



Report of the Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 20th September 2007

Subject: Environmental Programme Works for Groundwork Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley

Bramley & Stanningley

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

1.0 Executive Summary

This reports provides details on current and completed projects in inner west neighbourhoods and the consultation and community development work currently in progress by Ground Work Leeds. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

2.0 Purpose of This Report

The report has been compiled to update the Committee on the actions and works undertaken by Groundwork Leeds in inner west Leeds. We will be updating on all community actions and capital and revenue programme progress in the area.

3.0 Background Information

Groundwork Leeds, is an Environmental Charity working throughout Leeds. We work with the local community to help them address environmental problems in their local area. In West Leeds we have been working with different partners and community groups to help achieve this. We also attend all relevant meetings and endeavour to use our resources and time to positively impact on the areas that we are working in. The main aims of Groundwork are to help develop community interest in the neighbourhood, through their active involvement in environmental improvements.

4.0 Main Issues

Inner West Capital Projects

4.1 Armley

Butts Mount – Project had overlapped into April, due to the acquisition of land by a neighbouring resident. This has been resolved and the fencing has been erected. The project is now complete.

Aviary Mount – This project has been identified with Leeds West North West Homes Estate Management Officer. The aim is to create a useable greenspace for local residents, to compliment the housing around the site. Consultation has been completed for the site and a sketch design will be drafted to present to the residents for approval and alterations.

West Leeds Binyards – The priority areas for this years programme are the Cedars and Aviaries. The binyards to be completed have been identified and the specification for the design are being discussed. This will most likely be a reduction in wall heights and fencing to 1.8m around the binyards with lockable gates and railings to attach the bin to. Consultation will aim to be completed by early September to allow the programme to progress quickly.

Wyther Tree Planting – This project was developed during the Wyther Environment Week and is funded by those organisations who took part. The funds will go towards tree planting on the estate, this will take place in November.

4.2 Bramley & Stanningley

Maggies End – Initial consultation complete. Initial design has been completed and checked by the group. Consultation of the design with the residents to be undertaken. The land is vested in City Development: Parks & Countryside and so the right to develop the land must be agreed before any additional progress is made.

Stanningley Road Streetscape – This project has been designed and has been sent to members of the local groups to gain their opinions of the design and to make any changes which they feel necessary. Once this has been done the works will go ahead.

Rossefields – This project is still to be identified, the initial proposal had to be disregarded due to future plans for the selected site. A meeting must be arranged to discuss new proposals.

Binyards – The binyards on the Nansens and some on the Henleys will be completed as part of the works. In order to complete as many binyards as possible the specification for these binyards will be to reduce the wall and install an internal railing to which the bin can be secured.

Inner West Revenue

4.3 Armley

In Armley Groundwork works closely with the Armley Common Right Trust (ACRT) to help them maintain the common land and where possible make improvements to these areas. Groundwork's Garden team has been available to help with the maintenance of Charlie Cake Park on two occasions and with the continued care provided by the ACRT this area of Armley is coming along very well. We have also been attending the ACRT meetings about the future of their sites. Designs have been drawn up by Parks & Countryside and we will help the Group to consult with residents about the designs and what features they would prefer, we will also help the group to find funding for the projects and to complete application forms.

We have been involved in the planning of the Armley Funday, attending meetings and offering support. For the actual event, we arranged a children's activity which would help to brighten up the area and encourage young people to be greener. Young people were invited to colour plant pots and then planting flowers in these pots. This gave the young people a fun activity whilst we could talk to the parents and consult about the area. We helped the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) with consultations about the timeline, the area, and methods of conservation in Armley. We gave away 60 plants and consulted 21 adults.



At the Armley Funday Groundwork also arranged for a Cleaner Greener Leeds piece of theatre to educate people about the issues around littering and the environment. This actively involved 5 local young people in the play and many people watched.

One of the capital projects in Armley this year is the work to improve Aviary Mount Greenspace. This is an area which was either garages or housing which has been knocked down. The area has been left to degrade and has become very wild. Groundwork have been consulting residents in the area about the project and have so far consulted 50 people from the area. The majority of people would be very happy with something on the land.

Groundwork have also been working on the issue of Binyards in Armley there have been some problems with the theft and burning of wheelie bins in the Cedars area. The issue of the binyards has been of high priority and as such the proposed design for the binyards has had to be carefully considered. We have attended meetings and discussed the issues of binyards with members of the LCC and ALMO staff. I will be completing consultation of binyards in the coming months. The new structure of the binyards will safely secure the bins whilst keeping the people using them safe.

Groundwork will be helping the 'Great Armley Litter-pick' on the 2nd of September, this is an attempt to involve the residents of Armley in tidying up their local area and becoming more responsible for the environment. We will help by supplying litter pickers, gloves, Hi Vis vests and bin bags. Groundwork will also be attending the session to help on the day and provide support.

4.4 **Bramley & Stanningley**

Fairfields Estate – The Fairfields is the priority SOA in the west and so, much of the work we do is targeted around this area. We work closely with the Fairfield LAMP and Improvement group (FIG) to help improve the area and help lift it out of the bottom 3% of SOA's. We also work closely with the Fairfield Community Partnership (FCP) in the aim of including the opinions of the residents as closely as possible.

Out of this partnership we have developed a Capital Programme which will develop 4 sites and help to improve the community identity of the Fairfields. As part of the consultation for Maggie's End we knocked on the doors of and posted letters to the houses around and near the site. We received 23 consultations, the majority happy with the ideas. One of the issues that was raised through the consultation with residents was the issue of traffic outside the school. As such we will aim to include a session with the school children, where we will design road signs



to warn drivers about the school and to ask them to slow down. This will take place once the schools return from holiday. We have worked closely with the FCP on this scheme and they are keen on the idea of promoting the identity of the Fairfield neighbourhood through this project. Therefore we agreed that the scheme would reflect the entrance feature on Stanningley Road with similar Fairfield Community Partnership Emblems.

The work on Stanningley Road Railway Site will brighten up the approach to the estate with planting beds and restoration of the seating. The aim of the scheme has been agreed in partnership with the FCP and the designs will be shown to the group early September for further revisions and opinions.

The binyard scheme on the Fairfields will have to be tailored for the specific area as the problems and solutions are different for the various neighbourhoods. We will decide the best appropriate method for improving these with the FCP.



The development works we have completed on the Fairfields include attending the relevant LAMP and FIG meetings and partnership meetings with the FCP. Through these partnerships we have identified the need for an environment awareness event. This was developed through meeting with key partners and identifying the appropriate events. At the Fairfield Environment Days we involved residents and the local primary

school in shrub planting and a litter pick at the local school, recycling awareness, a fruit and veg stall, creating art from recycled material and a planting session with Groundwork, planting hanging baskets and planters. This not only encourages young people to get involved in the environment and gardening, but also enhances the environment of the estate. In total we involved **16** young people in the litter pick and **16** children were involved in the planting shrubs at the school with BTCV. We gave away **62** hanging baskets or planters, which were planted and taken home by the school children.

Through the Fairfield LAMP we recently decided to work towards 'In Bloom' standard on the estate. This first action through the Environment Days on the Fairfields will help to work towards 'In Bloom' by involving the residents in the environment and by putting out Hanging Baskets and Planters it will brighten up the Estate. The capital improvements will also help to increase the amount of flowers on the Fairfields and brighten up the neighbourhood.

Groundwork Leeds is working in Partnership with Leeds Ahead to use volunteers during Pro Bono week. This project will involve **40** volunteers for one day on the estate to tackle environmental issues. We aim to plant 10,000 daffodil bulbs, clear ginnels, pick litter and help to tidy hedges and gardens. This again should help to raise the standard of the Environment on the Fairfields towards 'In Bloom'

Broadleas Estate – Groundwork is also working with our Youth Worker and BARCA to develop a Junior Warden scheme on the Broadleas estate. The aim will be to consult with local young people and find out what improvements they would like to make in their area. We will identify the sites and help them to design the area themselves. We will also include tidy ups and litter picks and get the young people involved in some aspects of the build. We have identified an unused space on Broadlea Street and the garden at the Youth Inclusion Base on Broadlea Hill. This project will help to improve ownership and responsibility for their environment and to develop skills for the young people.

An officer from Groundwork attends the Broadleas Improvement Group (BIG) meeting where we are concerned with improving the greenspaces on the estate. Links with BARCA



organisation have been established and we have been involved in litter picks where we have tidied up the surrounding area. For this event we had help from **4** young people and **2** adult volunteers. The event was successful and we collected large amounts of litter and drastically improved the football pitch and surrounding grass.

As part of Operation Champion in Bramley, Groundwork supplied BARCA and Neighbourhood Wardens with litter pickers, gloves, Hi Vis jackets and bin bags. This helped them to have a large scale litter pick on the Broadleas estate and improve the area.

Wyther Estate – We have been attending the Wyther Improvement Group (WIG) meeting. Through the Wyther Environment Week we received funding to offset carbon emissions from the week. We are working with the group and residents to decide the best location for these trees. We are working with Leeds Ahead to use volunteers from companies in Leeds and involve them in planting trees and in making an



environmental impact on the Wyther Estate. The project will plant heavy standard trees with contractors and volunteers will be involved in planting Whips and transplants around the estate. We will also continue to work with the local schools where we planted 2 Orchards within the schools grounds. This included planting apple, plum and pear trees with the primary school children.

4.5 **Wedge Wide Work**

West Leeds Environment Network

Meetings with the West Leeds Environment Network (WLEN) discuss 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.

The WLEN has specifically organised a project in Armley to improve the nature of the binyards, this is a £200 grant available to residents, we 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. We have had requests from a number of tower blocks to provide planter tubs and shrubs for the flats.

We 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. Groundwork involved local people in creating a raised planter to fill with plants and vegetables. We had many people interested in the works and watching and learning how to create the raised planter. We also had 1 young person help with the building of the planter and planting the plants.

4.6 West Leeds Green Gateways.

Attendance of meetings and input where relevant. Provide information on the schemes that we are running which could be linked into the Green Gateway.

4.7 West Leeds Baseline Survey.

We 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. We 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. We now need to identify the specific areas on the estates which will be used as samples for the study. We will then complete Quarterly Surveys on these areas to track the changes in the environment.

4.8 Operation Champions.

Work with the Operation Champion to meeting the aims of the environmental impact of the operation. This involves litter picks with residents and schools, where possible the inclusion of a team from Groundwork to tackle larger scale projects. We will be looking to include a mini Operation Champion in with Environment Weeks where possible to add weight to both projects and to have a greater impact in the neighbourhood.

4.9 Bulb Bonanza 2007

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

5.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

The work undertaken by Groundwork Leeds in partnership with the local community and statutory agencies contributes to the council's aim of cleaner greener neighbourhoods and safer stronger communities.

6.0 Legal and Resource Implications

Some of the projects undertaken by Groundwork Leeds are funded from the Inner West Area Committee and are subject to review during the financial year. and at close of the project.

7.0 Conclusions

In the Inner West Wedge Groundwork has worked closely with the relevant partnership groups to improve the environment and community input in the environment. Through this we hope to develop community cohesion and by providing activities and involvement in the environment deter young people from anti-social behaviour. We have worked with **251** adults, **220** Young people and attended **33** partnership meetings and **25** group capacity building meetings

8.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.