



**North West Inner Area Committee
Students and the Community Group
7th December 2007, 11.00am, Civic Hall**

Present:

Cllr James Monaghan (Chair)
Richard Brown, Leeds City Council
Sue Buckle, South Headingley Residents' Association
Jami Dixon, Leeds University Union
Mark Everson, Leeds City Council
Max Farrar, Leeds Metropolitan University
Aidan Grills, Leeds University Students' Union
Bill Howe, Leeds Metropolitan Students' Union
Amanda Jackson, University of Leeds
Jacqueline McNee, Leeds Metropolitan Students' Union
Andy Milnes, Leeds City Council
Carole Munsey, West Yorkshire Police
Barrie Payne, HMO Lobby
Paul Sanderson, Leeds City Council
Peter Warneford, Leeds City Council
Anne-Marie Watkinson, UNIPOL
Joe Yusuf, Leeds University Union

Apologies:

Richard Coldwell, West Yorkshire Police
Cllr Penny Ewens
Sara Gill, Leeds University Students' Union
David Gomersall, Leeds City Council
Rachel Harkness, Headingley Network
Stewart Lewis, Leeds City Council
Cllr Elizabeth Minkin
Richard Norton, Headingley Development Trust
Rachel Ryan, South Headingley Residents Association
Paul Stephenson, Headingley Pubwatch
Richard Tyler, HMO Lobby

Action**1.0 Welcome and Introductions****2.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record

3.0 Name of group and terms of reference

3.1 **The name ‘Students and the Community Group’ was proposed and agreed. The group will take forward issues formerly addressed by the Changeover and Freshers Groups, as well as looking at other matters year-round** (key message).

3.2 The draft terms of reference circulated to the group were agreed.

4.0 **Noise Nuisance – The ‘Out of Hours’ service**

4.1 **Mark Everson made a short presentation on the operation of the out of hours service (key message)**, including the following key points:

- The out of hours service has grown from a pilot that commenced in 2001.
- Calls are taken by volunteers at Cross Green and referred onto Environmental Health Officers for investigation.
- The service is funded by Neighbourhood Renewal funding and this requires the service to prioritise work in deprived communities.
- The service does receive a significant number of calls from complainants in the inner north west area of Leeds and these are usually visited by Environmental Health Officers even though some of the areas are not considered to be comparatively deprived.
- The Neighbourhood Renewal funding will expire in 2008 and a review of the service is currently looking at funding options going forward.
- The managers of the service and Environmental Health Officers are aware of the complex issues that come with large students parties which can occur in the inner north west area.

4.2 Discussion and questions followed the presentation, including the following key issues:

- It was queried how the service in Leeds compared with other authorities. It was confirmed that the service compared well with other parts of West Yorkshire, but that it did not offer the same 24/7 service as some London Boroughs.
- The approach taken by Environmental Health Officers when investigating a complaint is to first go to the complainant and make an assessment of the noise nuisance. If it is deemed to be problematic then the officers will approach the source of the noise, accompanied by the police if necessary. An informal request to the perpetrator is usually made before a formal notice being issued.
- Communication between the out of hours service and the universities’ ‘Neighbourhood Helpline’ was discussed. It was considered that the relationship between the two services could be developed further.
- Reconciliation between the perpetrator and complainant was considered to be an important but sometimes overlooked follow up to a noise nuisance complaint. It was considered that meetings between the two parties would be

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Jackson &
Mark Everson

beneficial to student-resident relations. Whilst it was acknowledged that such meetings did occasionally occur, it was considered that more could be done to compel such meetings to take place.

5.0 Student Changeover – Advanced Preparations

5.1 Meetings between Area Management and Streetscene to plan for the student changeover period have commenced (key message). Ideas were suggested from the group on managing the significant volume of waste (approximately 400 additional tons) that is generated from mid June to mid July.

5.2 Issues and suggestions included:

- Students are sometimes instructed to clear houses by their landlords and feel obliged to do so in order to have their deposits returned.
- Charities are unable to handle the volume of reusable items that are disposed of. It would be beneficial for storage to be identified so that items can be retained until charities or returning students can collect or purchase items. The universities and local community facilities were suggested.
- The use of caged skips was proposed in order to deter bag splitters seeking reusable items
- Leeds University Union Green Streets project aims to collect reusable items, but has limits to funding and storage capacity.
- There is the potential for university owned vehicles to assist in the project.
- It was commented that the concessions made to accredited landlords disposing of commercial waste during the period could be extended.
- Communications to students need to be commenced in the new year to reinforce messages regarding the responsible disposal of waste.

It was noted that many of the suggestions for handling the volume of waste had resource implications and that a bid could be made to Executive Board.

There were also suggestions made that require further consideration by partner organisations, particularly the universities. These partners were encouraged to consider their capacity to facilitate these suggestions. All

6.0 Key Messages

6.1 Items 3.1, 4.1 and 5.1 were agreed as key messages to Area Committee

7.0 Time and date of next meeting - Tuesday 5th February 2008, 2.30 pm, Leeds University Union, LS1 1UH