

WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor D Atkinson in the Chair

Councillors T Hanley, A Lowe and
J McKenna

Co-optees J Bedford - Bramley & Stanningley Forum
 H Boutle - Armley Forum
 P Green - Bramley & Stanningley Forum
 M Pugh - Armley Forum

19 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that Councillor Harper was at present in the Bradford Royal Infirmary having surgery and that, although individual Ward Members may have sent cards, she proposed that a letter and flowers be sent on behalf of this Area Committee on Councillor Harper's return home from hospital to wish her well. The suggestion was unanimously agreed.

20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor J Harper and Inspector Steve Thomas.

21 Declaration of Interests

The following personal interests were declared at the meeting:

Councillor A Lowe in her capacity as a Director of West North West Homes (Agenda Item 12, 29 Minute refers)

Councillor J McKenna in his capacity as a Panel Member of West North West Homes (Agenda Item 12, 29 Minute refers)

The following personal and prejudicial interests were declared at the meeting:

Councillor T Hanley in his capacity as a Director of Bramley Elderly Action (Agenda Item 11, 28 Minute refers)

22 Open Forum / Community Forums

The agenda made reference to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum Session at each ordinary meeting of an Area Committee, for members of the public to ask questions or to make representations on matters within the terms of reference of the Area

Committee. On this occasion, no matters were raised under this item by those members of the public who were in attendance.

The minutes of the **Armley Community Forum** meeting held on 17th July 2007 were submitted for information and noted.

The minutes of the **Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum** meeting held on 31st May 2007 were also submitted for information and noted.

Referring to the Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum - Minute 3.01 relating to **Litter Bins** it was reported that Ward Members have had to purchase litter bins from their community **MICE money** and that there were a few areas in the Bramley & Stanningley Ward that still required litter bins. Concern was expressed that children and families in this Ward were at risk as the shortage of litter bins has created more litter to be thrown down on to the streets which is environmentally unsuitable.

RESOLVED - That West Leeds Area Management investigate and pursue the **lack of litter bins** in the Bramley & Stanningley Ward.

23 Minutes - 28th June 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

24 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Area Manager's Report (Minute 15 refers)

Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager informed the meeting that Officers were still working on the proposals for a Catalyst Centre for West Leeds and that he would report back to the next meeting.

It was also reported that there was a new round of **European funding** announced for Yorkshire and Humber region and that Officers would report back to the next meeting on the ideas on bids the Committee might make for that round of funding relating to Inner West Leeds.

25 Community Safety Issues - Inner West Leeds

The West Leeds Area Manager submitted a report and Sergeant Jon Glennon, together with Gill Hunter, Community Safety Officer gave a **brief update on community safety issues** in the West Leeds area.

Sergeant Glennon reported on the following areas over the last three months:

- **Criminal damage**
- Reduction in **burglaries**
- **Robberies**
- **Theft** of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles

- 23rd/24th July **Operation Champion** – various warrants, arrests and **illegal Vehicles** found on the roads in the Inner West area.
- A decrease in the number of illegal motorbikes on the streets.
- **Extra Police and PCSOs** working at **peak times** during the dark nights leading up to bonfire night and mischievous night.

In summary the main issues raised by Members were:

- A request that Members and Co-optees receive a breakdown of the costs per Ward for providing each PCSO.
- That regular update reports be submitted on the problem with **youths on motorbikes** and the current proposals for the erection of signs for prohibiting this activity in **local parks and hotspot areas** in the Inner West area.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Glennon and Gill Hunter for their attendance.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the Community Safety Officer for West Leeds and Sergeant John Glennon inform Members and Co-optees of the **funds** received for the **PCSOs** and the **costs per annum** for each Ward.
- (c) That the Community Safety Officer submit regular **update reports** on the **problem with youths on motorbikes** and the current proposals for the erection of signs for prohibiting this activity in local parks and hotspot areas in the Inner West area.

Note: Councillor McKenna and Mr P Green, Co-optee arrived at meeting at approximately 9.20 a.m. during the presentation of the above item. Councillor Lowe temporarily left the meeting.

26 West Yorkshire Police Community Contact Points

The Chief Community Safety Officer submitted a report providing information on West Yorkshire Police's current **community contact points** and a summary of good practice. The report also requested Members to suggest further potential contact points and to support the use of Council premises if these were so identified. Attached at Appendix 3 was information for Members on the Neighbourhood Policing Teams by Ward.

Sergeant Jon Glennon presented the report, along with the Area Manager who responded to Members' queries and comments.

Members shared their views with the Sergeant on joint surgeries with the police and other partnership groups. It was also suggested that **Governors of local schools** in the area should relay a message back to their Governing Body that the Police are desperately trying to set up Police Community Contact Points in schools.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Glennon for his attendance.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That Members inform Sergeant Glennon of any suitable community contact points within their Wards for their relevant Neighbourhood Policing Team.

27 Narrowing the Gap

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a detailed report informing the Area Committee about the results of a recent survey of priority neighbourhoods in West Leeds and the analysis of how far we are succeeding in narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the rest.

The West Leeds Area Manager also gave an extensive presentation on the evidence from the recent survey, the actual data on service delivery in the West and the **narrowing the gap evidence**, which presented a mixed picture.

The presentation opened up a lengthy debate and the main point raised was about the **standard of educational attainment** for children and the need for better educational facilities in Inner West area. Members felt that as a result there are many **unskilled people** who are **unemployed** in the Inner West area which must have an **impact on the crime statistics** for this area.

In summary the other areas of concern were:

- That issues of crime and grime had largely been tackled in the priority areas and that the next Inner West Area Delivery Plan should look at improving Educational Attainment and Worklessness as key objectives
- That worklessness on the **Fairfields, New Wortley, Wyther and Broadleas estates** was on the increase.
- That residents in the Bramley area believe that **improvement works** on the more rundown areas in Inner West will stop due to the **ALMOs decreasing funds** and that these repairs are very much needed to make their **quality of life better**.
- That the **ALMO management structure groups** including Area Panels have not yet been set up and that Members appointed as Panel Members to **West North West Homes** have still not been contacted.

The Area Committee noted that the **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** was shortly to **undertake an Inquiry** into the Council's relationship with ALMOs. It was also noted that in August 2007, tenants who wanted to be appointed on to the ALMO Area Panels were interviewed and at present one person had been appointed, which was a **Co-optee** on this Area Committee, Jean Bedford – Bramley & Stanningley Forum.

Members thanked Steve Crocker for his very informative presentation.

RESOLVED –

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Thursday, 25th October, 2007

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the Chief Executive, Education Leeds be invited to the next meeting of this Area Committee to respond to Members concerns around the standards of educational attainment of pupils in the most deprived neighbourhoods of Inner West Leeds.
- (c) That the next Inner West Area Delivery Plan should look at improving Educational Attainment and Worklessness in priority neighbourhoods as key objectives

28 Inner West Well-Being Budget

The West Leeds Area Manager submitted a detailed report providing details of the amount of **Well-Being capital and revenue funding available** for the 2007/08 financial year and the commitments already approved.

Rebecca Boon, West Leeds Area Management presented the report and, together with Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager responded to Members' questions and comments.

Detailed discussions on the report and appendices followed.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report and information appended to the report, which included the available balance of the Area Committee's revenue and capital Well-being Budgets, be noted.
- (b) That the following decisions be made in relation to revenue and capital projects as detailed in the appendices attached to the submitted report:

Revenue

- (i) **Headcam Monitors** - £7,200 (Revenue) – Approved.
- (ii) **HipHopes Edutainment** - £2,800 (Revenue) – Approved.

Capital

- (i) **Bell View Mount Railings** - £1,263.13 (Capital) – Approved.
 - (ii) **Surestart Bramley** - £1,500 (Capital) – Approved.
- (c) That the update in relation to **Bramley Elderly Action** outlined in Appendix 5 attached to the report be noted and that approval be given for the next instalment of funding as agreed at the 8th February 2007 Area Committee meeting.
 - (d) That the **Small Grants and Skips** proposals outlined in paragraph 4.1 which have been approved since the last meeting be noted.
 - (e) That the West Leeds Area Manager arrange publicity for the approved applications in order to **raise awareness** and to include local Ward Members in the publicity.

Note: Councillor T Hanley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the **Bramley Elderly Action** update and application and left the room when this matter considered (Minute 21 refers).

29 Environmental Health Service Activity in the Inner West Area

The Chief Environmental Health Officer submitted a report providing detailed information on the work of the West Leeds Environmental Health Team during the previous financial year and the priorities of the team within their service plan for 2007/2008.

Paul Spandler, Environmental Health Services presented the report and together with Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager responded to Members' questions and comments.

In summary, the main issues raised were:

- Members had received **countless complaints** that some local residents and tradesmen have been **chopping down trees** during the day and **lighting bonfires** creating black smoke.
- That Environmental Health Officer be requested to submit a **presentation** to a future meeting of both the **Armley Community Forum** and the **Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum** and to **prepare literature on the rules and regulations** for lighting domestic fires.
- Members expressed their concern at the amount of noise and drinking outside various public houses in Inner West, especially those public houses with temporary shelter for smokers, although some public houses and social clubs are allowing smokers to use an entrance hall to smoke.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the Chief Environmental Health Officer be requested to submit a presentation to a future meeting of both the Armley Community Forum and the Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum and to prepare literature on the rules and regulations for lighting domestic fires.
- (c) That the West Leeds Area Manager refer this Area Committee's concerns to the Community Safety Partnership regarding noise nuisance and drinking outside various public houses in the West Inner Leeds area.

30 Conservation Area Reviews

The Director of City Development and the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a joint report providing information on Conservation Areas.

Phil Ward, City Development Department presented the report and, together with Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager, responded to Members' questions and comments.

A discussion ensued and it was established that the conservations areas listed at Hough Lane and at Bramley Town Street (south side) are both conservation areas that are in the Armley Ward.

Bramley & Stanningley Members felt that Rodley should be part of the review but were informed by the West Area Manager that the Outer West Area Committee Members would also have to commit some of their money to this Area as well. A short discussion ensued regarding boundaries and it was felt that these boundaries should be investigated and that a further meeting be arranged with the Bramley & Stanningley Ward Members to discuss which Bramley Conservation Area to include as part of the Conservation Area Review proposals.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That a further meeting be arranged with the Bramley & Stanningley Ward Members to discuss which Bramley Conservation Area to include as part of the Conservation Area Review proposals.

31 Review of Youth Development Worker

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a detailed report on the progress and success of the Youth Development Worker's post in Inner West Leeds over the last twelve months in addressing the gap in youth service provision for those aged 9-13 years and in engaging with the voluntary and community sector.

Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

The Area Committee congratulated Mark Metcalf, Youth Development Worker for all the hard work he has done in the Inner West area and for his honesty in his recommendation to this Committee that his post should cease at the end of its present contract.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the funding of the Youth Development Worker post should cease after the 12 month contract.
- (c) That this money be spent on the future funding of under 13's voluntary and community youth groups, either directly or through the West Leeds Youth Work Partnership, on a case by case basis, in accordance with the Area Delivery Plan and only to those organisations that are not already in receipt of Leeds City Council funding.

Note: Councillor A Lowe returned to the meeting at approximately 10.45 a.m. at the conclusion of the above item.

32 Environmental Programme Works for Groundwork Leeds

The West Leeds Area Manager submitted a report updating Members on the actions and works undertaken by Groundwork Leeds in the Inner West Leeds.

John Cummins and Paul Monaghan Groundwork Leeds, presented the report and, together with Steve Crocker, West Leeds Area Manager responded to Members' questions and comments.

A discussion ensued and Members queried why other areas in West Inner, some the size of football fields, had not been cleaned up. It was also felt that areas of **land on the outskirts** of the Inner West area were being neglected. Groundwork Leeds Officers informed the meeting that these areas might be able to be included in the next work programme and that suggestions from Members be submitted to West Leeds Area Management.

Members congratulated **Groundwork Leeds** for the community development work they have already completed in the Inner West area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That Members of the Area Committee liaise with the West Leeds Area Manager to suggest other areas for community development and environmental schemes within the Inner West area.

33 Date Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Thursday, 25th October 2007 at 5.00 p.m. at **Stanningley Amateur Rugby Football Club**, Coal Hill Lane, Leeds 13.