



Report of the Head of Scrutiny Support and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure)

Date: 10 December 2007

Subject: Wharfemeadows Inquiry – Progress Update

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2007, the Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) received a request for scrutiny from the Wharfemeadows Action Group (WAG), relating to the proposed fencing arrangements within Wharfemeadows Park. Following a full presentation by WAG the Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake a Scrutiny Inquiry to examine the recent decisions of the Executive Board regarding Wharfemeadows, the grounds for those decisions and the advice submitted: Specific terms of reference for the Inquiry were agreed at the September 2007 Scrutiny Board meeting.
- 1.2 As part of the inquiry, the Board heard and took evidence from a range of witnesses, including WAG, the Council's Legal Department, a representative from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), the Council's Safety, Well-being and Attendance Manager and the Principal Area Manager (West). The Board has also undertaken a site visit and considered a written statement from Otley Town Council. Arrangements are in place for the Chair to have a face-to-face discussion with the Chair of Otley Town Council to discuss any specific issues in more detail.
- 1.3 At the previous Board meeting (12 November 2007), Members requested that a draft report be prepared for consideration: In this regard, the Chair will outline progress to date and the proposed next steps at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Board notes and comments on the information presented and the proposed next steps.