

Report of: The West North West Area Leader

Report to: The Inner North West Community Committee – Headingley; Hyde Park & Woodhouse; Weetwood

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To note

Area Update Report

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides members with a summary of recent sub group business as well as a general update on other project activity.

2. Background information

- 2.1 This report provides members with an update on recent sub group business and the current position relating to other project activity.
- 2.2 An area update report is submitted at every cycle of community committee meetings, unless there is no additional business to report from sub groups or any other project activity to report. Partner organisations and council services may also contribute information to the area update report.

3. Main issues

Forum and Sub Group Key Messages

General Purposes Sub Group

- 3.1 The general purposes sub group met on 14 October 2015. The following key issues were discussed:
- Liz Lawrence from the employment & skills team attended the meeting to discuss how they might better engage with BAME communities in the area. A discussion was had around pop up employment services; where these workshops might take place and what these services should be.

- The draft terms of reference for the group were discussed. Some Members raised concerns that the scrutiny element of the previous Area Committees had been lost under the new Community Committee structure; Members were keen to hold services to account in a public arena. It was agreed that the March Community Committee meeting be a business meeting, with services invited to present annual reports. If Members wished to have more Community Committee meetings over the course of a municipal year, then this could also be agreed with Governance Services for 2016/17. It was agreed that the general purposes sub group would only meet on an ad hoc basis in future.
- Members agreed that they were satisfied with the draft neighbourhood improvement plans and that these could be submitted for final approval at the next Community Committee meeting in December.

3.2 Key Messages

The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the general purposes sub group.

3.3 **Planning Sub Group**

The planning sub group met on 14 October 2015 and 11 November 2015. The sub group will have also met on 9 December 2015, where a verbal update will be provided to the community committee. It is worth noting that the planning sub group has resumed meeting on a monthly basis; with a focus on planning applications one month and a focus on neighbourhood planning the next.

3.4 At the meeting on 14 October the following issues were discussed:

- A draft version of the Headingley Neighbourhood Plan is now available at <http://www.headingleyneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/> Cllr Illingworth raised concerns that the proposed neighbourhood plan boundaries for Headingley and Kirkstall include some aspects of the Foxcrofts and Queenswoods.
- The site allocation consultation was discussed. The group discussed the process and how messages to the public have been relayed, agreeing that both could be clearer.
- The application for the Elinor Lupton Centre was discussed. The group were disappointed to hear that Planning have recommended that this application be approved at the next plans panel.

3.5 At the meeting on 11 November the following issues were discussed:

- Hyde Park Forum is now designated. Little Woodhouse have also submitted an application for forum designation.
- The government consultation on mandatory HMO licensing was discussed by the group. The consultation proposes abolishing the clause which states that HMOs need to be three storeys or higher in order to require a licence.
- The planning application for the Elinor Lupton Centre in Headingley had been rejected, but an appeal from the developers was expected.
- CLG have renewed letting board controls in the area; this still does not include the Little Woodhouse area. It was said that in Little Woodhouse there were overly large lettings boards up again and that this area needs to be included in the control area.

3.6 Key Messages

The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the Planning Sub Group.

Environment Sub Group

3.7 The Environment Sub Group met on 19 October 2015. The following key issues were discussed:

- Problems with graffiti in the INW area were discussed; with a particular problem with Virgin Media failing to clean their own boxes being highlighted. This issue has been taken up with Virgin by the Localities Team.
- There was an update on work carried out over the freshers period. This had included the Localities team working with the universities to educate students about recycling, bin collections days etc.
- Parks & Countryside brought a report on burial provision in the city to the sub group meeting. Members expressed that their preferred option would be to see current sites extended.
- Waste management provided an update on the new Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) at Cross Green

3.8 Key Messages

The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the Environment Sub Group.

Children & Young People Sub Group

3.9 The Children and Young people's sub group met on 16 September 2015. The following key issues were discussed:

- There was a discussion about safeguarding; with a focus on the Prevent agenda.
- It was agreed that a further commissioning round be held to allocate YAF funding for February 2016 half term activities and for the Easter 2016 break.
- A children and young people's engagement event is being developed for January time.

3.10 Key Messages

The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the Children & Young People's Sub Group.

4. Neighbourhood Improvement Plans

4.1 Members have previously identified Little London and Hyde Park as priority neighbourhoods. This had prompted work with partners to identify how we could work better in these neighbourhoods to make improvements. Some of this work has now been embedded in council policy, for example, zonal teams have been set up with the localities department, and partners now regularly come together to help streamline services around student changeover.

With this work having now taken place, we would like to re-focus work within these neighbourhoods, and, consider some new priorities and projects for the Little London and Hyde Park areas. The communities team has developed plans on a page for

both of these areas, following meetings with partners, and drawn out some key priorities and projects. These plans were further considered at the meeting of the Inner North West General Purposes sub group on 14 October 2015 and it was agreed that they be sent to the next meeting of the Community Committee for formal approval. Members are therefore asked to approve the plans as a focus for work in these priority neighbourhoods.

5. Free lets

- 5.1 Under the new pricing policy for community centres, free lets are now agreed on an individual basis. The table below details the free let that has been agreed in the Inner North West area since this new policy was introduced and the financial value that this represents to the council:

| Community Centre | Name of organisation | Total fee waived |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Little London | Little London Arts | £690 |

6. Update from the Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)

The Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel (INWHAP), chaired by tenant member Ted Wilson, works on behalf of the council tenants, leaseholders and communities across the wards of Hyde Park & Woodhouse, Weetwood, Headingley and Kirkstall.

The INW HAP enjoys a full membership of 10 tenants and three ward members; represented by Councillors Sue Bentley, Javaid Akhtar and John Illingworth. The role of the HAP is to review the delivery of local housing services and monitor local performance, working closely with managers and teams of the Little London and Kirkstall housing offices and other key teams and agencies.

The panel is also funded to enable it to support a range of environmental and community related projects which meet the agreed funding criteria and panel's priorities. As the funding is provided from the Housing Revenue Account, a key priority is to ensure funded projects have positive outcomes for council tenants.

The Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel has a funding allocation of £160,000 for 2015/16. To date £75,000 has been committed to a diverse range of projects, with further applications to the value of £145,000 currently under consideration. Examples of the 15 projects funded so far include:

- A £9,000 contribution to a citywide 'Community Payback' partnership between Housing Services, Localities Teams and West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Services to undertake environmental work not included within existing contracts.
- £14,000 to pay for the resurfacing of Raynel Garth garage site to enhance the environment and to provide improved local parking facilities.
- £9,000 to upgrade damaged fencing at St Johns car park and to replace unmanaged areas of weeds with manageable shrubs.

The INW HAP have welcomed officers from the Communities Team to recent meetings to help build relationships and understanding between the HAP and the Community Committee. The HAP look forward to working more closely with the Community Committee in future and are keen to further explore both joint funding opportunities and community engagement activity, to tackle our shared priorities.

7. Area update newsletter

Through discussions at area chair's forum, it has been agreed that update newsletters be produced for each of the community committees as a new means of communicating business to the public. Attached at Appendix 1 is an INW area update newsletter for Members to consider for distribution to the appropriate locations i.e. local libraries, community centres and housing offices.

8. Corporate considerations

8.1 Consultation and engagement

8.1.1 Elected members have been consulted on the content of this report.

8.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

8.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

8.3 Resources and value for money

8.3.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

8.4 Legal implications, access to information and call in

8.4.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

9. Risk management

9.1 There are no risk management issues relating to this report.

10 Conclusion

10.1 This report provides members with an update on recent sub group business and other project work undertaken by the Communities Team West North West.

11 Recommendations

11.1 Members are asked to:

- Note and action as appropriate the key messages from sub groups.
- Approve the neighbourhood improvement plans for Hyde Park and Little London.
- Note the update from the Inner North West HAP
- Approve the area update newsletter for distribution to appropriate locations in the Inner North West area.