

Report of: The West North West Area Leader (Citizens and Communities)

Report to: to Inner West Community Committee (Armley, Bramley & Stanningley and Kirkstall)

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To endorse

Community Committee Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report updates the Community Committee on the work of the three sub groups of the Committee: General Purposes, Children and Young People and Environment.
2. This report updates the Committee on community events, local projects and partnership working that has taken place in the area since the last meeting.

Main issues

3. General Purpose Sub Group

The Inner West General Purposes Sub Group was held on 13th April. This was an additional meeting attended by Councillors only to discuss the theme for the June meeting, reflect on the actions from the mental health topic and review sub group and co-optee arrangements.

- It was agreed that each ward should be able to appoint up to 3 co-optees and that an appropriate induction be arranged.
- It was agreed that the subgroup arrangements were working well and that dates for all subgroups should be agreed for the year ahead at the first meeting of the municipal year.

- Housing and Domestic Violence will be the Committee's first two themes.
- The final topic will be agreed at the first Committee meeting, and one meeting next year will cover other business and a review of past topics.

4. Children & Young People Sub Group

The Children & Young Peoples Sub Group met on 27th April and was updated on the new youth engagement groups that have been established for Armley and Bramley and Stanningley wards. The group discussed the best way of starting a group for Kirkstall, and further work will be carried out to progress this.

The Sub Group reviewed all the Youth Activities Fund applications in detail, and made recommendations for the Members' Workshop which took place on the 19th May. A final list of projects for approval is included in the Wellbeing report.

5. Environment Sub Group

The Inner West Environment Sub Group met on the 2nd April and discussed the following:

- Leeds Neighbourhood Approach - The work carried out in Armley has been successful and will continue until all of the empty properties are back in use. The project will be continually monitored. There are significant issues with the safety and quality of accommodation above commercial premises and in some cases illegal occupation. The Council and WYFR are working with a range of partners to resolve these problems. In the last three years, privately owned, long term empties have reduced from 880 to 726. Inner West is below the Leeds average.
- Locality Team update - The new SLA goes live 1st June. Charge Hands will manage operational staff and will be staffed by two officers, covering seven days a week. Mobile numbers will be circulated to Members so issues can be reported at any time.
- Housing Leeds - The number of cases have increased due to the number of vacant Housing Officer posts but they have now been filled. Tree risk management 4A and 4B has started. It is being delivered by Forestry, through the SLA.
- Parks and Countryside – Parks explained the site based gardener wellbeing funded post provides additionally to the core service e.g. If the core service empties the bins in a park three times a week, then the site based gardener would ensure they are emptied daily. They also increase the number of sweeps and carry out more grass cutting and strimming. Parks agreed to come back to the next meeting with an action plan of projects the Members could pick from to fund.

6. **Armley Forum – Tuesday 19th May 2015**

The Armley Forum on 19th May heard some positive action on drug dealing in New Wortley from the local police officer. Concerns were raised again about street drinking on Town Street and this will be passed to the local Tasking meeting for further action.

The officer leading the Heritage Lottery Fund project also attended the meeting to provide an update on the stalled scheme to renovate the former 'Mike's Carpets' building at 2 Branch Road.

Other speakers included the Deputy Housing Manger, representatives from Armley Common Right Trust who publicised their free hanging baskets day, and a local resident who is looking to set up a 'West Leeds Life' website to promote local news and activities.

7. **Bramley & Stanningley Forum – 28th May 2015**

The main speaker at the forum was the Environmental Locality Team Leader who provided an update on the new zonal working arrangements and sought feedback on local environmental issues. Members of the forum were particularly keen for action to be taken on overgrown vegetation and ginnels, and since the meeting several locations identified by residents have been dealt with.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team sergeant attended with an update on crime statistics, and members of the forum reported that anti-social behaviour around St Peter's Church and the shopping centre has reduced following joint action taken by the police and youth workers.

The local housing manager also attended and reported on local initiatives including establishing a new residents' association for the Broadleas and a gardening competition on the Fairfields.

8. **Kirkstall Forum – 7th April 2015**

The focus for this forum was on greenspace and play opportunities in Hawksworth Wood. Main points for discussion were:

- Cragside Rec – the main issues at this site were with the play area and its location on the greenspace as it lacks natural surveillance. Dog fouling is also an issue. The meeting recognised that a lot of consultation was carried out around 5 years ago before the installation of the current play area but agreed that it was worth revisiting and carrying out further consultation both through the school and children's centre.
- Further suggestions for improving the greenspace included: a running track, outdoor gym equipment, skateboard park, allotments and some additional seating.
- A dog fouling campaign is underway in the area with a dog show being arranged for Sunday 24th May on Cragside Rec.

- HAVA Board members updated the forum on their work and reminded residents that Small grant funding is available to local groups by contacting info@hava.org.uk

9. Community Events

- **New Wortley Festival**
The New Wortley Festival took place on Saturday 2nd May and was hailed a huge success by the organisers. It was the first time a community event was held over several sites which included the community centre, Castleton Primary school, a care home and the local social club. There was live music and
- **Hawksworth Wood Dog Show**
The Hawksworth Wood Dog Show was held on Sunday 24th May and was a great success. The event was well attended, attracting not only people from the local area but people from all over West Yorkshire. The purpose of the dog show was to launch a Dog Watch Scheme in partnership with the Inner West Community Committee, Hawksworth Wood Primary School, the Police, Housing Leeds, HAVA and Hawksworth Wood Community Association to raise awareness of fouling in the area.
- **Ley Lane**
The fitness equipment funded by the Armley Members Ward Base Initiative and the new football posts funded by Wellbeing will be installed by the end of June. The Area Support Team are working with Breeze to create a fitness challenge to mark the launch of the new equipment.

10. Community Committees

The Community Committees have been in operation for a whole municipal year. The purpose of this style of working is to engage more with the community on topics that are of wide interest and accessible to all. Attached at Appendix 1 is the first edition of a Community Committee newsletter. The purpose of this first edition is to look back and update Members and the wider public on the Committee topics that were discussed in 2014/15 and the projects that were funded through Wellbeing. In consultation with the Committee, future editions can be based upon current issues and activities.

Corporate

- a. **Consultation and engagement** - Local priorities were set through the Area Business Plan process.

- b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration** - The Business Planning process takes into account equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues.
- c. Council policies and city priorities** - The themes in the Business Plan mirror the themes and priority outcomes at a city wide level and also reflect the delegated functions and priority advisory functions.

Conclusion

- 12. The work of the sub groups will be essential in the delivery of the Community Committee priorities. The Area Support Team continues to look at opportunities to develop projects and promote new ways of working to achieve the objectives outlined in the Business Plan.

Recommendations

- 13. To note the report including the key outcomes from the sub groups.

Background information

- None