

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

Report to: The 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 July. The meeting discussed the following issues:

Community Committee Themes:

Cllr Ritchie proposed that the March 2016 Committee should focus on social isolation across the Inner West. The meeting agreed this would be a useful and interesting theme.

Eastern European Community Work

Gill Hunter (Safer Leeds) and PC Sara Barrie outlined the partnership work to support new migrants from Eastern Europe access services and prevent exploitation. The main focus has been on engaging with families and working with the Roma community to increase attendance at school with a focus on the Armley area. The volunteer led POMOC advice service runs a weekly drop in at the Armley Hub. The volunteers are struggling to meet demand and are supporting clients with increasingly complex issues. Options are being investigated to support this project.

There was interest from across the three wards about new migrant populations and it was agreed that a paper from Migration Yorkshire be circulated. The Chair asked that the Committee be kept informed of the progress of this work.

Wellbeing Process for 2015/16

The Wellbeing process for 2015/16 was discussed and proposals for this are included in the Wellbeing report.

4. Children & Young People Sub Group

The Children & Young Peoples Sub Group met on 29th June and heard an update from providers on current youth activities and co-ordinated the summer holiday programme. Partners agreed to support a programme of peer inspections and mystery shopping by young people for the youth activity fund projects.

The youth engagement groups are running in Armley and Bramley, and it is hoped that the new provision on the Woodbridges in Kirkstall will recruit young people interested in participating in the area wide consultation group session planned for September.

5. Environment Sub Group

The Inner West Environment Sub Group met on the 4th September. A verbal update will be presented at the Committee.

6. Armley Forum – 21st July 2015

The forum continued to discuss approaches to combat street drinking and anti-social behaviour on Town Street, and a number of people came forward to provide evidence that will support the police's enforcement work.

A manager from Leeds City College attended to provide information on the closure of their Armley facility and plans to move some classes to other venues such as the library.

The local housing manager also attended to provide an update on new initiatives and continue the discussion from the Community Committee on tenant involvement and energy efficiency.

7. Bramley & Stanningley Forum – 30th July 2015

This meeting of the forum focused on Bramley Shopping Centre and upcoming health initiatives in the area. The following were discussed.

- A representative from Bramley Shopping Centre attended to talk through the planned changes at the centre. These include reconfiguring and resurfacing the main car park, updating the external appearance of existing units, the building of a new larger retail unit on the Lower Town Street edge of the main car park, and upgrades to the rear entrance of the centre. The proposals were well received by forum members.
- An officer from the Public Health team attended to talk about the proposals for a new Wellbeing Centre at Manor Park Surgery, and also about Best Start Bramley which is a new support service aimed at teenage parents.

8. Kirkstall Forum – 9th July 2015

The focus for this forum was on planning, development and Highways issues in central Kirkstall. The following key issues were discussed:

- It was recognised that there are a considerable number of development sites in the centre of Kirkstall. Updates were given on the major sites including Kirkstall Forge, Kirkstall Bridge Shopping Park (the old BHS site) Kirkstall District Centre and additional units at the Morrisons site along with George IV pub, the old Angels Halls of residence and Kirkstall Design Centre.
- Discussion was had on the significant Highways impact much of this development is likely to have. Andrew Hall, Chief Highways Officer, was asked about the volume of traffic in this area and around the Kirkstall gyratory and at what point it would be deemed as failing. He explained that the traffic, whilst often slow, did usually keep moving, and that the timings of the traffic lights were kept as tight as possible to allow this to happen.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Illingworth provided an update on this and recognised that the whole process is very lengthy but that it would have significant long term benefits for the area.

9. Community Events

The Community Committee has supported a range of community events and activities for children and young people during the summer holidays.

Broadlea Bonanza

The fourth annual Broadlea fun day was held on Tuesday 18th August and was well attended despite the torrential rain. A range of partners were involved including Housing Leeds, Communities WNW, BARCA and the Police. Children and their families enjoyed donkey rides, circus skills, arts and crafts and a bouncy castle. Officers from the Communities Team West North West carried out a consultation and signed up fifteen

residents to a support programme to help them access the vacancies at the new shopping complex on Kirkstall Bridge. The event was funded by Housing Advisory Panel and a small grant from the Community Committee.

Breeze on Tour

Armley Park hosted the Breeze on Tour on Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th August and saw a great turn out thanks to the weather. There were a range of activities for 0 to 19 year olds, such as arts, crafts and multimedia workshops, sports activities, a performance tent and a large range of inflatables such as obstacle courses, rock climbers, challenge games and sporting inflatables as well as an under 5 play section. The activities were split in to 5 zones; Play, Sport, Challenge, Info, Art and Performance so there was something for everyone. The event was free to all 0 to 19 year olds and their families who had a Breezecard.

Mini Breeze

The Mini Breeze at Bramley Park was not hampered by wet weather and lots of local children enjoyed the activities. The event held on Queenswood Road in Kirkstall was a great success and warmly welcomed by local residents.

Charlie Cake Park

A range of activities for children and families has been run from the 'Playbox' at Charlie Cake Park in Armley including tile making, art classes and a music club as well as a weekly barbeque to bring the community together.

Minecraft

The 'Adventures in Minecraft' sessions at Armley, Bramley and Burley libraries were incredibly popular with young people who learnt about the game and tried programming techniques using Raspberry Pi computers funded by the Community Committee.

10. Hawksworth Wood Neighbourhood Improvement Board

The second meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday 11th August. A range of partners were in attendance at the meeting Chaired by Cllr Yeadon. Detailed discussions were held over the provision of activities for young people and it was agreed that all partners delivering activities for young people in the area should meet in September to map out provision and identify gaps. Discussions also took place on illegal money lending, hate crime and possible intergenerational work.

11. Community Led Local Development

Members may recall that in early 2014 they were briefed on a European funding initiative called Community Led Local Development (CLLD) which is part of the current ESIF programme. CLLD is not for general "community development" and its use is restricted to the development of the economy and to support people into employment. It cannot be used as "continuation funding" for existing projects or activities. Funding can come from both the ERDF and ESF funds within the programme. A number of Members subsequently attended early consultation meetings and other activities designed to help

consider what a local economic strategy would look like. There have, however, been significant delays at a national level in the published timetable; so although activity has continued at a local level to prepare for the eventual bidding process, these have mostly been confined to occasional meetings at a local level of people who indicated they wished to help frame the bid, and meetings of the city wide co-ordinating group which has “kept the pot boiling” by preparing the ground for the eventual implementation of CLLD bidding processes.

There are three proposed areas based on deprived communities in inner Leeds. Each will require a (separate) Local Action Group (LAG) which will be responsible for developing a Local Development Strategy and leading any resulting CLLD programme. A LAG is a partnership comprising the public, private and third sectors and must also have an Accountable Body, which may be the local authority, to manage/ oversee the expenditure in accordance with the ESIF regulations.

A CLLD area must have a population of between 10,000 and 150,000, falling within the top 20% most deprived LSOAs, and the programme area must form a cohesive geography. The programme must also have a minimum size of €3m public sector funding input, and there is an overall requirement for 50% matched funding for all activity.

The bidding process is expected to open at the beginning of September 2015, providing an opportunity for Leeds to apply for a ‘preparatory stage’ funding of up to £20k European funding, which must be equally matched by other funding, to identify and establish the local action group, the accountable body, refine the areas and produce a Local Development Strategy. By the end of November 2015, the preparatory bids will be submitted and it is anticipated that approvals for those areas which are invited to proceed to the next stage will be announced in January, with the actual final bid being developed over a six month period which will involve detailed local consultation. At this point in time, within the overarching criteria, no absolute commitments as to the exact geographical boundaries or activities to be delivered will be made. These decisions will be made as part of the process to create a local development strategy in 2016; and the earliest that we would expect to see any spend, should those later bids be accepted, will be Spring 2017.

Community Committees and individual Members will have the opportunity to fully participate in this development process if the preparatory bids are agreed at national level.

Corporate

12. **a. Consultation and engagement** - Local priorities were set through the Area Business Plan process.
13. **b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration** - The Business Planning process takes into account equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues.

14. **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

15. The work of the sub groups are essential in the delivery of the Community Committee priorities. The Communities 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

16. To note the report including the key outcomes from the sub groups.

Background information

- None