



Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 14th April 2008

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley & Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities
Women
Disabled people
Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, some of which are dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Management Team are engaged, and that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

2.0 Participatory Budgeting

- 2.1 The Participatory Budgeting (PB) Steering Group met for a third time on Friday 7th March. Updates were received on the South and West pilots.
- 2.2 The Priority Neighbourhood Development worker ran two identical training sessions at different locations and different times to attract a mix of residents. These two training events were held on the Tuesday 26th and Friday 29th February. One in the evening at Drighlington Rugby Club and one in the day at Drighlington Meeting Hall. These training events explained the PB concept and the role of residents within the pilot scheme.

- 2.3 Consultation was carried out to identify project ideas at both training sessions but residents were also invited to complete a 'Consultation Card' and return to Area Management or leave at Drighlington library. Almost thirty cards were completed and over sixty residents attended the training events.
- 2.4 Based on the ideas collated from the consultation, residents and community groups have received funding application forms to complete. Project ideas that require agency support to develop and deliver are also being pursued. The criteria states that public sector agencies applying for funding must have the support and involvement of residents.
- 2.5 Two more capacity building events are planned in April to explain how to complete the application form, tips on good presentation skills and raise awareness to residents of other funding streams and the role of council departments and other agencies to assist them in developing their community.

3.0 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme

- 3.1 As reported recently the major part of the Marsh Street works regarding the resurfacing and layout of the car park have been completed. A final project cost has been agreed with Mouchel Parkman and the Programme Board have considered a scheme for the environmental works which has been developed by Parks & Countryside.
- 3.2 Work is still progressing on the planning for the regeneration of Morley Bottoms. The results of the traffic survey are being developed. The advertising hoarding site has been secured, which will see the construction of the lay-by start on site in April. Meanwhile, officers continue to pursue Section 215 notices on several properties.

4.0 Recreate

- 4.1 The Area Committee funded Groundwork project, Recreate, has been operating across the Outer South during 2007/08. The project aims to educate young people on recycling, litter and waste management. In line with the conditions of funding, the project officers have submitted a final report on the impact of the project which is attached as **Appendix 1** for information.

5.0 Operation Champion

- 5.1 The Crime and Grime initiative 'Operation Champion' was carried out on 27th February 2008 in the Wood Lane Estate, Rothwell.
- 5.2 The operation targets Crime and Grime and is a chance for agencies like West Yorkshire Police, Aire Valley Homes, City Services, Probation, West Yorkshire Fire Service, Youth Service, DVLA and Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to work within a neighbourhood and jointly target their services and support.
- 5.3 Door knocking was carried out across the Wood Lane Estate targeting about 580 properties to promote initiatives in the area such as Victim Support and Neighbourhood Watch and free services available to residents including; fire safety checks and free energy saving light bulbs. The main aim of the Neighbourhood Policing Team was to increase the reporting of crime.

5.4 The following is a summary of the outcomes:

- 116 energy saving light bulbs distributed.
- Rothwell Neighbourhood Policing Team executed two drugs search warrants, 2 arrests for possession with intent to supply and one charged. Four others arrests for out standing warrants.
- 200 Crime prevention leaflets regarding crimestoppers distributed.
- Four children stopped during Truancy Sweep and one child returned to school.
- Probation Service spent 4 hours completing environmental improvements
- HMRC tested 27 vehicles for red diesel but none were detected.

5.5 The next Operation Champion in Outer South is planned for October 2008, with a planning meeting due on the Thursday 18th September.

6.0 Area Delivery Plan (ADP)

6.1 Thematic sub-partnership/Area Committee responsibilities and Elected Member links.

At its February meeting, the Committee supported the principle, as part of future area based partnership working, of nominating Elected Members with an interest and the availability to act as champions for the specific LSP and ADP themes dealt with by the thematic sub-partnerships. It is also suggested that the same Elected Members could also be the champion for the Area Committee function/responsibility which is associated most closely with the relevant thematic sub-partnership and ADP thematic priority.

Attached in **Appendix 2** is an initial suggested schedule of the thematic sub-Partnerships aligned to dates of Area Committee meetings in 08/09 before which such partnerships would host a public engagement event. The attached table also has a column showing which Area Committee functions/responsibilities fit with the relevant thematic sub-partnership and relevant LSP/ADP theme.

6.2 This Area Committee is requested:

- to agree in principle (pending discussions with the relevant lead agency and partners) the order in which each of the thematic sub-partnerships would host a pre-Area Committee meeting public engagement events.
- to provisionally nominate for 2008/09 an Elected Member who would be willing to act as a champion/key link on behalf of this Area Committee for at least one of the various thematic priorities/sub-partnerships and the associated Area Committee responsibilities.
- To note that the nominations would be provisional subject to ratification and approval through normal council procedures and as such will be confirmed at the first Area Committee meeting of the new municipal 2008/09 year.

6.3 Community Engagement

At its February meeting, the Area Committee supported the proposal to deliver two specific community events per ward per year. Attached in **Appendix 3** is an initial proposed schedule of such events which will be offered in the area for the forthcoming year. To assist in developing the schedule, suggestions from Ward members are welcomed for:

- any existing events in each Ward that the Area Committees' own Community Engagement event could link up with should Ward Members wish this,
- any venues and/or areas of a Ward that the events could be held in and focus on,
- any suggestions of particular local community groups the events could be run in association with.

Following suggestions from Elected Members at this meeting the Area Management Team will then begin planning with relevant local organisations, agencies, council services and publicise the schedule in advance to local groups and residents.

7.0 Morley Literature Festival

7.1 The Organising Committee met on the 17th March and agreed the 2008 Festival dates as Monday 13th to the Sunday 19th October. This is before the school half term break and coincides with the end of the Ilkley Literature Festival, providing an opportunity to share headline acts whilst they are in the region. The Festival Director is currently identifying a draft programme of events that will offer a range of activities for all ages.

7.2 At the February Area Committee agreed to continue to support the festival and allocated £15,000 from the Well being budget towards supporting the 2008 festival. Match funding is now being sought through sponsorship from the private sector and bids to Yorkshire Arts and other community funding sources.

7.3 The Friends of Morley Literature Festival continue to develop well. A Management Committee are now in place and are in the process of considering a constitution to adopt and open a bank account. The Organising Committee agreed that the Friends would play a key role in supporting some of the 2008 Festival events including the Literary Luncheon.

8.0 Rothwell 600

8.1 Rothwell 600 organising committee continues to flourish. The group meets monthly to provide updates on all aspects of the work. These meetings invariably attract over 20 organisers and representatives.

8.2 Sponsors are being sought to provide lamp column banners around the town. Currently six have been secured and more are being sought. The banners should be installed by the end of this month.

8.3 Rothwell 600 has a finance sub-group which meets monthly to consider applications for funding support. In March it approved four applications:

- Holy Trinity Church: Rothwell 600 Civic Service
- Rothwell Temperance Band: Double Celebration Concert

- Woodlesford in Bloom: Woodlesford Green Project
- Rothwell and District Historical Society: The Charter

8.4 Forthcoming events appearing under the Rothwell 600 banner have been compiled. Starting in February they are: Marking of the Royal Charter on 24th. The appointment of junior civic attendants and launch of the Rothwell Art Exhibition running from 18th February to 2nd March 2008

8.5 March activities included a Local History Event at Rothwell Library on 8 March 2008 and an Easter Sunday Egg Hunt.

8.6 Forthcoming events scheduled for the next three months include:

- April: Music Festival (10th 11th 12th and winners concert 19th), Rothwell in Bloom judging, Robin Hood School Fashion Show (25th)
- May: Street market and May Day celebrations / Methodist May Day Church, (5th), Robin Hood School Race Night, (9th) Music Festival – 600 years of music (10th), Footpath Group walk (17th).
- June: John O' Gaunts Community Day, Possible 'it's a knock' organised with schools, orienteering events in Rothwell Park, Rothwell 600 Triathlon for Rothwell (16th of June), Service to present Charter to Rothwell (22nd)

9.0 Town Centre Summits

9.1 The 2008 Summits were held in Rothwell on Friday February 29th and in Morley on Thursday March 6th. Individual invitations were sent to Councillors, town centre businesses and relevant organisations and council departments, members of the public interested in attending were notified via the local press.

9.2 Points raised during these discussions will be presented to the next area committee. In addition, to the Big Ideas there will be Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis by the Town Centre Manager as to how these can best be incorporated with ideas already progressing within the towns.

9.3 Rothwell

9.3.1 The Rothwell event was chaired by South Leeds Area Manager, Dave Richmond, and the panel comprised of Cllr Stewart Golton - Rothwell Councillor and Town Centre Management Board Chair; Frank Britton – Rothwell business owner; Brian Nicholson - Redcar Economic Development Officer; Peter Mudge – Town Centre Manager – Morley and Rothwell.

9.3.2 Brian Nicholson spoke about the advantages and effects major superstore development has had on his town centre and lessons which can be learnt for Rothwell. A question and answer session followed.

9.3.3 Questions were raised on other ideas for the town centre and discussed. These focused on:

- 1) More should be done to ensure the attractiveness of the town using its history.
- 2) A traffic/transport study should be undertaken in the town centre to include pedestrians and cyclists.
- 3) Traders should be encouraged to play a greater role in improving the attractiveness of the town centre.
- 4) The town should maintain activity to attract visitors and benefit the community following on from Rothwell 600.

5) More should be done to improve on the attractiveness of local amenities.

9.4 **Morley**

9.4.1 In Morley the event was chaired by South Leeds Area Manager, Dave Richmond, and the panel comprised of: Cllr Robert Finnigan – Morley North Councillor; Keith Robinson – Morley Chamber of Trade President; Stephen Battye - Redbrick Mill owner and Batley entrepreneur; Michael Laing - Morley businessman and Pubwatch chair; Peter Mudge – Town Centre Manager – Morley and Rothwell.

9.4.2 From their own perspectives Stephen Battye and Micky Laing explained the advantages and need to develop the hospitality sector in Morley town centre. Questions were then raised and discussed.

9.4.3 After the interval, other ideas for the town centre were raised by the audience and discussed:

- 1) Ways should be found to stop charity shops dominating the main street
- 2) Morley should develop a new environment for the pub and hospitality sector
- 3) More should be done to promote public transport to and around Morley
- 4) Morley town centre should actively address climate change issues

9.5 The results from the Morley and Rothwell Summits will be considered by Town Centre Management Board for inclusion in future action plans.

10.0 **Churwell CCTV**

10.1 Members received a report (**Appendix 4**) at the last Area Committee on from Parks and Countryside requesting £5,378 capital funding towards Churwell CCTV.

10.2 Churwell Park is located in the heart of Churwell. Over the last few years the Action Group, in partnership with the Ward Members and Parks and Countryside, have undertaken a series of improvement works which have helped enormously in improving the park and providing local residents with new facilities. Despite the efforts of everyone involved, a small minority of people are persistent in damaging various items such as the bowling green, the pavilion, the mosaic, along with much of the vegetation, shrubberies and annual bedding display which help brighten the park, as well as providing habitat for wildlife. Churwell Action Group, wish to pursue the possibility of erecting CCTV cameras within the park to try and deter further acts of destruction.

10.3 This proposal supports the Area Committee theme of 'Safer Neighbourhoods' and the objective to consider CCTV in priority areas.

10.4 A decision was deferred at the last Area Committee to enable Leeds Watch and the West Yorkshire Police to provide further information, to members on the effectiveness of CCTV as a deterrent but also as a tool for prosecution.

11.0 **Recommendations**

11.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the above information and make comment as appropriate.

- 11.2 To agree in principle the order in which each of the thematic sub-partnerships would host a pre-Area Committee meeting public engagement events and to nominate Members to Thematic sub-partnerships at Appendix 2 as outlined in 6.3
- 11.3 Agree the schedule for community engagement at Appendix 3
- 11.4 Consider the proposals for CCTV at Churwell Park.