

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner North Community Committee – Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Roundhay wards

Report author: Clare Wiggins; Area Improvement Manager; Tel: 0113 336 7646

Date: 14th March 2016

to note

Community Committee Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an update on the work programme of Inner North East Community Committee Community Committee, its recent successes and current challenges.
2. It also introduces a presentation from West Yorkshire Police on the new Policing delivery model.

Main issues

3. Since the last Community Committee, work has progressed in a number of areas, including through the Committee's sub groups and local partnerships for Chapeltown and Meanwood, which are currently evolving into Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships.

Sub Groups

4. The main issues discussed at the sub groups recently are set out here:-

Environmental Sub Group

5. The Environmental Sub Group is chaired by the Environmental Community Champion, Cllr Bill Urry. At its last meeting on 19th January, the sub group received updates on grass cutting, spring planting and Leeds quality parks – Chapel Allerton Park, Meanwood Park and Potternewton Park have all achieved a sufficient score to be categorised as a quality parks. Norma Hutchinson Park was only one mark below the required score and it is felt that there are only some very minor issues which need addressing to achieve quality status here.

6. The sub group also considered the impact of Christmas period flooding on the Locality Team's service delivery. The Locality Team is starting to consider which ginnels need prioritising. The sub group also considered environmental issues on the Beckhills.

Wellbeing Advisory Group

7. The Wellbeing Advisory Group comprises one Member from each ward. It met briefly on 9th February and agreed to run a Youth Activity Fund summer holiday activity commissioning exercise. Subsequently, the availability of YAF for summer holiday activities has been publicised via the Community Committee's Facebook page, local networks and via Breeze Culture Network. The closing date for applications is 31st March and the Well-being Working Group will meet in April to assess applications. Recommendations from the working group will be reported to the Community Committee at its meeting in June.
8. Now that the 2016/17 budget has been confirmed, a further Well-being Working Group is being arranged for early March to consider a number of bids for Well-being funding and YAF which have recently been received.

Neighborhood Improvement Partnership/s

Chapeltown

9. The first Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership meeting, called "Working together for Chapeltown", took place on 14th December 2015. The meeting was attended by around 35 Council staff, third sector partners, ward councillors and West Yorkshire Police who all work in Chapeltown. The group received a presentation exploring the area's demographics such as population by age and ethnicity, information on children and young people, crime statistics, health data and environmental information.
10. Through focused table discussions, the group agreed the top priorities to take forward as a partnership. The priorities agreed were:
 - a. Health and Wellbeing particularly social isolation;
 - b. Support for older people, including older people's housing issues;
 - c. engaging young people to prevent them from getting involved in negative activity and crime, the provision of more information for young people on the consequences of crime as well as a potential mentoring scheme and peer support;
 - d. Greater collaborative working and partnerships in the area to create strength and resilience across the community
 - e. Increased resident engagement in service delivery;
 - f. Standard of private rented sector housing and houses of multiple occupation
11. Following the initial meeting, work streams have started to take shape to address some of these issues for example:

- a. Chapeltown Housing Investment Strategy has been reviewed and re-focused, with housing associations, Leeds City Council and the 3rd sector working in partnership to update and streamline an action plan to combat housing related issues in the area;
- b. A neighbourhood watch residents group has been formed in the area with around 15 residents currently involved. The residents meet monthly with partners and work closely to inform local service provision;
- c. A social isolation group has been formed with public health and local health partners, working with Leeds University on a project to help socially isolated people in Chapeltown through different faith groups;
- d. Street Leeds sessions are currently being organised for young people in Chapeltown on the subject of crime. Street Leeds is a public legal education programme for the people of Leeds, delivered by the Leeds' legal community in partnership with Chapeltown Citizen's Advice Bureau and Leeds City Council;
- e. Improved partnership working models are being formed such as a joint website for the area called "Chapeltown News". This brings together information about local activity and services on offer locally to ensure the information is available in one user friendly website. It is envisaged that this will be launched shortly at the same time as the provision of free public Wi-Fi.

12. Challenges have included financial restraints with organisations finding they are competing for money and funding opportunities. There is also a clear need to ensure that partnership workshops / meetings move to become more outcome focused to ensure commitment from partner agencies.

Meanwood

13. The Meanwood Seven Estates Group concentrates on Miles Hill, Farm Hill, Beckhill, Potternewton, Sugar Wells, Scott Hall and Stonegate areas in Meanwood. It includes Leeds City Council services, third sector, local councillors, West Yorkshire Police, local schools, GP surgeries and faith groups. The group has been refocused and reshaped with a clear action plan which is being worked towards as a partnership. The group is currently focusing on the Beckhill estate and work around keeping residents up to date on the developments of the area and also driving forward campaigns to ensure promised change happens.

14. The group is also working on priorities in the area such as:

- a. help for older people improve their home safety with more secure key safes;
- b. youth provision since the closure of Beckhill House Community Centre;
- c. anti-social behaviour, particularly joy riding;
- d. ensuring residents are involved as much as possible in the consultation around Meanwood Community centre;
- e. Two separate residents groups are also being established in the area for Stonegates and the Beckhills. The Beckhill group will meet for the first time on 1st March 2016.

15. The Meanwood 7 Estates Group has found it particularly challenging to find ways to target local issues at no / little cost.

Community Champions

10. Work is ongoing to develop the role of the Community Champions. In addition to their role in supporting the work of the sub groups, referred to earlier in this report, the community champions continue to support work within their portfolio. The community committee chair has committed to bi-monthly community champion meetings to ensure that champions in post are able to share their key areas of work and identify any areas of overlap. The meetings are also an opportunity to share good practice and address any challenging issues collectively.

Environment Champion – Cllr Urry

11. Details in relation to the work of the Environmental Champion are set out in paragraph 5 and 6 above. A separate report on this agenda highlights work to date on the Environmental Services Service Level Agreement.

Community Safety Champion – Cllr Rafique

12. West Yorkshire Police will be in attendance at the Community Committee to provide an update on the new operating model which has been in place since 15th February 2016. These changes will see the work undertaken by Inspectors, Sergeants and Police Constables altering. The aim is to better meet calls for service and local demands. The changes will mean:

- Inspectors taking on a locality based role and thematic responsibilities across the locality, deploying response Officers across the locality and maintaining a footprint at a Partnership Working area level (Community Committee area)
- Sergeants in charge of the local Partnership Working Area Neighbourhood Teams
- Police Constables becoming ward officers and deploying PCSOs to local problem solving

13. The new structure will ensure greater flexibility in meet existing and future challenges, whilst maintaining and building on the neighbourhood policing structure.

Adult Social Care Champion – Cllr Macniven

14. In relation to the work of the Community Committee Champion for Adult Social Care, a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Health and Wellbeing Champion – Cllr Taylor

15. The current focus of the work of the Health and Well-being Champion relates to reducing social isolation. In addition, through the Health and Well-being Executive, the Champion has highlighted the need to focus on addressing the high levels of obesity and diabetes in the local area.

16. Work is progressing well on the Inner North East Social Prescribing pilot. This seeks to improve support for patients, particularly with low level mental health issues, by establishing a mechanism for effective referrals to appropriate local service providers.

Employment, Skills and Welfare

17. As Chair of the East North East Employment and Skills Board, the Champion has been instrumental in establishing priorities for the Board for the year ahead. It has been agreed that the action plan will focus on 1) mental health, 2) support into work through skills training, 3) ESOL provision, 4) support for the 50+ age group, 5) support for young people aged 16-24.

Children's and Young People's Champion – Cllr Charlwood

18. Being new to the role Cllr Charlwood has actively been engaging in meetings to gain a greater understanding. Further support from Children's Services has been requested to enable her to increase her impact within this role. A meeting is being arranged for the 3 East North East Champions to allow better communications between Children's Services and the Community Committee.
19. It is envisaged that a Children's Services report will be submitted to the June meeting of the Community Committee. The Champion has suggested that this should focus on young people's mental health and anxiety and the issue of school place availability.

Community Committee Performance Management Framework

20. A new performance management framework has been developed to help drive forward the priorities and achieve defined and measurable outputs from the workshop discussions which have formed an important part of community committee meetings.
23. This document provides a review of all agreed workshop actions with each action being allocated a progress rating of red, amber or green. Each of the community champions are able to review and monitor progress against key actions within their local portfolio. Not only will this process serve as a useful mechanism for community champions to readily identify areas of good practice and any cases where we are struggling to make progress, it also allocates actions to a named individual and organisation and therefore provides clear accountability around any actions arising from the community committees. An updated Appendix detailing progress will be submitted to the Community Committee meeting to form an appendix to this report.

Community Events

24. Since the December Committee, very successful Christmas lights switch on events have taken place in Chapel Allerton, Oakwood and Meanwood. In particular, the Chapel town Christmas market took place outside the Reginald Centre and was thriving. This generated a distinctly positive atmosphere around the Reginald Centre Community Hub.

25. Councillor Taylor has established a coffee morning on a Thursday at the Reginald Centre, particularly aimed at young mothers. This will run weekly and has so far proved successful.

Communications & Social Media

26. The Communities Team ENE have continued to use the Community Committee Facebook pages to provide details of work of the committee as well advertising community events and local opportunities.

27. At the time of writing, the Inner North East Community Committee Facebook pages had been “liked” by 310 people, an increase of 56 at the time of the last Community Committee in December. The Facebook pages continue to be an important communications tool between the council and local residents and services. It is recognised that there does need to be an increased effort to update the Community Committee Facebook page more regularly and in a more interactive way.

Challenges and Opportunities

Community Led Local Development (CLLD)

28. 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 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) programme. An explanation of the programme was included in the December 2015 Community Committee Update Report. It should be noted that very recently, it has been confirmed that the Leeds bid has been successful and plans for implementation and delivery are currently being drawn up. As part of the Council’s match-funding commitment, it should be noted that staff time from within the Communities Team (ENE) is integral to the bid. Further updates will be provided to the Community Committee as the scheme develops.

Conclusion

29. The report outlines a wide range activities being undertaken by the Community Committee.

Recommendations

30. That members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.

31. That Members receive a presentation from West Yorkshire Police on the new Policing model for local service delivery.

Background information

None