39 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Inner West Community Committee is scheduled for 28th January 2015 at 7pm. The venue will be confirmed nearer the date.

Members of the Community Committee discussed the time of the next meeting.

A consultation and review will be undertaken towards the end of this Municipal year on the start times for future meetings in 2015/16.