

**Report of:** Head of Locality Partnerships

**Report to:** Inner West Community Committee  
[Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Kirkstall]

**Report author:** Karen McManus 0113 5350727

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 **To note/discuss**

### **Inner West Community Committee - Update Report**

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#### **Purpose of report**

1. To bring to members' attention an update of the work which the Communities Team is engaged in, based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. It also provides opportunities for further questioning, or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.
2. This report provides regular updates on some of the key activities between Community Committee meetings and functions delegated to Community Committees, Community Champions roles, community engagement, partnership and locality working.
3. To make nominations to each of the Inner West Community Committee Sub Groups for (2021/22).
4. To make nominations for Chairs of the Armley & Bramley Community Forums for (2021/22).

#### **Main issues**

#### **Sub Group Nominations**

5. Members will have considered Appointments to Outside Bodies and Community Champions elsewhere on the Community Committee agenda. Members are now asked to make nominations to each of the Inner West Community Committee Sub Groups for 2021/22. The 2020/21 representatives are shown below:

Sub Group	Number of places	Current appointees	Community Committee Champion
<b>Children &amp; Young People</b>	3	Cllr Hannah Bithell & Cllr Caroline Gruen - Chair	Cllr Bithell & Cllr Gruen
<b>Environment</b>	3	Cllr John Illingworth & Cllr Alice Smart	Cllr Illingworth & Cllr Smart

6. Members will have considered Appointments to Outside Bodies and Community Champions elsewhere on the Community Committee agenda. Members are now asked to make nominations for Chairs to each of the Inner West Community Forums for 2021/22. The 2020/21 representatives are shown below:

Forum	Number of places	Current appointees
<b>Armley</b>	1	Cllr Jim McKenna
<b>Bramley &amp; Stanningley</b>	1	Cllr Caroline Gruen

Updates by theme:

**Children and Young People: Champions Cllr H Bithell & Cllr C Gruen**

7. The Inner West Children and Young People Sub Group took place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 via Zoom.
8. Colleagues from Public health were in attendance to discuss Covid-19 infection rates amongst young people and how this has effected the local community.
9. The Principle of Dixons Academy and Leeds West Academy updated the Sub Group on how schools had managed returning to school and how they were adhering to Government Guidelines and the challenges they faced.
10. Elected Members passed on their thanks to all the services for their hard work and creativity during the pandemic to keep children and young people safe and as active as possible.
11. The next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September @ 10am, details to follow.

**Inner West Youth Summit**

12. Due to the extensive impact of Covid-19, and the January closure of schools as a result, the children and young people of Inner West were consulted on future youth funding for the 2021/22 year via an online survey.

13. Promotion of the survey has been publicised far and wide across the Inner West Community Committee area, with information being posted on the Community Committee Facebook page and local residents Facebook pages, publicity being sent out to schools & cluster contacts, youth groups and any other organisations that are funded, or work with young people in the Community Committee area, as well as being circulated to local Councillors and the committee mailing list.
14. In summary, the 3 most popular activities selected by children and young people of Inner West were Outdoor Adventures, Cooking, and Sport, with activities most wanted in the local area, after school, and during school holidays.
15. A separate IWCC YAF Consultation Report, along with **Appendix 1 & Appendix 2** YAF Infographic have been produced to provide the committee with further details on the approach, consultation, and results of the Inner West Youth Survey.

### **Breeze – Update from Jason Tabor**

#### **The Vision:**

16. The vision for Breeze Membership is to give all children and young people in Leeds access to a wide range of rich and diverse cultural and sporting activities through a range of free, discounted and VIP access to services, to make Leeds the best city for young people to grow up in.

#### **The Aims:**

17. Providing opportunity for all children and young people to access quality provision by working with cultural, sporting and commercial leisure sectors in Leeds to offer discounted or free access to services and activities with a Breeze Leeds membership.
18. Removing barriers for those most vulnerable and in need, to ensure all young people can access Breeze membership benefits in an inclusive and equitable way.
19. Offering engaging, accessible and easy to use communication channels with information about membership benefits, discounts, Breeze events as well as other services from partners across the city.
20. Ensuring young people are consulted with and at the heart of what we do, offering them the opportunity to shape and develop the cultural and sporting offer in Leeds.

#### **The Strategy:**

21. To introduce a paid annual membership to Breeze, to add value and credibility to the scheme.

22. To offer a free membership to children on free school meals.
23. Re-brand the membership to position it as a new product but maintain links with the quality recognition of the events and services provided by Breeze.
24. To engage with council services and the commercial sector to secure discounts (annual and seasonal) or exclusive VIP offers (early bird ticketing, VIP packages) in areas of:
  - Family and young people leisure venues
  - Visitor attractions and museums
  - Leisure centres and sporting facilities
  - Cinemas and theatres
  - Play Centres
  - Holiday events and activities
  - Sporting events (Leeds United and Leeds Rhinos)
  - Concerts and festivals
  - Shops
  - Food venues
25. Redevelop the website to support the new brand and its offer and sign up, to ensure it is engaging and attractive to the target audience.
26. Develop an app to support the membership along with push notifications of new offers and promotions.
27. Devise a successful 'launch' marketing campaign through schools, digital platforms and through cultural and sporting venues.
28. Develop a full communication strategy to continually support the services provided by the membership to be focused on social media and digital communications.
29. To establish a young people's project team to be able to continually consult and support development of Breeze and all its services.
30. For an extensive overview of the upcoming changes to the Breeze offering, including consultation taken, outcomes, and plans moving forward, please see **Appendix 2** – Breeze Pass Perks Partners document included within the reports pack.

**Environment: Champions Cllr J Illingworth & Cllr A Smart – Update from Chris Chamberlain**

**Covid-19 Update**

31. All Clinically Extremely Vulnerable members of staff have returned to work. Since the last report in March 2021, West CNT have had 1 member of staff who has tested positive for COVID and 14 cases of self-isolation. No staff are currently self-isolating.
32. West CNT is still operating on reduced hours. The reason for this is mainly due to the depot situation at Henshaw where the facilities are shared between Highways operational staff and refuse. There has been a lot of work in partnership with the other departments as well as Trade Unions and H&S to ensure that the very limited facilities are COVID safe. This does mean limiting the number of staff in and around the depot at pinch points of the day such as start / end of the day and lunch times. With this, West CNT are currently operating a staggered shifts and lunch times which allows staff to maintain social distancing. We have sought additional welfare facilities for staff and we should be back to full time hours within the next couple of weeks if all goes to plan.

### **General Staffing**

33. The Inner West area currently has 4 allocated Environmental Action Officers. Angela Anderson who is the EAO for the Kirkstall area is sadly leaving at the end of July after approx. 2 years with us. Cover will be provided and a decision on permanently replacing Angela will be made shortly.
34. The vacancies within the Inner West for street cleansing (Assistant Charge hand and street king sweeper driver within the Armley area) have now been released and are currently being recruited with the process at the shortlisting stage, with interviews hoping to be held within the next 2-3 weeks.
35. Staffing resources are currently being prioritised and utilised around the student area due to the changeover which started a couple of weeks ago. Additional resource is being brought in for this as well as support from the East, South and City teams to help with removing the large volumes of waste due to the students leaving their rented properties.

### **Enforcement**

36. Due to the Lockdown measures not being fully relaxed we have asked that Enforcement Officers still keep face to face visits and on site meetings to a minimum. This is still in accordance with advice from Environmental Health services who are coordinating the COVID enforcement work. Any visits have been completed within the social distancing guidelines and contact minimalised. This has caused a slight delay in getting some issues resolved as contact has had to be made with perpetrators either on the phone or by post. All work is being dealt with now.
37. The interview room is now operational and several perpetrators have been interviewed and investigations are still ongoing. Several prosecutions are now also pending for several difference offences.

38. Environmental Action Officers are still working remotely from home but are visiting the office regularly and are in contact with each other and the Team Leaders.
39. Overall, cases are still delayed and are being referred to the nearest available Magistrates within the Yorkshire and Humber region. This is still having an impact on attendance and we have seen a rise in warrants being issued for failure to attend.
40. EAOs should be providing updates on specific cases where Ward Members are involved, please let me know if there are any cases where this is not the case.
41. The PSPO enforcement is still on hold for the moment to prioritise other enforcement work.
42. Over the last few months there has been some good work done around the clearance of bins yards with several being cleared and secured. This work is ongoing and EAOs are working alongside private owners, residents and LCC housing colleagues to get positive results.

### **Community Work**

43. CNT continue to support the fantastic work being completed by the large number of volunteers within the community. Litter Free Leeds continues to grow and designated 'bag holders' have been appointed which helps with the distribution of the purple bags after the large number that was used within a very small period of time. This has seen bags being used more appropriately and controlled.
44. The weekend of 3rd and 4th of July sees a Citywide event named 'Leeds Goes Purple' where Litter Free Leeds groups will be showing their support by carrying out local litter picks and leaving the bags out over the weekend to promote the brilliant work they do. CNT will be supporting this by taking photos of filled vehicles and piles of purple bags when collecting on Monday 5th July.
45. Litter pickers and other equipment has been delivered to ward members to support the local volunteer groups which is greatly appreciated.
46. Support is still being given to other volunteer groups across INW such as the Bramley Wombles, New Wortley Urban Task Force.
47. On the 9th June an action day was completed around New Wortley in partnership with New Wortley Community Centre's Women's group, the Urban Task Force, West Yorkshire Police, Active Leeds and other internal partners. Numbers of participants were limited due to the COVID restrictions and all activity was completed under social distancing. Works were completed on the day on 'Jaily Field' which including some litter picking and cutting work was completed around 'gassy Field'. West Yorkshire Police also did some door knocking in the area and offered some crime prevention advice.

## **Service Changes:**

48. From the 5th July, some changes to the CNT management arrangements will take effect with West. These are the changes Jason Singh referred to in his email in early June. The changes come about following our service review in February 2021. There has been a number of changes which reflect a reduction in numbers of management level posts. These reductions have been necessary to effectively manage and deliver financial savings across environmental services as part of the 2021/ 2022 budget. There will be no changes to operational staff and EAOs. The key changes are:
49. Stacey Rockcliffe now leads the CNT and has managerial responsibility for citywide CNT activities: Stacey can be contacted on: [stacey.rockcliffe@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:stacey.rockcliffe@leeds.gov.uk) tel: 07562 439 539
50. Victoria Whalley is now the West Area Manager which is a post created through the service review. This provides an area-wide focus for East, West and South and these posts will be key in coordinating work between services and providing local accountability to community committees and elected members. Victoria can be contacted on: [victoria.whalley@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.whalley@leeds.gov.uk) tel: 07891 279 600.
51. Diane Otley will be the Inner West Team Leader covering Bramley / Stanningley, Kirkstall and Armley. Diane will be taking over the operational responsibility for street cleansing and enforcement from myself. The current zone 14 Ward Members will already know Diane who has been covering Bramley / Stanningley and Kirkstall since January. Diane can be contacted on: [diane.otley@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:diane.otley@leeds.gov.uk) tel: 07891 273717.
52. As you will see I will no longer be involved with the Inner West from the 5th July and I will be completing a full handover with Diane. I will be moving to Headingley, Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse on a temporary basis to provide Area Manager / Team Leader cover until a suitable candidate is recruited. I will continue to support Victoria in the west until my proposed new role, which will be to manage a specific team to investigate and deal with fly tipping citywide is fully confirmed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Ward Members for the support over the last few years and to say I have really enjoyed my time in Inner West.

## **Community Safety: Champion Cllr K Ritchie – update from Scott Lobsiger**

### **Armley**

53. Armley total number of open cases: 34
54. Top categories:
- Threats/Actual violence: 7
  - Noise: 6
  - Hate crime: 6

Of the 6 hate crime cases currently open with LASBT, 4 are race related and 2 are sexual orientation related.

### **Bramley & Stanningley**

55. Bramley total cases: 26

56. Top categories:

Threats/Actual violence: 9

Rowdy behaviour: 4

Hate Crime: 2

Of the 2 hate crime cases currently open with LASBT, 1 is race related and the other is sexual orientation related.

### **Kirkstall**

57. Kirkstall total Cases : 24

Top Categories:

Noise: 5

Threats/Actual Violence: 4

Hate Crime: 4

Of the 4 hate crime, 3 are race related and the fourth is unspecified.

### **Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Champion Cllr L Cunningham & Cllr F Venner, Update from Jon Hindley**

58. Due to a high number of requests in the area especially concerning on line problem gambling in young people a series of WLTKM sessions have been arranged which can be accessed virtually. These sessions are run by LCC Public Health Resource Centre. A list of examples of the requested sessions are listed below;

- Gambling, Gaming and Young People.
- Post Covid-19 Syndrome.
- Frailty
- Child Accident Prevention

59. For full details, times and dates please follow this link;

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/phrc/public-health-training/want-to-know-more-sessions>

### **Key Messages: Covid-19 Information-General Briefing**

60. As Leeds moves towards the cessation of government lockdown regulations in a steady and staged manner it is still important that local residents adhere to government advice



and regulations. Infection rates are thankfully decreasing in Leeds where previously infection rates within wards have been dynamic.

Please continue to follow the advice below.

What you can and cannot do during the national lockdown.

61. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#summary-what-you-can-and-cannot-do-during-the-national-lockdown>

Vaccinations in Leeds.

62. When local residents are called for their vaccination it is extremely important they attend to help reduce infection rates within Leeds so we can return to a normal life as soon as possible. If any local community members have any fears or anxiety about receiving the vaccination they can talk to their local doctor, health professional, LCC Public Health officer or visit these approved information site. Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) <https://www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/health/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/>

### **Men's Health Groups set to continue after lock down**

- Due to the ongoing success and general popularity of a variety of local men's health groups in the area they are set to continue after lockdown and offer a full menu of services, support and friendship groups. As well as contributing to aiding local men to recover and become, healthier and more resilient they can also help men to;
  - Access a free loan I-pad and associated training to become more digitally literate. This in turn also opens up a world of on line support groups, exercise classes, cookery lessons, basic D.I.Y and an opportunity to talk openly and confidentially about their problems and issues and how these might be solved.
  - Access to financial inclusion services to help manage debt and money worries.
  - Access to free smoking cessation and weight management services either within a group scenario or an intensive personal support option.
63. For more information please contact:  
Ian Pepper [ian.pepper@barca-leeds.org](mailto:ian.pepper@barca-leeds.org) or Joe Kemp [joek@touchstonesupport.org.uk](mailto:joek@touchstonesupport.org.uk) or Russ Giles [russ.giles@nhs.net](mailto:russ.giles@nhs.net)

### **Armley**

64. This ward was identified by the Red Cross Vulnerability matrix during the Covid-19 pandemic and consequently there was a small pot of government funding released to fund a series of projects to help local vulnerable citizens. The priority Neighbourhood of New Wortley falls under this ward. All of the projects are gateways to other services, support and help such as social prescription, mental health, holistic health and wellbeing, gently improving and maintaining physical fitness.
65. The Listening Room – a project where men struggling with mental and emotional health problems can access session with local workers to talk about issues, they are struggling with such as anxiety, loneliness, or financial concerns. The project has an excellent

new website with many resources such as accessible DIY tips, cooking sessions, physical health and fitness and mindfulness relaxation techniques. <https://www.leedslisteningroom.org/> for more details contact; Michael Howard [Michael.howard@armleyhelpinghands.org](mailto:Michael.howard@armleyhelpinghands.org)

66. Connecting Armley – This is a digital project where local people struggling with the digital world and with no smart device of their own can loan an I-pad. Local residents receive help and training on how to use the device. Support workers can then help them access sessions either virtually or socially distanced face to face for entering the employment market, social isolation and developing skills. For more information please contact Ben Feely [Benjamin.Feely@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Benjamin.Feely@leeds.gov.uk)

67. Treasure Books- This is an interactive learning and focussed literacy project helping parents, carers and their children learn to read with these lovely treasure hunt books and packs. There are also walks, activities and outside fun planned for with this project when it is appropriate to do so. The project links to many other educational and support activities and in addition has helped local parents to home school their children during lock down. For more information please contact Gael Timbers [Gael.Timbers@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Gael.Timbers@leeds.gov.uk)

68. Wildlife Walks-This is a project organising walks for socially isolate or lonely residents where there is a commentary and explanation of the local flora and fauna. These have proved very popular in the past. For more information please contact Lucy Wheeler [l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk](mailto:l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk)

69. Talking Sheds- A men's health project which helps isolated men bond over a common project i.e. constructing a shed on a local allotment and after lunch there is a coaching therapy session around emotional health, sharing tips and techniques on coping with low mood and anxiety. For more information please contact Lucy Wheeler [l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk](mailto:l.wheeler@tcv.org.uk)

### **Bramley**

70. The Bramley food environment project first stage has now completed. This piece of work is a part of the larger piece of work looking at reducing children's and young person's obesity. The project is from the councillor chaired Bramley Our Place group. The project was in two parts one looked at the eating, shopping and cooking habits of local families in relation to healthy eating and the second part looked at the food offer of local food retailers and takeaways. This was an incredibly difficult project to complete during a pandemic. However, the final project report is now complete and available. The report will inform our working across all of the other weight management project streams and it is hoped that in the future when it is appropriate to do so local businesses will be approached again and encouraged to join a mutually beneficial Bramley Business Club and look at profitable healthy food options they can offer. For more information, please contact Emma Strachan [Emma.Strachan@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Strachan@leeds.gov.uk)

## **Community Engagement: Social Media**

71. **Appendix 3**, provides information on posts and details recent social media activity for the Inner West Community Committee Facebook page & Covid-19 ward pages.

### **New Wortley Community Centre & Priority Neighbourhood Update – Update from Rachel Marshall**

72. There has been a refresh of the New Wortley Safer Cleaner Greener sub group. After a challenging year due to Covid-19 the Communities team felt the group would benefit from a refresh of priorities, with the overall aim of reconnecting the group and building on our relationships with the community. Several individual discussions and wider meetings have been held, with both internal and external partners, and as a group the following priorities have been decided –

- Restore the environmental standards that were achieved pre Covid-19
- Identify activities the group can collectively work on in relation to Safer Cleaner Greener, to reconnect the group and our relationships with the local community

73. Through the discussions we have also formed a collection of project ideas, including community action days, community clean-up days, improving relationships with migrant communities living in the area, communal spaces for multi-story block residents, events that encourage the use of green space, asset mapping, playground development and drug education. Our aim is for group members to lead on particular projects that match their skillset, and meet in task and finish style small groups, with additional meetings for the full group to get together and discuss progress at several points throughout the year. The first project we are working on is a community clean-up day and we hope this will be the first in a series of regular clean-ups.

74. New Wortley Community Association has kick-started its roadmap out of lockdown with two weeks of promotional events. The team embraced the opportunity to promote positive mental health during Mental Health Awareness Week in May. They coordinated a number of opportunities to recognise the week through including a photography competition with a “nature” theme, having a nature or mental health theme for all the groups and having a “pop up ”in front of the wellbeing centre on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 12-2pm. The pop up provided resources about mindfulness, coping strategies and an opportunity to talk to people about what the centre has to offer.

75. The following week saw the first phase of their community engagement plan come alive as they carried out a series of engagement exercises in different areas of the New Wortley & Armley area. Some great conversations took place and some new relationships built with other organisations working in the area. The learning from this phase will inform future plans for the centre and also help identify local people who are interested in being part of a community voice group that will feed into the Priority Neighbourhoods Core Group

76. Friday 21st May saw the launch event of the Cultural Café project, The café will act as a catalyst to engaging ethnic minority groups into New Wortley Community centre for support. The cafe will run every Friday and host a range of activities led by the individuals who sign up to volunteer and train with staff support. The focus will be on health and wellbeing.

77. Activities will include cooking, creative crafts, positive mental health, physical activities & health checks. One to one support will be available from staff & NWCC volunteers for those struggling or needing extra support with things such as debt, unemployment, ESOL, other issues. Accessing this provision will also mean that individuals will be informed about other activities in the centre and also local area. By working with the local communities from differing ethnic backgrounds it is important the Cafe is peer led with peer to peer support being key to this.

78. The centre has also introduced the following new projects/activities to its timetable:  
Zumba Gold – Sessions returned on Thursday 20th May working in partnership with Barca's Better Together Project to deliver them.

Table Talk – Bat & Chat style outdoor table tennis sessions started Tuesday 25th May with access to pool and cards games etc as part of these general wellbeing sessions  
Offload Programme – A Men's Mental Health support project is being delivered in partnership with Leeds Rhinos Foundation. This started Monday 7th June and will run for a 10 week period. The project features past and present rugby league players to see how they deal with challenges off and on the pitch to help support personal mental fitness

79. The New Wortley Community Hub works continues but with more of a focus on supporting people towards becoming more self-reliant in accessing food. Our Food Store Project enables local families to access recipe packs and food items at a reduced cost. A recipe pack costs £1.50 and contains enough ingredients to feed up to 6 people. Those accessing the project can also access another 10 items from the Food Store for an additional £3.50. The project has been accessed by over 35 families on a weekly basis since its launch and numbers are growing each week. We were recently invited by Emma Strachan from Public Health to present the project at the Building Food Resilience group.

80. The centre is also delivering a project in partnership with Leeds City Council Jobshop and Project Development Team that aims to provide digital skills and confidence to those in the community who are digitally excluded. Through the "Connecting New Wortley" and "Connecting Armley" project we will utilise ipads as an asset in the local community, providing access to a wide range of local support services. The project will provide access to our support workers and support workers from other partners who will help with the following;

- Connecting individuals with others in their community through the creation of peer support groups

- Accessing benefit and housing support through Customer Services
- Accessing tailored employability support from Jobshops/NWCC support workers
- Engaging with individuals who have been isolated due to the impact of Covid 19

## **Town Centres Update – Update from Pete Mudge**

### **Armley**

81. Since the last update the majority of businesses can now open. The NCC has been visiting Armley on a weekly basis to speak with businesses and especially recently opened ones or which there have been many. There are 2 larger sized units vacant in the town centre – The former Baltic Supermarket which was closed by the Police and owners after the upper floor was found to be a drugs store and the former Jack Fulton shop on Town Street. (Jack Fultons has been nationally bought out by Poundland so its goods are being moved across the road to the Poundland Store on the other side of the road.) There is a third unit on Beech Drive facing onto Stanningley Rd which is no longer open to the public (formerly Yorkshire Linen) however it seems to be being used as storehouse for the next door Barnardo's Charity Shop.
82. Several new leases have been signed including for the former Coral bookies (Café and Bakery), former Card Factory (Armley Food Store), former HSBC (Persian Restaurant), former Boots shop (future use not yet announced), former Yorkshire Bank (converted to flats), former Love & Light tearoom (Barbecue restaurant), Council shops on Gelderd Rd (all now in use by Howarth Foundations Little Owls).
83. Flats are now being built near Town Street on Hall Road which will improve the appearance of that area, 100 Town Street has now been sold by the Council, a meeting is being held with the owner of the dilapidated former clinic site in the hope that differences can be resolved so that this eyesore and base of anti-social behaviour can at last be renovated. On the other side of Theaker Lane is the site of the former public toilets which is currently used as a place to throw litter. A plan is progressing to see the area turned into a pocket park and performance area . It will be locked every evening and the plan is to also include plants on the sides to make it an attractive oasis. Funding for this is being investigated.
84. Armley in Bloom have installed the two additional planters funded by Wellbeing which could not get installed during the lockdowns, additionally they have replanted floral displays in the town centre including new displays outside the hub.
85. Operation Leodis has been led by the Police and LASBT to reduce drug dealing and anti-social behaviour in Armley town centre and bring incidents down to those recorded pre-pandemic. This seems to have been achieved and indeed may be even better than before the pandemic.
86. Of course Armley traders were not allowed to meet or progress team based projects during the lockdowns and their efforts for the last few weeks have been on re-

establishing their business. They have decided to hold the next AGM in late July and through this seek a larger representation from local business on the Town Team. Holding this AGM of course relies on there not being any more lockdowns at that point. The meeting will agree what the traders would like to see achieved in the coming year. There will also be an update on matters affecting business including those mentioned above.

87. The government has made available Welcome Back to High Streets funding and discussions are underway on whether this can help raise the image of Armley town centre in order to attract more shoppers through provision of "Welcome" Ambassadors making visitors feel safe and secure and providing a reassuring presence to help lift the negativity prevalent in publicity of the area. The detail of exactly what could be possible is being discussed with colleagues in Armley Action Team and discussions are ongoing.
88. Hundreds of independent businesses now receive updates on items of interest to them and through this we connect with neighbourhood centres around the city. All district centres received new signage at Easter regarding safety measures before the latest reopening. By refreshing the signage it will again be noticed and the safety advice reinforced. The signage and the masks and floor vinyls have been made available by various government grants to combat the pandemic and these keep getting replenished at local shopping areas while stocks remain. The Neighbourhoods Centre Co-ordinator (NCC) has called in to independent shops open in all district centres to give and take contact details and explain the role of town teams. Shortly he will begin this again as more businesses have now reopened.
89. Last year the former Yorkshire Bank wanted to reopen as shops on ground floor and said they had tenants waiting however creation of a shop frontage was turned down so this has now been lost as a business and is being converted to flats. After the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown, street drinking returned in a big way on Town Street along with begging and drug dealing. Police have reduced these though there is national concern areas suffering after the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown may do so again in the coming months. We have placed signs at 4 locations which is a new trial for Leeds and looks to make dealers and buyers feel uneasy in those areas.
90. The government provided some funding to investigate the potential of a BID vote for Armley. Due to the pandemic this investigation is on hold for the time being. Similarly the Town Teas around the city have gone on hold till non-essential shops and hospitality reopens. Leaders in the local business communities are however still contacting me with ideas and also undertaking communication with local businesses.

### **Bramley & Stanningley**

91. Towards the end of the last Lockdown Bramley Shopping Centre was sold to LCP (London & Cambridge) Properties which is a privately owned investment and property management company with over 400 sites and 3,500 tenants. It is of course to be hoped

they will pump some funding into upgrading the centre though this is uncertain – Cross Gates and Headingley Shopping Centre have been upgraded but Middleton shopping Centre has seen no upgrading of the appearance despite getting new ownership a couple of years ago.

92. At the Bramley centre the former manager no longer works there and, as he was preparing to lead a Town Team for the shopping area, a new business leader is being sought for this role.

93. A recent issue at the centre was when the new owners arranged for removal of the centres benches which has understandably annoyed many shoppers and it is hoped benches will be returned. Yet even within this Area Committee, Armley long ago removed benches to help combat ASB yet currently Kirkstall is in the process of installing some benches for use by local shoppers. So the NCC is collecting examples in the hope a template preferred by councillors could identify the range of benches available and most suited to particular circumstances. Some areas of the UK have installed benches to combat anti-social behaviour – sited near lighting and CCTV camera and with signage to discourage loitering. Some are concrete structures, some angled to stop people laying down, some individual metal ones are placed to only sit one person and not face anyone else (Leicester).

94. NCC sits on the Covid-19 Local Enhanced Planning team to reduce spread of Covid in district centres and is currently trying to find a most suitable location for vaccinations.

### **Kirkstall**

95. A leader has volunteered to investigate launching a Town Team for Kirkstall traders and is now speaking with interested businesses before launching an AGM. One issue businesses and Members have highlighted is the opportunity to have benches placed on the street. Highways are supportive and liaising with members and NCC over locations. It is hoped the costs will be paid through the LCP fund.

### **Armley Forum**

96. The Armley Forum last met on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July via Zoom

- Sgt Chris Craven was in attendance to discuss the crime stats for the ward and any ongoing Community work.
- Chris Way from Highways attended to discuss speeding issues on the outbound side of Stanningley Road with residents
- Representatives from Armley Helping Hands and New Wortley Community Centre came along to update the forum on the amazing work they have done throughout the pandemic to support the local community.
- The new Vicar of Christ Church introduced himself to the forum and encouraged people to go to the church to meet him.

## **Updates from Key Services**

### **Leeds Youth Service – Update from Steve Harper**

97. The Inner West Youth Committee has got off to a great start with young people from Armley, Bramley and Kirkstall joining the group. Young people have appeared to really enjoy the online meetings which have included guest speakers from their local ward Cllrs, The Canal and River Trust and LCC Transport Strategy Team. They have achieved so much in such a short space of time including being involved in a young people's interview panel for the recruitment of activity workers and a social action project on the Canal.



### **Community Hubs – Update from Tom Booth**

98. Looking ahead to the Summer – the Healthy Holidays scheme are looking for volunteers to help them run a programme of events for children across the city over the summer and Christmas holidays this year. You could be helping to run story telling groups, being part of multi-sport activities and helping to provide lunch to the children. The scheme is a great way for volunteers to meet new people and connect with local communities.



More information about the scheme and how to apply to be a volunteer can be found here <https://news.leeds.gov.uk/news/volunteers-needed-in-leeds-as-school-holiday-food-and-activity-programme-returns>

## Housing Leeds – Update from Paul Densley & Paul Hodges

### Inner West HAP update:

Budget for 2021/22	£49,091.97	
Carry Forward from 2020/21	£27,683.69	
<b>TOTAL 2021/22 BUDGET</b>	<b>£76,775.66</b>	

Approved Budget Spend 2021/22	£16,393.06	
<b>Available Budget</b>	<b>£60,382.60</b>	

HAP	Number of projects submitted	Number of projects approved	Amount Committed by Panel	% committed
Inner West Total	20	6	£16.393.06	21.35%

### 99. Bids Approved since last update in February 2021

Address/Who	Scheme	Amount Awarded by HAP
B&S	Stanningley Court Defibrillator	£658.36
Armley	Poplar Way handrail and bench	£8,149.74
Armley	Wyther Park estate bins	£630
All IW	WLAC Assault Course	£3,000
B&S	Astors/Fairfield Planting	£3,670.15
Armley	First Avenue Planting	£284.80

## **Inner West Housing Update**

### **Annual Home contacts:**

100. We have recently launched an Annual Tenancy Check-In programme (formerly Annual Tenancy Contact/Annual Home Visit). Annual Tenancy Check-In Programme was launched from Tuesday 1st June 2021. Following feedback the programme has recently had a change of name to 'Annual Tenancy Check-In' to reflect the different ways in which this contact might happen. Rather than all Check-Ins being completed in the tenant's home face to face, it will be completed either face to face, over the telephone or online, depending on their circumstances

Here's a few key points about the launch:

#### 101. Online group

Letters/emails will be sent to a pilot group of 1000 customers who have been chosen to have an online check in. This will give the residents identified the opportunity to complete the Annual Tenancy Check In online and feed back to Housing Management.

This is the start of something new and after the pilot group has taken place we will be able to review how the online check-ins will be rolled out across the year.

The information from the pilot group of online check-ins will be forwarded to area teams for processing and complete any follow up work.

We will review the returns from the first 1000 pilot group to gauge uptake and to see if we need to make any changes to the form and process.

#### 102. Telephone Group

The information on customers who have been identified as needing a telephone check-in has been developed and all area offices have a list of all residents to contact and complete the Annual Tenancy Check In

#### 103. Visit Group

The main visit programme will not begin until at least the 21st June 2021. However, we recognise that there are a small group of tenants (under 3% of tenants citywide) where the tenant has a particular vulnerability, e.g. hoarding, poor internal property condition, previous safeguarding concern, where it is important that we review their situation to monitor health and safety risks to the tenant and others living nearby. For these tenants the area offices have been tasked to look into these as a priority and to begin making contact and undertaking Annual Tenancy Check-Ins from Tuesday 1st June 2021.

#### 104. Escalations

If a tenant has been identified for an online or telephone check-in based on the information we hold but we believe that a visit is required, there is an opportunity to change the contact group. A check list has been developed to help staff identify issues that may warrant escalating to a different type of check-in.

### **Estate Walkabouts:**

105. All this year's walkabouts have been arranged and dates confirmed. We have advised the Housing Officers to book them in their diaries and invite the local ward

members and tenant representatives to attend in line with our Covid 19 risk assessments. We are still in quarter 1 of this year and the majority of the estate walkabout have been completed but there are still some outstanding. Key themes having been waste in gardens, overgrown hedges and leaves in some communal walkways.

#### **Block inspection or High Rise feedback:**

106. We carry out weekly block sweeps on all high rise blocks. All issues that are identified by the Housing Officer are actioned accordingly. We also received daily stage 1 fire safety reports from our cleaning contractors. We action the recommendations in the report and log this on our computer system in line with our Fire Safety procedure. We also carry out monthly stage 2 fire safety checks and report all the findings and raise the necessary repairs as required. Low rise blocks inspections are also being carried out now on a quarterly basis in line with the fire safety Checks.

#### **Update on Anti-Social Behaviour:**

107. During this pandemic and restrictions being put in place, we have seen a rise in reports of noise nuisance and breaches of social distances guidelines. Housing Leeds, LASBT and WYP are working together in this difficult time and we encourage residents to follow the protocol and report all breaches either online or through the telephone. All breaches of Government restrictions must be reported to WYP.

### **Corporate Considerations**

#### **Consultation and Engagement**

108. The Community Committee has, where applicable, been consulted on information detailed within the report.

#### **Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration**

109. All work that the Communities Team are involved in is assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the wellbeing process for funding of projects complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

#### **Council Polices and City Priorities**

110. Projects that the Communities Team are involved in are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities as set out in the following documents:

1. Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
2. Best City Plan
3. Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
4. Children and Young People's Plan
5. Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
6. Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

#### **Resources and Value for Money**

111. Aligning the distribution of community wellbeing funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.

### **Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

112. There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

### **Risk Management**

113. Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all projects and wellbeing applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants are able to deliver the intended benefits.

### **Conclusions**

114. The report provides up to date information on key areas of work for the Community Committee.

### **Recommendations**

115. The Community Committee is asked to note the content of the report and comment as appropriate.

### **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

116. None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.