



**North West Inner Area Committee
Students and the Community Group
5th February 2008, 2.30 pm, Leeds University Union**

Present:

Cllr James Monaghan (Chair)
Richard Brown, Leeds City Council
Helen Bowker, Leeds City Council
Zahid Butt, Leeds City Council
Sarah Downie, Leeds Metropolitan Students' Union
Cllr Penny Ewens
Sara Gill, Leeds University Students' Union
Sue Holmes, Leeds Met University
Amanda Jackson, University of Leeds
Stewart Lewis, Leeds City Council
Jacqueline McNee, Leeds Metropolitan Students' Union
Andy Milnes, Leeds City Council
Carole Munsey, West Yorkshire Police
Sarah Powell, Pickard Properties
Colin Ross, Pickard Properties
Peter Warneford, Leeds City Council
Anne-Marie Watkinson, UNIPOL
Joe Yusuf, Leeds University Union

Apologies:

Cllr Sue Bentley
Cllr Elizabeth Minkin
Sue Buckle, South Headingley Residents' Association
Jami Dixon, Leeds University Union
Max Farrar, Leeds Metropolitan University
Aidan Grills, Leeds University Students' Union
David Gomersall, Leeds City Council
Rachel Harkness, Headingley Network
Richard Tyler, HMO Lobby

Action**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Councillor Monaghan welcomed representatives to the meeting.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

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

2.2 Regarding minute 4.2, a meeting had taken place co-ordinators of the universities' Neighbourhood Helpline and the council's 'out of hours' noise service. The meeting was constructive and the

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university will offer mediation in cases reported to the council that involve students. There was also discussion on developing opportunities for the services to advertise one another. Since the meeting referrals between the services has commenced.

3.0 Report on the operation of the Neighbourhood Helpline

3.1 A report summarising the operation of the Helpline from August 2006 – July 2007 was circulated to the meeting.

3.2 Amanda Jackson presented the key points within the report, highlighting that:

- Leeds Metropolitan University had joined the Helpline mid way through the period covered by the report, which resulted in their under representation in some of the data.
- There had been a 24% increase in the number of complaints within the Hyde Park and Woodhouse ward.
- There had been no complaints from the Kirkstall ward.
- Peaks in complaints were observed at the start of semesters and when students change accommodation.
- Ideas for developing the service from partner organisations and local residents are welcomed by the Helpline.
- Business cards promoting the service are available from Amanda.

4.0 Student Changeover Update

4.1 Each organisation was requested to give a brief update on progress with regards to their planning for the 2008 student accommodation changeover.

4.2 Leeds City Council's NW Area Management Team:

- Meetings had taken place between Streetscene Services and Area Management. These meetings considered additional resources and innovative ideas for handling the peak in waste.
- **The use of skips to deal with the overflow of waste during the student changeover period was considered and work is being undertaken to establish costs.** It was noted that regular collections would be required and that the skips may need to be lockable in order to prevent bag slashers.
- **Communications with students and landlords are to be stepped up, as activities and events are confirmed. A short story has already been submitted to appear in the council's newspaper.**

Key Message

Key Message

4.3 Streetscene Services:

- **Waste collection days will remain unchanged during the student changeover period, however increased levels of staff and waste vehicles will be in operation. The aim will be to totally clear each area on the usual collection day.**

Key Message

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- The possibility of sorting all waste cleared during the changeover period, allowing enhanced levels of recycling, is currently being considered.
- The amnesty for accredited landlords disposing of certain types of commercial waste will be repeated.
- Storage space for reusable items can be made available at the Kirkstall waste site.
- The use of skips in hotspots looks likely, however innovative ideas on preventing looters and commercial dumping in these facilities are required. Banners on the skips will be required to promote their purpose.

4.4 Leeds University Union (including the Green Streets project):

- The Leave Leeds Tidy website is still operating, but needs updating with information for 2008.
- The issue of personal and confidential information being disposed of by students could be highlighted using the Knowledge website.
- 'Moving out talks' will be held in the university halls of residence.
- Green Streets will operate for a 5 week period. For the first two weeks halls of residence will be targeted, before the project moves to other residential areas, distributing and collecting green bags for students to place reusable items in.
- Areas where Green Streets requires support are in the distribution of bags and information on the scheme, as well as provision of space within a venue that is close to the student areas, so that items can be stored and sorted.
- It was commented that electrical items collected by Green Streets required PAT testing before they can be redistributed and it was suggested that the council might be able to assist in this matter.
- The possibility of a Green Streets shop within the community was discussed, although a venue for this has would need to be found. Area Management will look at options for providing space within community centres.

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4.5 Pickard Properties:

- Accommodation managed by this estate agent has staggered dates for changeover of tenants.
- From April tenants will be sent comprehensive information on the correct procedure for vacating properties. This will include information on waste collection days and other council services that are available.
- It was commented that the waste site amnesty for accredited landlords was not advertised widely in 2007.

4.6 UNIPOL:

- Meetings have been taking place between UNIPOL and the universities.
- Communication with landlords was considered to be a key area where UNIPOL can support the changeover project.

- 4.7 Leeds Metropolitan University Union:
- The annual Bargain Hunt event will be held in May. At the event participants will be targeted with information on recycling.
 - The collection of glass by the milk float will be operating over the changeover period.
- 4.8 Environmental Health;
- Efforts will be made to provide information to landlords, particularly those who are members of the accreditation scheme.
 - It was noted that the team is currently undergoing a restructure and as such the manager for the NW area at the time of the 2008 changeover period is currently unknown.
- 4.9 University of Leeds:
- The university's environmental working group, which has the responsibility for overseeing the initiatives relevant to the environment, will be considering activities to support the changeover project.
 - A community guide will be produced, including information on moving house. This guide will be brought to a forthcoming meeting of the students and the community group.
- 4.10 Leeds Metropolitan University:
- The student centred change team will be looking at relevant issues.
 - David Collett will continue to work on issues relevant to university owned accommodation.
 - It was queried if the proceeds from the 'great student run' will be made available as a contribution toward community projects such as this, as had been discussed previously.
- 4.11 Throughout and following the updates from partner organisations, the following points were also raised:
- When temporary skips were trialled in 2006, there were a number of problems with the operation of these. In particular some commercial waste was dumped in the council skips and some student waste was disposed of in commercial skips.
 - It was noted that in the 2006 pilot, weekends were particularly problematic, as the skips were not cleared over the weekends.
 - Temporary recycling facilities were suggested as another measure that could ease pressure on the existing bin provision.
 - It was noted that in addition to the Green Streets project, other organisation such as Freecycle and Freebay could also be utilised by students.

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- It was commented that there was an opportunity for a social enterprise to set up a project to sell on reusable items.
- It was queried if it will be possible to attribute the success from efforts made to promote recycling to the relevant organisation who had undertaken the work. This could help organisations to provide statistical information on recycling performance to the government.
- **It was agreed that the Leave Leeds Tidy brand, developed in 2007 by Leeds University Union, would continue to be the prevalent brand for the changeover campaign.**

Key Message

5.0 Any Other Business

- 5.1 It was queried if the neighbourhood wardens were able to cover the Hyde Park area, or if they were ring fenced to Little London. It was explained that the neighbourhood renewal funding for the wardens was linked to the deprivation statistics in Little London. However, on an operational basis there has been occasions when the wardens have undertaken work across Hyde Park. It was anticipated that this would apply during the changeover period.

6.0 Time and date of next meeting

- 6.1 20th March 2008, 2-4pm, Civic Hall