



Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 14th September 2007

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Calverley & Farsley
Farnley & Wortley
Pudsey

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

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 Area Manager's report examines four projects being delivered through the Outer Area Committee and summarises the progress being made. The four projects area as follows

- Pudsey Town Centre Improvement scheme
- Farsley District Centre Improvement scheme
- The Groundwork environmental improvements
- Youth Development worker

Outer West Area Committee are asked

- to note and comment on the progress being made in these four projects
- to continue to support the work of Groundwork in Outer West Leeds and
- to consider the future role of the Youth Development Worker post and the option of funding voluntary and community youth groups more directly in the Outer West Area Delivery Plan for 2008/9 .

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This Area Manager's report examines four projects being delivered through the Outer Area Committee and summarises the progress being made. The four projects area as follows

- Pudsey Town Centre Improvement scheme
- Farsley District Centre Improvement scheme
- The Groundwork environmental improvements
- Youth Development work

2.2 Background Information

2.1 Executive Board made provision for the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme (T&DC) and on 18th May 2005 it agreed the process which has guided the selection and development of proposals. The overall budget for the scheme increased to £11.9 million, with £7.5 of this funding being allocated for T&DC schemes. The key criteria for the schemes are for them to:

- Be for the economic regeneration of town, village and district centres
- Be linked to the achievement of Council priorities
- Not create any additional revenue implications for the Council

Pudsey and Farsley were given 'in principle' support by Asset Management Group in October 2006. Only five schemes across the city were recommended to progress to the detailed design stage.

2.2 Groundwork Leeds is an Environmental Charity working throughout Leeds. They work with the local community to help them address environmental problems in their local area. In West Leeds they have been working with different partners and community groups to help achieve this. The main aims of Groundwork are to help develop community interest in the neighbourhood through their active involvement in environmental improvements.

2.3 A Youth Development worker post was jointly funded in 2006/7 by the Inner and Outer West Area Committees specifically to deliver on the Area Delivery Plan objective of encouraging volunteer youth provision and providing more youth provision for the 9-13 year old age group.

3.0 Main Issues

Pudsey Town Centre Regeneration

3.1 The original business case for Town and District Centre funding for Pudsey included:

- Market refurbishment
- Pudsey Town Hall floodlighting
- Leisure Centre artwork
- Shop front improvement scheme

- Street lighting replacement / upgrade

Since the original business case was submitted, funding has been requested for two further elements. These are (a) creating a bus lay-by and re-aligning the footpath layout on Lidget Hill and (b) improved public toilet provision. These have recently been approved by the T&DC Programme Board.

- 3.2 There are two major complimentary schemes which support the Pudsey town centre regeneration work funded through the T&DC. These are Metro's proposals to develop a new bus station in Market Place and associated highways works funded through the Local Transport Plan, and Parks and Countryside's plans to improve Pudsey park, also funded through the T&DC scheme. A detailed report on the former was considered by the Outer West Area Committee at their last meeting on July 13th 2007. Information about the latter is included in the report on West Leeds Country Park elsewhere on this agenda. In addition, the landlord of premises at 5-9 Church Lane is now contributing financially to the removal of the large planter in this location to ease pedestrian flows along this area of footpath.

Bus station

- 3.3 A new bus station is planned for Pudsey, incorporating the following features:

- Covered passenger concourse
- Enclosed and secure passenger waiting area
- Metro 24/7 CCTV coverage of internal and external areas of site
- Real time bus information
- New signage, passenger information, help points and seating
- All bus stops located in central location
- Dedicated stands for longer FTR buses
- Easy access and level boarding onto buses
- New lighting to bus station and footpaths
- Crossing points
- Improved footpaths around site
- High profile bus station design
- Improved traffic flow on Church Lane
- One-way system around Market Place will be reversed
- Road side bus stops on Church Lane relocated into new bus station
- New service bays provided
- Traffic signals provided to assist exit from Market Place onto Church Lane
- Improved traffic management

- 3.4 The next steps are for a planning application for the bus station to be submitted. It is anticipated that this will be during August 2007 and determined by the autumn. In the meantime, the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) approvals are also being sought. As requested by local businesses, no work will take place on site in the run up to Christmas other than preliminary ground investigations. Work is programmed to start on site early 2008.

Highways and Car parking

- 3.5 The re-modelling works to the Leisure centre car park were completed on time, in May this year, funded through the T&DC scheme. This created additional spaces to compensate for the spaces which will be lost through the bus station redevelopment. Various highway improvements will be undertaken as part of the bus station development once planning permission is obtained. The TROs are currently being sought.

Market refurbishment

- 3.6 Plans to refurbish the market, funded through the T&DC scheme, are currently being implemented. The market has been temporarily re-located to Market Place and work started on site on 25th June.
- 3.7 The new market will include a disabled access ramp, improved signage, new stalls with improved protection from the elements, better drainage and block paving. Work is scheduled to be completed by 26th October 2007. It is hoped that these improvements will help rejuvenate the market and monthly farmers market. The West Leeds Area Management team is currently investigating the possibility of establishing a craft fayre and also considering an advertising campaign to promote the regular open market and farmers' market.

Pudsey town hall external lighting scheme

- 3.8 Although Pudsey town hall is not a listed building, it is an historic building occupying a prominent position within the town centre conservation area. The scheme involves lighting the Robin Lane and Lowtown elevations to highlight the most interesting features of the building. This could increase the vibrancy of the town centre, especially during the winter and help promote a developing evening economy. Funding for this element of the scheme has been secured through the T&DC scheme.
- 3.9 A contractor has been selected and work is due to start on site on 13th August, subject to planning permission being obtained. Members have requested that the work should be completed before the Christmas lights switch-on on 16th November. The scheme should be completed by mid October.
- 3.10 The scheme is highly energy efficient. It will consist of around 60 light sources with the total wattage of the combined fittings being 1.26 Kwh. This compares with a typical washing machine which uses 1.27kWh and a typical tumble dryer which uses 4.48kWh. The light fittings in general are ultra high efficient LED luminaries giving up to 100,000 hours life. The lighting scheme is controlled via a state of the art controller, giving full control over when lighting is switched on and providing several options of control. This could mean restricting the lighting, for example, from dusk to midnight or 2.00am, thus conserving energy.

Leisure Centre artwork

- 3.11 The exterior of Pudsey Leisure Centre, particularly the Market Place and car park elevations is not particularly attractive, does little to raise the profile of the leisure centre and does not contribute to a positive civic realm. An artist will install artwork to the bricked up windows, to create the appearance of the building being 'opened up'

and create a more vibrant and welcoming image fronting onto Market Place and the proposed new bus station. A local artist, involved with the I ♥ West Leeds festival has been commissioned to undertake this work and will be linking in with local school children and older peoples' groups who are meeting at the Leisure Centre over the October half term holidays. Planning permission will be required for this installation and it is hoped that the work will be completed before the end of the year. Funding for this element of the scheme has been secured through the T&DC scheme.

Street lighting

- 3.12 Pudsey ward is within the first phase of the PFI street-lighting scheme. Part of the Pudsey town centre regeneration scheme focuses on enhancing the street-light provision and improving the civic realm by supplementing the PFI scheme with funds to supply heritage style lighting within the Pudsey town centre area. The PFI replacement scheme has already commenced in Pudsey ward. However, a tightly drawn area within the town centre has been omitted until an appropriate style of lighting is selected. This will involve the replacement of 24 columns. It is anticipated that this part of the scheme will be completed by the end of the year. Funding for this element of the scheme has been secured through the T&DC.

Public toilet provision

- 3.13 The Outer West Area Committee commissioned QA Research to undertake the 'Pudsey User Perceptions Survey' in July 2005. This survey included 400 face-to-face interviews carried out with Users of Pudsey town centre and 50 further surveys with Business Providers within Pudsey town centre. A gap analysis was undertaken to provide a comparison of importance scores with performance satisfaction scores. This analysis allows the identification of priorities for improvements for Users within Pudsey town centre. The top priority for improvement for Users was public toilet facilities with an importance score of 8.75/10, a performance score of 2.59/10 and a gap analysis figure of -6.16. Similarly the gap analysis for Businesses showed public toilets as the top priority for improvement with an importance score of 8.10, a performance score of 1.90 and a gap analysis figure of -6.20.
- 3.14 The existing public toilets in Market Place within Pudsey town centre offer very low quality provision. They do not compliment Metro's proposed investment in terms of the new bus station or the imminent market refurbishment. LCC have encouraged Metro to provide public toilets as part of the new bus station development. However, Metro does not usually provide public toilets within un-staffed smaller scale bus stations. The architects working for Metro have examined a number of options, but space is very limited and it is important to maintain sight lines for safety and security. Inclusion within central bus station island is impossible due to building footprint limitations and the impact of FTR buses and queue placement.
- 3.15 Provision for new public toilets in their current location has therefore been added to the original business case and approved by Programme Board for T&DC scheme funding. These proposals include:
- Facilities accessible to all
 - Heating
 - Fully tiled walls and floors

- Glass blocks to allow natural light

- 3.16 The existing facilities have been vandalised on several occasions. This has been partly due to their close proximity to the trade waste bins for the shops on Market Place. This has been addressed by bollards being installed to the side of the toilet block to avoid arson attacks with the bins being set on fire. Any refurbishment or new build solution would involve retaining these. In addition, SDA have been asked to develop a solution for storage of the trade waste bins as part of Phase 2 of the Pudsey scheme. The bus station proposals will increase pedestrian flows in Market Place and therefore increase usage and natural surveillance. Similarly the refurbished market should attract additional customers. The bus station will include significant CCTV coverage (at no cost to LCC) linked to Metro's central control which is monitored 24 hours per day. This again should minimise incidences of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.17 To refurbish or rebuild in the current location would not incur any additional revenue cost in terms of cleansing or maintenance. City Services have confirmed that maintenance and cleansing would in fact be easier and more effective in a new streamlined facility.
- 3.18 A design including a pay turnstile has been discounted following consideration of how such provision works elsewhere. Advice from Markets who operate a pay facility in Kirkgate Market is that it would be unlikely to be effective without a toilet attendant. The Outer West Area Committee is unable to fund such a post as it would represent a long term pressure on the Well-being budget. City Services are not able to provide staff to supervise any new facility.
- 3.19 The T&DC Project Board have also asked that given that funding has been agreed, that Area Management should investigate the possibility of creating new public toilets within the front of the Leisure Centre building as an alternative and possibly less expensive option compared to that proposed above.

Lidget Hill improvements

- 3.20 Currently there is significant congestion within Pudsey town centre, especially due to the current on-street bus stops. This will be partially addressed through the Church Lane bus stops being moved into the new bus station. Bus operators are being encouraged to use the new bus station once complete. However, it is unlikely that operators running routes along Robin Lane onto Lidget Hill will divert to the new bus station as this would significantly lengthen journey times.
- 3.21 It is therefore proposed that bus stop no. 450 12295 on Lidget Hill is pulled back off the street into a partial lay-by. In many cases, Metro does not favour bus stop lay-bys as it is difficult for buses to pull out into the traffic flow. However, in this case, there are regular breaks in the traffic due to the close proximity of the bus stop to the traffic light signalled junction. Metro have carried out a site visit and confirmed this is an acceptable proposal.
- 3.22 In addition, it is proposed to remove three pavement level flowerbeds adjacent to the bus stop on Lidget Hill as these are very unsightly. They are regularly trampled,

hinder pedestrian flow and do nothing to contribute to the town centre environment. The proposal is to remove the flowerbeds, and re-surface with bitumen. The possibility of re-surfacing with block paving has been discounted due to the high cost and problems of split site levels. Two benches would also be installed to deal with the change in levels. Six square planters would be installed as these would have a positive aesthetic impact, but not hinder pedestrian flow. Parks & Countryside have confirmed that they would plant these and take responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

- 3.23 The Lidget Hill improvements were not included within the original bid for T&D C funding as the original scheme focused on Market Place and maximising the impact of the new bus station. It was hoped that the bus stop would be re-located into the bus station, but as the scheme design has progressed and consultation between Metro and bus operators has taken place, it has become evident that this is unlikely to happen. The state of the flower beds has gradually worsened and there has been significant pressure from the Outer West Area Committee Chair and ward Members to tackle this problem. In addition, the landlord of 5-9 Church Lane has offered to contribute to the removal of the raised planter outside Ainsleys. Highways are currently securing a contractor to undertake this work. It is important to recognise this private sector investment and demonstrate LCC investment and commitment to improving the town centre streetscape in this area.
- 3.24 Land ownership details are currently being confirmed and consultation will take place with businesses that would be affected. The majority of the area included in the proposals is vested with Highways. However, a small part is in private ownership and Legal Services are currently investigating this.
- 3.25 Some funding has been secured through the T&DC scheme to create a new bus lay-by, re-pave and install new planters and a bench. However, initial returns from statutory undertakers show that a number of services would be affected by any highway works and this could add significantly to the cost of this part of the scheme; potentially in the region of £50,000, although this figure is difficult to confirm until further investigations are undertaken. Views are sought from the Area Committee on whether to pursue this work due to the potentially high cost. If it were to be pursued, it is suggested that the Area Committee Well-being fund should be utilised as a contribution to the funds already secured through T&DC scheme.
- 3.26 Lidget Hill car park is currently in a very poor state of repair. It requires re-surfacing and re-lining. It is unlikely that any additional spaces could be created. However, re-furbishment and new signage would make it more attractive to car users. Cost estimates are currently being sought, with a view to requesting Area Committee Well-being funding to match fund Parking Services contribution.

Shop fronts scheme

- 3.27 An important part of the Pudsey regeneration scheme focuses on improving the general appearance of Market Place and the surrounding area. Proposals initially included improvements to the forecourt and facades of the shops, new security shutters and new glass canopies to replace the 1960's concrete canopies that detract from the physical appearance of Church Lane. The aim is to create a more visually

attractive uniformity within areas of the town centre where differing advertising hoardings and signage have a negative impact.

- 3.28 Council policy is that schemes that offer private benefit should seek third party match funding. Attempts have been made to secure a commitment from leaseholders to this scheme, with mixed response. Approximately half the leaseholders contacted have shown some interest in making a financial commitment. However, without further support it is very difficult to progress this element of the scheme. The Strategic Design Alliance have been asked to provide a more detailed feasibility study on the canopy element to ascertain whether the estimated cost for this work is realistic.

Consultation

- 3.29 Consultation has so far included Outer West Area Committee Members, businesses located in Market Place and the wider public. LEDA has been consulted and informed development of the business case. West Leeds Area Management staffs have also provided briefings at the Pudsey & Swinnow forum, Claremonts and Ryecrofts resident meetings, and have been interviewed on Pudsey Grangefield FM. Regular officer meetings of the Pudsey town centre action group have also helped steer the project. Metro have also consulted with the WYPTE Board.

Farsley Town Centre Regeneration

- 3.30 The scheme aims to improve the vitality and viability of Farsley Town Centre for workers, residents and visitors. Farsley Town Street has over the last five years shown signs of being run down, with vacant business premises, potentially short term, secondary retail outlets emerging, and worn street furniture. This coincides with a dramatic increase in the reported instances of anti-social behaviour in the area, predominantly around the Town Street.
- 3.31 It is intended that the scheme will regenerate the Town Street, attract business confidence and investment, and maintain and attract public interest in the retail outlets. It is also intended to foster a greater pride by the community in their environment, which in turn can have an impact upon anti-social behaviour. This in turn will create greater confidence in public safety.
- 3.32 There are 10 elements to the Farsley T&DC scheme. The first element is CCTV – installation took place in October 2006 and along with other interventions, this appears to have had a positive reduction effect upon anti-social behaviour in the area.
- 3.33 The second element is fencing to the exterior of the “Minster Flats” – proposals were to install heritage railings, which match the decoration on the on church spire, on the wall in front of “Minster” flats (inc. Durham Court etc) which sit directly on town street, in order to provide demarcation line between public footpath and gardens of flats and increase security and reduce anti-social behaviour. This work was undertaken during March 2007 and it has been very positively received.
- 3.34 Improvements to the exterior of Farsley Library include proposals to re-surface library car park; improve signage; install automatic door to improve access; provide demarcation to car park and make safe; reduce size of existing wall to entrance way

at the side of the steps in order to open entranceway up and improve community safety; replace existing uneven steps; improve existing seating area to side of library and cut vegetation back. This will improve the general appearance of the Library, while ensuring access is fully DDA compliant and that the frontage is opened up, in order to improve safety and reduce incidences of antisocial behaviour. The designs for this work are now reaching completion and work should be undertaken by the spring of 2008.

- 3.35 The work to renovate and remodel of the Samuel Marsden Memorial Garden involves the painting of railings around the garden and cenotaph and remodelling of its layout in order to make it a more usable public space. This will promote more effective use of the area by the general public. The designs for this work are now reaching completion and work should be undertaken by the spring of 2008.
- 3.36 Fencing is to be installed around Leeds West North West Homes properties immediately adjacent to the town street, including Marsden Court, Andrew House, East Court, Hainsworth Court and Oakwell Court, in order to reduce instances of anti-social behaviour. As this area is immediately adjacent to the town street, it causes high numbers of youths to spill over from the main street, and seek shelter/seating around these properties, which appear currently to be open to the public. The designs for this work are now complete and work should be undertaken imminently.
- 3.37 Fencing of the Farfield Avenue gardens will install bow top railings to a small number of Leeds West North West Homes properties and a community centre which are set slightly further back from the town street, on and to the side of Farfield Avenue. These are either side of a row of estate shops and immediately to the side of a Health Clinic (which has recently benefited from railing installation). The fact that the shops exist in between these houses and community centre mean that the area is a draw for local youths, who hang around the shops and to the rear and at the side of the houses, engaging in extremely anti-social behaviour. This is of constant concern to residents and the Police. The installation of railings will compliment those which have recently been erected at the side of the clinic, and help deter anti-social behaviour. The designs for this work are now complete and work should be undertaken imminently.
- 3.38 Streetscene Improvements will replace existing street furniture (public safety rail guards) with heritage railings; installation of new benches, including six outside of the Minster flats. Replacement of current street rubbish bins with antique effect ones. This will help enhance the overall appearance of Town Street, making it a more attractive place to shop and will reduce maintenance costs of the existing worn street furniture.
- 3.39 The alteration of surface of footpath between Town Street and School Street will conserve existing cobbles but make less slippery and install a hand rail for safety. The designs for this work are now reaching completion and work should be undertaken by the spring of 2008.
- 3.40 Due to public concern after the local consultation took place, an extra element has been included as part of the Farsley T&DC scheme. This element involves the lifting and relaying of the entrances to two streets that lead onto Farsley Town Street -

Prospect Street and Back Lane – and will take advantage of remedial street works already programmed in. This work will create ‘gateways’ into the village centre and enhance the conservation area. A report was taken to AMG asking for funding from T&DC to extend the scheme to include this work. This was approved and the work was carried out during the summer of 2007. Public feedback on this has been positive.

- 3.41 In addition to these, an additional element was included under the original plan which was to re-surface the private forecourts of four shops where paving is hazardous and unsightly and making the entranceway to these shops DDA compliant. This work would however require a financial contribution from the shop owners.
- 3.42 Consultation has been completed with the shop owners regarding the resurfacing of their forecourts. The results of this have shown that they are unwilling to make a contribution towards this element of the scheme and it has therefore been decided to drop this element of the Farsley T&DC.
- 3.43 A more basic resurfacing of the forecourts has however been undertaken by the shop owners at no cost to Leeds City Council.

Conclusion

- 3.44 Although the Forecourt element of the scheme has had to be withdrawn and there has been the additional element of resurfacing Back Lane and Prospect Street included, the overall scheme is progressing to schedule. This means that the Scheme is still on schedule to be completed by the end of March 2008 with spend taking place in 2007/08.

Groundwork schemes in Outer West Leeds

- 3.45 The Outer Area Committee has provided funding to support the work of Groundwork in the area. (£5000 in 2006/7 and 2007/8 match funded by the Inner West Area Committee). This section of the report updates members with progress on these environmental improvement schemes.

Outer West capital schemes

Farnley & Wortley

- 3.46 Heights Greenspace – The residents have been consulted and initial designs have been altered and approved by local residents and the TRA. The design is now at the stage of being tendered and has been granted Part 12 permitted development. The funding for this project will be completed in December, when the project will hit the ground. This will give the residents of the heights, Greenthorpe and Poplar estates a much needed open greenspace which can be safely used by old and young residents of the area. The scheme also incorporates natural planting and vegetation to encourage biodiversity and wildlife in the area.
- 3.47 Whincover Grange Garden – This project has been identified by the local ALMO Estate Management Officer and the representatives of the Whincover Grange TRA.

The project aims to emulate the garden created at Rycroft towers. The tower block is mainly comprised of aging residents who don't have easy access to the surrounding environment. It will provide a nice place to enjoy the outdoor and a place to use for exercise. We have consulted with the residents and met the TRA on several occasions to ensure that the works which will be completed are inline with their wishes. The final design has been completed and approved, the project is waiting for planning permission and will go ahead once match funding has been secured.

- 3.48 Bawns Youth Project – The scope of this project has changed as sites have been hard to identify. The initial proposal was for small scale area for local young people. This would include a bench, bin and wall. The new plan is to look at a more large scale programme, with full youth inclusion to tackle the issues they feel are the most important, this could be in the form of a skate park or multi use games area. This will be identified through consultation which will take place within the schools and with local youth inclusion groups.

Pudsey

- 3.49 Southroyd Park – This project has secured funding from ALMO and Section 106. Residents have been consulted and designs have been drawn. The Project has now been submitted to planning for permission to continue with the works. The project aims to improve the site by removing unwanted vegetation and replanting the area with native trees and shrubs. The site will be fenced to restrict the access of motorbike providing a safe place to use for recreation.
- 3.50 Rycroft Towers – initial works have been completed, but planting of planters has been postponed due to the works ongoing to the tower blocks. The works will be completed once works to the towers blocks are finished.

Outer West revenue schemes

Farnley & Wortley

- 3.51 Heights Estate – Groundwork work closely with the residents of the Heights Estate, and have consulted on the greenspace project off Heights Drive. This has involved several consultations and work with the Tenants and Residents group. This has led to a large capital scheme in the area. Community involvement in the project will take the form of an identification project. The residents will be asked to give the site a name, and Groundwork will also be running metal workshops with the residents and primary and secondary school close by. This will allow the residents to design the metal artwork for the entrances to the greenspace. Groundwork have consulted with 44 residents that live around the site as well as the Heights TRA. Damage has been repaired to the planters on at Farrow Vale, involving some of the local young people in this, trying to involve them in the continue maintenance of the area and in the attempt to stop more damage in the future.
- 3.52 Whincover Grange TRA – Work is underway with the tenants and residents group to identify what environmental improvements they would like and what problems they face. They have limited accessibility to open spaces and therefore exercise. The project will provide a safe greenspace for their use. Groundwork have consulted with

residents on two occasions and met with the residents group to identify what features they like and dislike. In total 50 residents have been consulted with about the design. The residents have been very interested in the different potential trees, shrubs and bushes, so we have helped them with identifying the species of plants and trees that they prefer. This has helped the residents to become more involved in the project.

Schools – Groundwork are working towards involving several schools in environmental activities these will be litter picking and bulb planting sessions. This will be confirmed in the new school year, but it will be educational and environmental project, educating the pupils about the problems with littering and the benefits of to themselves and the neighbourhood of active involvement in the outdoors. It will also help to improve the school grounds with daffodil and bulb planting.

- 3.53 Bawns Estate – Groundwork are involved in the Bawns LAMP through this we support the group with environmental inputs and help where we can. We have identified that the area needs provision and space for the local young people to hang about in. They will be consulting with the local young people in the near future to identify what they would like and where they would like it. Other future work in the Bawns Estate will be the upcoming Environment Days. This will be similar to the environment week that took place on the Wyther Estate in March. The works will include the involvement of different partner organisations and Groundwork Staff. The actual programme of works has not yet been decided, but Groundwork hope to include bulb planting and litter picking with local groups and school. Fence/Rail Painting, general site clearance and Environmental awareness. This will aim to improve the community involvement in the area and to make long lasting improvements to the estate.

- 3.54 Cobden Community Allotments – This project is working together with the residents in the local area, Cobden Primary School and the Allotment Group. The allotment is very environmentally aware and uses a method known as permaculture; this is low input agriculture and allows the crop to grow naturally. This project has involved education of people about the methods and encouragement to be outside and also to eat healthily. Groundwork has helped out by providing tools for the workshops and activity days, also we have attended the activity days and helped to organise and run these events. They have had input from the school and residents and from people attending a course on permaculture.



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3.55 Groundwork have also helped out with the 'Dig it' Team, which is a project run by Groundwork to help troubled school leavers from 16-18 to develop skills which can be transferred to jobs in construction and gardening. The 'Dig it' team helped with rotavating and raking the soil, this allowed the group to come by at a later date and plant in these tilled areas. The group has also been running allotment days on Thursdays through august, which we have

supported by providing tools to work on the allotments. The group also needs funding to be more sustainable in the long-term; this would allow them to buy tools specific for young people and to get the materials for the site. Groundwork have been helping the group to complete the form and to then to buy any materials if the funding is granted. They have also attended a community barbeque at the allotments to involve young people and the community in the allotments to provide healthy activities and an understanding of allotments.

Wedge Wide Work

West Leeds Environment Network

- 3.56 Meetings with the West Leeds Environment Network (WLEN) help co ordinate work going on in West Leeds. Groundwork is an important member and we help to organise the group. We have setup a website to publicise the work and to attract residents and interested parties to join in on the tasks.
- 3.57 The WLEN has specifically organised a project in Armley to improve the nature of the binyards, this is a £200 grant available to residents, Groundwork organise the delivery of items to their houses so that they can improve their binyards themselves with other members of the community. This can be painting, creating raised planters and generally using the binyard as more of a community space. The scheme has also been rolled out to include any general improvements people would like to make to the fronts of their houses or in tower blocks. They have had requests from a number of tower blocks to provide planter tubs and shrubs for the flats.



Groundwork also ran an Allotment Awareness Day on Armley Moor Top, this involved the different partners of the group setting up stalls and raising awareness of the environment, allotments, healthy eating and exercise. They involved local people in creating a raised planter to fill with plants and vegetables. They had many people interested in the works and watching and learning how to create the raised planter. 1

young person helped with the building of the planter and planting the plants.

West Leeds Baseline Survey

- 3.58 Groundwork are working in partnership with the Area Management Team to track the progress being made in the environment in West Leeds. The project will target the 5 most deprived neighbourhoods in West Leeds, this being, the Bawns, Broadleas, Fairfields, New Wortley and the Wyther Estates. They have produced the survey that will be used for the project. The questions that will be asked and the methods of recording the data have been agreed. Groundwork are now identifying the specific areas on the estates which will be used as samples for the study, and will then complete Quarterly Surveys on these areas to track the changes in the environment.

Operation Champion

- 3.59 Groundwork work as part of Operation Champion to meet the environmental impact objectives of these operations. This involves litter picks with residents and schools, where possible the inclusion of a team from Groundwork to tackle larger scale projects. They will be looking to include a mini Operation Champion in with their Environment Weeks where possible.

Bulb Bonanza 07

- 3.60 Groundwork is running the Bulb Bonanza Project again this year with 75,000 Daffodil bulbs and 75,000 Crocus bulbs. These are available to churches, community groups and schools throughout Leeds. Groundwork will be targeting TRA's community groups and local primary schools to have action days, planting bulbs and actively working in their local environments.

Youth Development Work in Outer West

- 3.61 This final section of the report updates members on the work undertaken during the one year appointment of a Youth Development worker, now coming to an end. This post was jointly funded in 2006/7 (£17,500 revenue each) by the Inner and Outer West Area Committees specifically to encourage volunteers and volunteer organisations to run more youth provision for the 9-13 year old age group.
- 3.62 The worker, Mark Metcalfe, has at all times tried to keep committee members informed by compiling and e-mailing a work report on a regular basis. In these he has listed not only events and activities organised but also an assessment of the value to children and young people, their parents and members of the local community of the work. He has been grateful to everyone who has offered suggestions or ideas for improvements.
- 3.63 There have been a number of achievements – the most obvious being the face-to-face work that have attracted a healthy number of children/young people. For example at Swinnow Primary School sessions held on Tuesdays have averaged over 20 children attending in recent weeks. At Hillside Hall the average attendance at the Thursday sessions has been 15, whilst at Tyersal, where Mark has worked closely with Lynne Kitchingman of West Yorkshire Police, it has averaged nine children. The

mural project at Valley View school was the one failure- where the task for the volunteer group was a little too complex.

- 3.64 The numbers attending the summer sports sessions, which Mark organised relatively late in the day have also been good, as has the quality of the coaching work. In general the behaviour of the children/young people has also been good.
- 3.65 There has been some success in one of the project aims – to develop more sustainable voluntary sector youth provision. The Tyersal group are all keen to see the Leeds Youth Service take the proposals with the local club forward – the children who attended enjoyed playing sport but they also welcomed the chance to sit down and talk. Two of the children’s parents have said they are prepared to undergo a CRB check and volunteer when the session moves to a centre-based one during the autumn term. The plans are from now that that the youth service will run one session of centre-based work each week for 13-19 year olds and organise one session for the younger age group with a youth worker leading the session alongside parent volunteers. A partnership agreement should be concluded with the club on this in the near future
- 3.66 At Swinnow school the Youth Service has now developed a close working relationship with WILDFIRE community project, who have said they want to maintain and if possible increase their partnership with the Youth Service in the future. The project at Swinnow will be continuing in 2007-08 with a maximum of 24 children a week permitted and there will be a more developed programme of activities than in the past.
- 3.67 At Hillside Hall the work with 2 parent volunteers has meant some local children have really enjoyed themselves and both the volunteers and the children have also learnt a number of additional skills as well. The work increased local people’s confidence in the City Council and the sessions will be continuing after Mark leaves as the parents are keen to continue volunteering, working alongside an employee from the youth service and hopefully some young people will also be volunteering to help.
- 3.68 One of the major problems the Youth Development Worker has faced was is in establishing new community groups in Outer West. He had hoped to be able to offer funding advice to new and/or prospective groups. In practice Voluntary Action Leeds are already doing much of this work and have excellent library facilities and access to resources. In some respects Mark therefore found himself unnecessarily ‘competing’ against other much better resourced bodies.
- 3.69 A second difficulty has been in undertaking “capacity building” – through a series of ‘basic skills’ sessions (on public speaking, funding, using the press and fund raising). These have suffered through failing to attract enough volunteers and management committee members to make running them worthwhile. Mark has been more successful however in introducing volunteer workers to the Youth Service, and of these several have subsequently go on to volunteer and to attend a number of training sessions to help them when working with young people. Most of these however have wanted to work with those aged 13+ however rather than those aged 9-13 years.

- 3.70 Mark has been able to build a number of closer working/partnership arrangements on behalf of the Youth Service with a healthy number of organisations – these include a large range of community organisations (around 10 in all) and an increasing number of schools, (around 8 in all, some of them through the extended schools programme) as well as Tyersal Residents Club and West Yorkshire Police. Mark has also built relations with a number of local children and their parents/carers which the youth service can maintain and develop in the future.

Conclusion

- 3.71 The youth development worker post in 2006/7 has achieved many of the objectives set when the project was established. The post-holder has built up some excellent relations and developed some new volunteer led organisations which should be sustainable in future. His recommendation would be in future for the area committee to fund such groups directly in future to undertake work for 9-13 year olds rather than to provide additional funding for a youth development post as such. A recent development has been the establishment of a Youth Work Partnership in West Leeds which is aiming to involve all youth work organisations in the planning / delivery and effective use of resources. This partnership will have a key role in agreeing the allocation of Positive Activities for Young People funding but has also been involved recently in discussion of proposals to support the development of under 13s work in the area. Whilst in the early stages it may be that any funding available through that partnership might match up with potential Area Committee funding if it wished to support this area of work. However an analysis of other under 13s work would need to be assessed in terms of the future of Leeds Children`s Fund supported projects in existence and there is still a shortage of projects actually seeking commissioned work to deliver in this age range.
- 3.72 Whilst the Youth Service has indicated the will to support the 3 under 13 initiatives above they are only able to do so if youth work staff identified are there in effect to work primarily with young people aged 13+ (senior members) who are engaged in picking up experience in working with younger children under supervision. In the case of the work at Hillside a group of such young people has already been identified but support at Tyersal and Swinnow is dependent upon the same type of arrangements being made as the Youth service is funded to work primarily with the 13-19 age range, albeit with some reference to 11-13 year olds.

5.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 5.1 The proposals for the regeneration of town centres and Environmental improvements to specific neighbourhoods support the Vision for Leeds aim of regenerating areas and restoring pride in all places. The proposals also meet the Corporate Plan aims of enhancing Leeds' town and district centres. The work of the youth development officer support the City Council's Children and Young People's Development Plan

6.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 6.1 The Capital Programme 2004-8 includes provision to support the Pudsey and Farsley regeneration works as part of the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme. In addition the proposed bus station and associated highways works do not have any

resource implications for LCC, as the costs are being met through Metro's and LCC's Local Transport Plan allocation. The Area Committee is likely to be asked to consider providing match funding towards the Lidget Hill bus lay-by and footpath improvements and re-furbishment of the car park.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Significant proposals are in place for both Pudsey and Farsley town centres. The bus station proposals together with the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme plans to improve the park and the town centre, along with works it is hoped that Area Committee can support through its Well-being budget, demonstrate considerable investment in Pudsey town centre. They present a unified, comprehensive scheme with commitment from all partners. The environmental improvement work with Groundwork has had a number of successes, working with local communities to improve the local environment. The Youth Development worker post has shown some solid results during the past year although members may wish to consider an alternative approach to taking this work forward.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 Area Committee is asked to note the progress made on the four schemes in this report.
- 8.2 The Area Committee to continue to support the work of Groundwork in Outer West Leeds
- 8.3 The Area Committee to consider the role of the Youth Development Worker and the option of funding voluntary and community youth groups directly in the Outer West Area Delivery Plan for 2008/9