

---

**Report of the Chair Inner South Community Committee – Councillor Angela Gabriel**

**Report to Full Council**

**Date: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Subject: Work of Inner South Community Committee**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Beeston and Holbeck City and Hunslet Middleton Park		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

---

**Summary of main issues**

- The report outlines the progress of the Inner South Community Committee in its first year.
- The report outlines the work of Community Committee Champions and Community Committee Sub Groups
- The report highlights Community Committee themed workshops in 2015/16.
- The report showcases examples of projects delivered by the Community Committee.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the content of this report and receive a presentation from the Chair of the Inner South Community Committee.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide a summary of some of the work carried out by the Inner South Community Committee since the last report to Full Council in December 2014, including meetings and Themed Workshops.
- 1.2 To provide examples of Community Committee Champions work and the role played by Community Committee Sub Groups.
- 1.3 To showcase projects commissioned by the Community Committee.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 In 2014 Community Committees were established to build on the successes of Area Committees but, with an enhanced focus on community engagement and in particular, increase the attendance and active participation of local people at Community Committee meetings. Themed workshops were introduced to provide a forum for Councillors, residents and services to consider issues affecting their communities and find solutions. The topics were determined in collaboration with service leads and Community Committee Champions.
- 2.2 The report also refers to the role of Community Committee Champions and the developing role of the Community Committee Sub Groups. This sub structure of the Community Committee is taking an increasing profile in developing, implementing and monitoring work on behalf of the committee.
- 2.3 This report also looks at successful projects that have recently been delivered, how the Community Committee Champions have helped shape those projects and plans and details of themed Community Committee workshops and meetings in 2015/16.

## **3 Main issues**

### **3.1 Community Committee meetings and workshops 2014/15**

- 3.1.1 The Community Committees first meeting was in April 2014. With the new ways of working, Community Committee meetings have become more focused and not over burdened with reports from Council Services. This has allowed Members and Champions to highlight the workshops and enabled engagement with services, residents and other stakeholders on a range of topics across the area on matters of concern to them. Some members have reflected on the perceived reduction in their oversight of some services in their area and it is expected that this issue will be explored by Members and the Communities Teams.
- 3.1.2 Members agreed that Community Committee workshops take place before the Business meeting of the Committees to encourage participants to stay for the business meeting. Led by Community Committee Champions the following workshops have taken place since the last report to Full Council in December 2014:

<b>Community Committee Date and venue</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Workshop topic</b>	<b>Community Committee Champion</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 Civic Hall	Employment, Skills and Welfare	Reconnecting to the labour market at 50+.	Cllr Kim Groves
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2015 Beeston Village Community Centre	Environmental Services	Local Environmental Offer	Cllr Adam Ogilvie
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015 Middleton Leisure centre	Health and Well-being	Mental Health is everyone's Business	Cllr Paul Truswell
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2015  Elland Road Police Station	Community Safety	Tackling Legal Highs	Cllr Adam Ogilvie
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015  Middleton Leisure Centre	Children & Young People	How to Engage with Young People	Cllr Angela Gabriel

- 3.1.3 Workshops have proved a good way to engage local partners and local residents on issues specific to the Inner South Area. However there has been key learning to take away from the workshops. Some workshop have been more successful than others and a number of factors impacting on this have to be considered in future planning such as the topic, venue and structure of the meeting.
- 3.1.4 Community Committee Champions have led the development of the workshop approach. Champions have been appointed to the following:
- Children & Young People – Cllr Angela Gabriel
  - Environment & Community Safety – Cllr Adam Ogilvie
  - Health & Well Being – Cllr Paul Truswell
  - Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr Kim Groves
  - Adult Social Care – Cllr Patrick Davey
- 3.1.5 To help manage the broad range of issues addressed by the Community Committee and Ward Members the Inner South Community Committee has put in place a sub structure to provide support, monitoring of performance and when required decision making on its delegations. This sub structure has an important,

albeit developing role in managing business on behalf of the Community Committee. These are:

- Children and Families Working Group
- Environmental sub group
- Older Persons working group
- Inner Employment, Skills and Welfare Board

- 3.1.6 To further enhance its operation and provide a Ward based focus Members of the Community Committee have put in place three Ward based Neighbourhood Improvement Boards to provide this more focused perspective on local issues. Led by Ward Members the Neighbourhood Improvement Boards (NIBs) bring together partners to drive change and improvement so that neighbourhoods become an increasingly attractive and popular place to live. Each Board aims to provide strong local leadership that champions the needs of residents and work across service boundaries to plan and coordinate services and local improvements.
- 3.1.7 Chiming with the Community Committees enhanced role in engaging with local residents, the NIB's have led a drive to increase resident engagement in line with the Community Committee ethos. This has seen an increase in the number of residents attending NIBs and increased participation from local communities. An open space session has been introduced at each NIB to allow residents to own the agenda and where attendees are invited to raise issues that are important to them. These issues form the basis of the workshop part of the meeting. Projects have emerged from all parts of the NIB agenda which have been taken forward by the relevant partners in the NIB.
- 3.1.8 The business of the Community Committee and its workshops feeds directly to the relevant sub group and Neighbourhood Improvement Board for further action

## **4 Projects**

### **4.1 Older Persons Sub Group**

#### **4.1.1 Winter Warmth and Social Isolation**

- 4.1.2 The Community Committee has allocated £8,000 for Winter Warmth packs In Inner South the Older Person sub group agreed that winter warmth packs did not meet the needs Inner South and recommended the funding be used for bespoke project to support individuals who are at risk of Isolation. The Communities Team were asked to set up a grants process to allocate this money.
- 4.1.3 The process is being managed by the South East Communities Team and the agreed criteria are listed below. The focus of grants must be to reduce social isolation, ensuring resources reach those most in need, and enhancing local capacity.

- Individual organisations can apply for up to £1000
- Organisations applying as a consortium can apply for up to £4000
- Attendance at Winter Friends training, being delivered by Public Health is a pre-requisite for grant approval. There are a number of these sessions running across the city but, the Inner south session will include specific support and networking focussed on working well together and making best use of the £8,000.

#### **4.1.4 Older People's Celebration Event.**

- 4.1.5 Through the development of the Community Plan the Inner South Community Champions identified the need to work more with older people as a priority. To help address this priority the Inner South Community Committee approved funding for an Older Persons Event to be held for the whole of the Inner South area.
- 4.1.6 The event took place on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Leeds Civic Hall and was designed to provide a day of entertainment and fun for older people as well as providing an opportunity for them to gather information from various organisations and services providing support for older people. This included, living in their own homes with comfort, dignity, and security for as long as they choose.
- 4.1.7 There were over 100 attendees on the day. The event was opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor David Congreve. Delegates also had the opportunity to take part in taster sessions provided by Nia fitness, Reminisce workshop and Arts and Crafts.

## **4.2 City & Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board**

### **4.2.1 Woodhouse Hill Allotment Project**

- 4.2.2 The site of the Woodhouse Hill Allotments was badly overgrown and full of debris. The Councillors were lobbied by local residents to bring the land back into use as allotments as there was a lot of interest from the local community and the local primary school to use the land as allotments. A significant pot of money gathered from a number of sources including Wellbeing funds to rehabilitate the land. The site has now been cleared and fenced off and work has started to bring it back into use.
- 4.2.3 The long term proposal is that Hunslet Carr Residents Association and Hunslet Carr Primary School, will lease a plot which they can work together. This will enable pupils from the school to get involved in food growing and horticulture and help local residents lead a healthier lifestyle, eat a better diet of fresh food and help with community engagement and inter-generational working. The rest of the plots will be let through the normal allotments lettings process

### **4.3 Belle Isle & Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Board**

#### **4.3.1 Middleton Skate Park Development**

4.3.2 Middleton Youth Partnership was initially formed to explore the viability of converting disused changing rooms to a youth club – it became apparent following consulting with young people and youth workers that facilities were not the issue. There were already youth club sessions at St Cross Church, South Leeds Youth Hub as well as mobile provision. By far and away the biggest request for new provision from young people was for a Skate Park. Young people wanted this as an informal place to meet and hang out. The facility should be right in the heart of the estate and open to anyone, anytime.

4.3.3 A consultation exercise was carried out to check that the Skate Park was a project with buy in from a wider group of local young people and not just a vocal few. Over the following month Youth Service staff spoke to 65 young people who lived in and around Middleton, 63 of them were strongly in favour of the proposal. This process also identified 12 young people who were interested enough to get involved in the design of the Skate Park.

4.3.4 Planning permission was secured (including further consultation with local residents about the location of the skate park). Maintenance and liability issues were overcome (the land is vested with Parks and Countryside). Funding was secured from various sources including Housing Leeds, Third Sector and the Inner South Community Committee. A Total of £81,000 was secured for the Skate Park. The Skate Park has now been completed and is in full use.

### **4.4 Beeston & Holbeck Neighbourhood Improvement Board**

#### **4.4.1 Holbeck Street Sex Work Managed Area**

4.4.2 Members will be aware that, for many years, Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police have worked together to attempt to address the issue of street sex working in Holbeck. The adopted approach has been very enforcement centric and has resulted in brief periods of respite for residents and businesses in the Holbeck area and little long term impact on the issue. In recent years the Authority has developed a strategic partnership on Prostitution, working with a number of partners including Basis (formerly Genesis) and the Joanna Project and commissioning research to better understand the issue and develop a multi agency approach to the challenges. Last year the group looked at a proposal to better manage on-street sex work in South Leeds, with the aim of moving the issue away from residential areas. The proposal was for the managed area to operate in a defined geographical area between 7pm and 7am. The area would still be Policed, but officers would not routinely enforce offences such as loitering, soliciting or kerb crawling, though they would still enforce other offences in the usual way. The area was chosen because the sex workers already operated there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the businesses in the area generally ceased trading by 7pm. Local Members were consulted on the proposals, as well as residents and local businesses. The proposal was also discussed and approved at the Police Senior Leadership Team, the Strategic Group on Prostitution and the Members Group on Prostitution. The

Managed area became operational in October 2014 and confirmed in October 2015.

- 4.4.3 General oversight of the project is with the Strategic Group on Prostitution and the Members Group on Prostitution, and governance with Safer Leeds. An Operational Group has been established which is jointly chaired by West Yorkshire Police and Safer Leeds and includes Basis (formerly Genesis), the Joanna Project, the Locality Environment Team and a business representative (attempts have been made to secure a resident representative but, to date this has proved unsuccessful). The Operational Group meets to discuss issues which impact the area such as complaints (business complaints are collated by the business representative who emails all the businesses in the area prior to meetings. Resident complaints are collated by West Yorkshire Police and their attendance at Cross Ingrams Residents Association and PACT meetings) any other relevant issues such as serious crimes committed in the area and environmental issues. The Inner South Environmental Sub Group also monitors environmental issues such as litter accumulations, breaches / warnings / cautions issued.
- 4.4.4 Evaluation of the Project has been undertaken by Dr Teela Sanders, Reader in Sociology at the School of Sociology, University of Leeds. She is recognised as an International expert on sex work policy. The evaluation report was presented to the Safer Leeds Executive meeting in September 2015 which concluded the validity of the managed area report.
- 4.4.5 **Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan**
- 4.4.6 Approved as one of the Fifth Wave Neighbourhood Planning Pilots, the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum and Board continues its journey towards publishing a Draft Neighbourhood Plan in the coming months. Following designation of the plan area by Leeds City Council, the Holbeck Forum embarked on an ambitious programme of scoping out sections of the draft plan and testing each element through extensive consultation with the local community.
- 4.4.7 To help deliver this work the Forum put in place a sub structure of task groups covering subjects such as Publicity, Content and Projects. These groups help deliver publicity about the plans progress as well co-ordinating the draft document it and a calendar of local projects that engage with the local community of Holbeck.
- 4.4.8 **Beeston Neighbourhood Forum**
- 4.4.9 This group has been formed by the local community to follow a similar path to that taken in Holbeck and create a Neighbourhood Plan. Work here is in its early stages with members of the forum developing a work programme and liaising with Council officers. It is likely that a consultation framework will be put in place which will involve a number of workshops to consult with the local community around identifying the topics that would help shape the content of a plan.

## **5 Inner South Employment, Skills and Welfare Board**

- 5.1 In anticipation of the opening of the new ASDA store in Old Lane, Beeston, in summer 2015, a number of recruitment days were held. Staged in different venues across the Inner South, the engagements days were held in partnership with the Jobs and Skills Team to support local people to apply for the jobs available. Over 306 people attended the sessions
- 219 were from the targeted localities broken down as follows:
  - Beeston & Holbeck: 108
  - City & Hunslet: 68
  - Middleton: 39
- 5.2 A series of events to support people facing changes in social welfare payments or looking for employment were commissioned through the Inner South Employment, Welfare and Skills Board. Five sessions across Inner South took place, supported by a range of agencies and partners; such as Department of Work & Pensions, Credit Union, CAB, Customer Services and Welfare Benefits offering advice and support to attendees.

## **6 Corporate Considerations**

### **6.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1.1 The Inner South Community Committee has developed an engagement framework. It is supported by work outlined in this report plus a range of community events and galas, the Inner South Facebook page, Twitter and the Community Committee newsletter.

### **6.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 6.2.1 All projects funded from Well Being must have an equal opportunities policy and outline where appropriate which equality group the project will work with, and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 6.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

### **6.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 6.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:
- Vision For Leeds
  - Children and Young Peoples Plan
  - Health and Well Being City Priority Plan
  - Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
  - Regeneration City Priority Plan



## **6.4 Resources and value for money**

- 6.4.1 There is no new resource implications detailed within this report. All applications for funding from Community Committee are expected to demonstrate value for money.

## **6.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 6.5.1 There are no legal implications and this report is not subject to call in.

## **6.6 Risk Management**

- 6.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report.

## **7 Conclusions**

- 7.1 While taking account of the learning from its first year experience the Inner South Community Committee plans to further develop the engagement and involvement of local communities in its decision making process by actively involving residents in themed Community Committee Workshops and other engagement activity in Inner South Leeds. The Inner South Community Committee will continue develop appropriate sub groups that will enable it to better deliver improvement to services in its area. It will also continue to support projects and programmes of work that enhance service delivery and continue to invest in local facilities.

## **8 Recommendations**

- 8.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

## **9 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 9.1 None.

---

<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.