



**Report of West North West Area Manager**

**Report to Inner West Area Committee**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008**

**Subject: Area Manager's Report**

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p> <p><b>Armley</b> <b>Bramley and Stanningley</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call in Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

**Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on a number of projects in Inner West Leeds as follows:

- Community Centres
- Neighbourhood Management
- Regeneration
- Conservation Area Reviews

**1.00 Purpose of This Report**

1.01 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on a number of initiatives and projects within the Inner West Leeds Area Delivery Plan.

**2.00 Community Centres**

**2:01 New Wortley Community Centre**

2:02 New Wortley Community Centre continues to provide services and facilities to local people, and the good work it does has recently been acknowledged in the in-house magazine issued by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Here over thirty volunteers from DWP assisted with a large gardening project to rejuvenate the small copse close to the centre. Volunteers cleared the garden area, constructed a path, built bird nesting boxes and created some willow weaving structures to enhance the

area. A member of their communications team stated that *'the team at New Wortley Community Centre were great and their enthusiasm was a real inspiration'*.

2.03 Alongside this and with an eye to the future the centre has joined with a consortium of other inner west community centres (Fairfield, Wyther Community House, Moorside, and the Heights) to make a collective bid for funding to place the centres on a more sustainable footing. It is proposed that a lead organisation will manage all the centres and undertake the recruitment, caretaking, financial management and co-ordination of services. The intention being to enhance the financial sustainability of these community centres and enable key services and initiatives around community development work, health and jobs and skills to continue to be provided in the neighbourhoods where they are most needed.

2.04 A business case is being prepared which will detail the responsibilities of the lead organisation, the model of delivery and the cost of maintaining and running these centres for the benefit of the communities they serve. This will form the basis of a funding bid to be made before the end of 2008.

2.05 In the intervening time it is envisaged community centres may require some financial support until this approach is secured.

### **2.06 Strawberry Lane Centre**

2:07 Armley Helping Hands who are based at the centre are taking the lead on a proposed 'Celebrating Diversity' event to be held at the centre and adjoining land in February 2009.

2.08 The event will aim to invite all local community, voluntary and faith groups to celebrate diversity and enable local people to come together to enjoy food, music, arts and crafts and storytelling etc. Leeds Voice and the Healthy Living Network Leeds are also leading on the preparation of this event, which seeks to improve community capacity and community engagement.

2.09 Dawn Newsome, of Armley Helping Hands has also recently been awarded the 'Leeds Citizen Award' for her work in Armley Helping Hands.

### **2:10 Moorside Community Centre**

2.11 Moorside Tenants and Residents Association (Moorside TARA) continue to work hard on making the community centre a successful local facility. They have recently written a business plan, and their Lease together with Heads of Terms will be issued shortly.

### **3:00 Neighbourhood Management**

#### **3:01 Fairfields Intensive Neighbourhood Management**

3.02 Fairfields Intensive Neighbourhood Management is referred to in another report on this agenda, informing Members about the successes of 2007/08 and funding allocation proposals for 2009/10.

#### **3:03 New Wortley Local Area Management Project group (LAMP).**

3.04 The New Wortley LAMP meets every ten weeks to discuss issues and problems facing the community. The meeting is well attended by partners who are all

enthusiastic about making a difference. At the moment the group are analysing the results of a questionnaire, which asked local people about the impact of the Operation Champion that took place in July and whether the initiative has had a longer term impact on improving the neighbourhood. The results will be available for the next Area Committee meeting.

- 3.05 The Primary Care Trust are also exploring the possibility of delivering a health initiative in the neighbourhood building upon the successful 'Boys Club' held last year.

#### **4:00 Regeneration**

##### **4:01 Bramley Shopping Centre**

Tescos has recently opened in the Bramley shopping centre. Since Tescos opened there has been a reported increase in footfall compared to previous months. There has also been no reported reduction in sales from local businesses and traders.

- 4.02 It has also been reported by the Town Centre Manager that the proposals for building new units at the front and the rear of the centre have been put on hold, due to two major retailers, who had previously been interested, being unable to secure funding to establish their businesses.

##### **Bramley Capital Scheme**

- 4:02 Due to the success of the Bramley pump, the Area Management Team are making enquires as to the prospects of developing a scheme to create an identifiable area in Bramley that will provide information to the public to promote the historical value of Bramley and denote the historic changes over the years.

#### **5.0 Conservation Area Review Update**

- 5.01 A total budget of £12,000 was secured from the Inner West Area Committee to undertake the conservation area reviews of Bramley Hough Lane and Bramley Town Street in the financial year commencing April 2008. During this period a total of 18 conservation areas were to be reviewed throughout the year. From the budget secured, three community conservation officers were employed. Of these Kate Newell is to review the Bramley conservation areas.

- 5.02 **Timetabling** – As the two conservation areas are among eighteen being reviewed, deciding where to fit them into the timetable was an important decision. At present the Bramley conservation areas are timetabled to begin in November 2008, with a view to them going forward to Planning Board in March 2009.

- 6.0 **Consultation of local groups** – Local groups will be contacted when and where applicable, such as the local civic and community groups to discuss with them whether they would like an input into the documents. With the assistance of the local groups and internal consultees, proposed changes to the conservation area boundaries will be drafted. The resultant draft appraisal document once completed will then be made available for a minimum of a four week public consultation period. There will be a display at a local public place, such as the Library, and all those people directly affected by any boundary changes will be directly leafleted.

- 7.0 The consequent outcomes being to help inform future developments within the conservation area, resulting in developments that are sympathetic and in keeping with the special character of the area.

7.01 Each individual community conservation officer will take a lead on the appraisals which they are undertaking. Therefore any correspondence for Bramley should be directed towards Kate Newell.

## **8.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

8.01 The updates in this report concern actions in the Area Delivery Plan for Inner West which is administered through West and North West Leeds Area Management team and contributes to the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011

## **9.00 Legal and Resource Implications**

9:01 The Area Delivery Plan is administered through West Leeds Area Management Team and forms part of the delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11. The financial resource implications for the Conservation Area Reviews will be made from the budget which was previously agreed with the Inner West Area Committee (£6,000 each for the Bramley Hough Lane and Bramley Town Street conservation areas).

## **10.00 Recommendations**

10:01 That members note progress on and confirm their continued support for the projects outlined in the report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None