

**Report of: The West North West Area Leader**

**Report to: The Outer West Community Committee – Calverley & Farsley; Farnley & Wortley; Pudsey**

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**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**To Note / Approve**

## **Community Committee Update Report**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report updates the Community Committee on the work of the three sub groups of the Committee: Environment, Business, Employment & Skills and General Purposes.
2. This report also updates the Committee on pieces of work and partnership working that has taken place in the area since the last meeting.
3. The Community Committee update report is submitted when there is additional business to report from sub groups or any other project activity. Partner organisations and Council services will also contribute information to the Update Report

### **Main issues**

#### **Sub Groups Update**

4. The Outer West Community Committee has a range of sub groups which set priorities, agree topics for consideration at Community Committee and develop action plans to address issues of thematic importance. The committee currently operates three sub groups: Environment, Business, Employment & Skills and General Purposes.
5. Detailed below is an update on the current sub group activity and issues being explored at each.

## Environment Sub Group

6. The Outer West Environmental Sub Group has continued to meet and has led some positive work to ensure that the Service Level Agreement is fit for purpose and that resources are targeted at the areas of greatest need and to deliver the greatest impact.
7. The Outer West Environment Sub Group met on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August and were informed that proposals for partnership working with WNW Locality Team and Parks & Countryside had now progressed. The teams have now established a tentative proposal for better joint working and resource deployment in terms of environmental work in the outer west area. This proposal means that the following work can potentially be undertaken :
  - **Litter bins** - it has been agreed that the Locality Team streets crews will empty the litter bins in Pudsey Park once a day on a Saturday and Sunday (and Bank holidays), when parks staff do not undertake this task
  - **Ginnel maintenance** - In return for this Parks are going to undertake maintenance work on the ginnel (on an as and when needed basis) which runs around the Leisure Centre in Pudsey along to Radcliffe Lane (discussion are on-going as to whether another ginnel can be added to this agreement). This is a ginnel which we would normally maintain in terms of overgrown vegetation.
8. Consequently, it is intended that this work will be trialled for a period of three months, after which the impact of this work on both services will be reviewed, in order to assess whether this way of working is beneficial to both.
9. At the request of the Outer West Environment Sub Group the Communities Team in partnership with the Environment Team organised a Dog Show and Fun day event on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July at Pudsey Park. The event was to launch a campaign to try and tackle the issue of dog fouling by working with the community to try and highlight the issue. The event catered for up to 800 people and the 12 stalls including the dog show raised a staggering £3200 for various dog charities. The campaign has involved local school children from the area who designed posters which will be made into lamppost signs in hotspot areas. Dogs and their owners form a huge part of the community and it is only the minority that cause the dog fouling issue. The event was reported by many to be the busiest and best dog shows Pudsey has seen.

## General Purposes Sub Group

10. At the Committee meeting in March 2015, Members were asked to consider creating a General Purposes Sub Group which would allow two main purposes:
  - To allow Members to have more time to oversee current and future delegated services
  - To allow Members to focus on key local priorities with the relevant service managers outside of Community Committee meetings.

11. Meetings of the General Purposes Sub group are arranged on request from the Community Committee.
12. The A General Purposes Sub Group was held on 23 August where members reviewed the commissioning process for YAF and suggested 2 commissioning rounds are held and any late applications to only be considered under exceptional circumstances. In the event that an application is received the Communities Team will consider the application and seek permission from the chair for the application to be circulated to members for approval by a delegated decision.
13. As part of the community committee constitution, there is a requirement that community committees have a community plan which outlines the committee's work programme and priorities for the year.
14. Please find attached at Appendix 1 the final version of this plan with the newly included key priorities for 2016/17, which were also put forward by members as recommendations at the General Purposes Meeting.

#### Business Employment & Skills Sub Group

15. The next meeting of the Outer West Business Employment & Skills Sub Group will be held on 12 October.
16. The Communities Team have supported the development of active business support groups to create a network across the Outer West called the LS128.
17. LS128 Business Support aims to encourage business growth in the Outer West area by keeping businesses informed of relevant support available to them either through the Leeds Enterprise Partnership, Leeds Universities, Government Apprenticeship Levy and many other initiatives. This group would like to discuss their achievements and with the support of the sub group consider how they take their initiative forward.

#### West Neighbourhood Improvement Board

18. At the last Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership meeting on 29th July members received an update on the new arrangements for the partnership working groups.
19. The working groups will be working on developing action plans to focus on each priority theme which have been identified as;
  - Employment & Income
  - Education, Skills & Training
  - Health & Wellbeing
  - Crime & Grime
20. The last working group meeting took place Tuesday 26th August and received feedback on the work of the partnership and some of the key successes since the last meeting.
21. It has been decided that there will be one working group for Employment and Income, Education Skills and Training and Health and Wellbeing. This working group will be led

by Bianca Vartic who is the Community Development Worker working in the Heights and Bawns and who's role is being funded by the Outer West Community Committee.

22. Due to there already being a support function through Tasking for Crime and Grime, it has been suggested that the Crime and Grime theme will be discussed at the Tasking meeting were a lot of partners already attend.

23. Bianca has already been involved in instigating a number of initiatives listed below

- i. A parenting course is being organised in Swallow Hill Community College, with a view of being replicated across all schools and academies close to the Heights and Bawns.
- ii. The Community Health Team have been promoting health & wellbeing information in the Bawns since the 9th of August, every Tuesday 1pm-3pm. This is through the deployment of the Leeds City Council mobile library bus. These sessions will be followed by 12 weekly sessions focusing on each priority theme mentioned at point 19.
- iii. 'Come Dine with Me' Cookery course have also being held at Whingate Primary School since Tuesday 13th September for a 6 week period.
- iv. Zumba Classes have started at the Swallow Hill Community College and more recently free Pilates sessions at the 24th Scout Hut West Leeds Headquarters every Thursday 10.30 to 11.30am
- v. Neighbourhood action are getting involved in a 'lunch with mums' session also at the Scout Hut
- vi. Ryecroft Chair Based Exercise is starting in September at Ryecroft Academy
- vii. A taster dance session is to be held at Hillside Hall on Tuesdays from 10 to 11am followed by a consultation and feedback session.
- viii. Going forward a 'music in the park' event is also being co-ordinated. This will be a in the form of a mini music festival in Farnley Park where local children and residents will be invited to perform.

24. The Action day on the Bawns saw a number of partners present including the Police, Communities Team, DVLA, LASBT, Waste & Recycling, Public Health, BARCA, tenants and residents. This brought lots of positive outcomes which include the progression of ASB cases, 40 Annual Home Visit and 4 non-compliant vehicles clamped by DVLA. On the day there was a community clean-up with skips provided for any unwanted items, litter picking, graffiti clearing and removal of weeds and a general tidy up of the area. It provided a perfect opportunity to engage with local residents and for residents to meet with key practitioners who work in the area.

25. The Wortley Housing office refurbishment works are now finished and will provide a key focal point in the community which will provide key opportunities for development in the area. The new look housing office will offer a base for the partnership and the working group meetings as well as a community space for residents.

26. Both forums receive an update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, who reported on a series of successful arrests and prosecutions in the area recently. Half of the properties targeted are through insecure doors or windows, and crime prevention advice is provided by the officers.
27. The meetings have had representation from the West North West Locality Team, Parks & Countryside, Highways, Transportation, Housing Leeds, Planning and Private Sector Housing Team.
28. At the last Pudsey & Swinnow meeting residents raised concerns about the changes to First Leeds bus services taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, in particular the X14, X15 and 14. Residents were unhappy with the changes which meant that the new service would add an approximate 15 minutes to the journey time. A First Group representative informed residents that they had received a number of requests to link Pudsey to Bramley to better serve the Victoria Gate Centre when it opened. The proposed changes to the X14 were to allow the service to go in to Bramley and Victor Lane but will add additional journey time during the rush hour period. During the morning rush hour First Group planned on keeping the busier X14 which would get people in to Leeds for 8am and were in the process of getting another faster bus in operation.
29. As a result of all the feedback from residents a special residents meeting was organised with First Group on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. This meeting allowed for a question and answer session giving residents the opportunity to review the service changes made on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. As a result of the feedback a further consultation event is being organised by First Group and Metro.

### Community Committees

30. The Community Committees have been in operation for a whole municipal year. The purpose of this style of working is to engage more with the community on topics that are of wide interest and accessible to all.
31. All themed meetings have allowed the Community Committee to work with a bottom-up approach by engaging with stakeholders to envision ways to strengthen the way in which citizens are involved in local decision making.
32. The Outer West Community Committee will be focusing their September Community Committee on 'Making Leeds the best place to grow old' which is one of the breakthrough projects. The decision was taken not to hold conversation dinners following feedback from councillors. This meeting will allow the committee to further develop the work they have already done on Social Isolation.
33. Following the success of the Big Lunch event in Pudsey last year the Communities Team in partnership with Housing Leeds has organised 4 very successful events in 4 Sheltered Scheme's in all 3 wards of the Outer West Area. The events aimed to get as many people as possible to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of

community, friendship and fun. The event allowed the residents to increase connections and meet old friends but also helped to counteract loneliness and social isolation. The feedback from residents has been very positive and many have asked that more of these events are organised in the future.

34. The committee is also looking to hold a Youth Summit in Oct/Nov 2017 and has instigated work with the youth offer team. The Youth Offer Team will be contacting schools from September to help inform next year's Youth Activities Fund spend and reporting back to the committee. They have been asked to prioritise Farnley and Wortley schools for consultation as the committee have earmarked £6k of YAF for the ward. The aim is to build relationships with the clusters in the areas and then involve them in the Youth Summit next year.

### Newsletter

35. The Communities Team produce newsletters at each round of Community committees as a means of communicating business to the public. At Appendix 2 is the latest OW newsletter.

### Social Media

36. The Communities Team have publicised a range of messages on the Outer West Social Media platforms around consultation, community events or improvements to an area, which have proven to be very popular. Currently the Outer West Community Committee Facebook page has a following of 646 people.

37. We would like to request members to share details and promote the networks to their constituents.

## **Corporate**

38. **a. Consultation and engagement** - Local priorities were set through the Area Business Plan process.
39. **b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration** - The Business Planning process takes into account equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues.
40. **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**

41. The work of the sub groups is essential in the delivery of the Community Committee priorities. This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group and Forum business and other project work undertaken by the Communities Team.

## **Recommendations**

- To note the report including the key outcomes from the sub groups.
- Approve the OW draft community plan and the recommended key priorities for 2016/17
- To share and promote the social networking platforms for the Outer West Community Committees

**Background information**

- **None**