



Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 8th December 2008

Subject: Area Managers Report

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Ardsley & Robin Hood Morley North Morley South Rothwell</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</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

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, some of which are dealt with in greater detail 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 Heritage Telephone Boxes

2.1 The Director of City Development has contacted BT regarding their policy of adopting or sponsoring their heritage phone boxes. It is understood that BT have written to all Local Authorities notifying them of the option to buy a phone box for £1 if the telephone is removed or £500 per annum if the Local Authority wishes to sponsor a box. The Director of City Development has informed BT that no record can be found of this letter and requested confirmation from BT of a deadline when they would need an official response from Leeds City Council. The Director has stressed that the deadline must offer a reasonable timeframe for consideration by officers and members to identify locations and the course of action to be taken.

- 2.2 A number of communities may want to keep their boxes as part of local heritage and there also may be a number which are significant to the conservation area and street scene. The Conservation Unit and Town Centre Manager have been consulted and have been unable to identify any telephone boxes within Morley and Rothwell conservation areas to put forward to be considered for this proposal. Members are asked to consider whether there are any phone boxes they wish to keep and would want to fund the maintenance of.

3.0 CCTV

- 3.1 Further to the report on CCTV considered at the July Area Committee and pending the results of discussions at Executive Board, Members at the September meeting agreed a monitoring form be sent to groups who had existing and planned schemes funded by the Area Committee.

- 3.2 Completed monitoring forms have been received from the following groups:

Drighlington Parish Council
Churwell Action Group
Gildersome Action Group

- 3.3 The Leedswatch Code of Practice has been used as a base to create a draft protocol that will ensure all groups who operate CCTV schemes that receive funding from the Outer South Area Committee are clear about their legal responsibilities in relation to the scheme.

- 3.4 Area Management and the Community Safety Coordinator are arranging meetings with the three community groups to discuss their responsibilities and highlight areas where support can be offered to ensure their schemes meet the DPA requirements.

- 3.5 A detailed report will be presented to members at a future Area Committee.

4.0 Smithy Lane Recreational Ground

- 4.1 The Steering Group continue to develop options for the works at Smithy Lane Recreational Ground following consultation with residents. Options are currently being costed for a phased development which will be considered by the Steering Group. Members may wish to allocate a proportion of the Capital Well-being funding in anticipation of these options being brought forward.

5.0 Priority Neighbourhood Worker Post

- 5.1 At the September Area Committee meeting, members agreed to continue supporting a Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) post, employed by South Leeds Health for All, to work across the Outer South. This post will be funded for three years, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Well-being Budget.

- 5.2 Area Management has been working with South Leeds Health for All on the recruitment process. 13 applications were received for the Outer South Priority Neighbourhood Worker post. Following interviews on Thursday 23rd October, Nicky Greening was appointed from a strong field of four short-listed candidates as the Outer South Priority Neighbourhood Worker.

- 5.3 I can confirm that the PNW will take up her duties on Monday 8th December. An induction programme is currently being put into place. In line with previous reports, members are reminded that when not working in the areas, the PNW will be based at Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre.

6.0 Community Centres

- 6.1 The Outer South Community Centres Sub Committee took place on Wednesday 19th November. Minutes of this meeting along with minutes of the previous Sub Committee held on Wednesday 13th August, are both attached (Appendix 1). Agenda items at these meetings covered key holding and an update on all community centres which form the Area Committees facilities portfolio. Future meeting will consider backlog maintenance issues and the sub committee members will prioritise works in anticipation of funding becoming available.
- 6.2 Key holding has been implemented successfully at Tingley Youth & Community Centre with Tingley Athletic FC, Tingley Brass Band and Tingley Tenants and Residents Association. St Gabriel's Management Committee have also been issued with keys for the St Gabriel's Centre and implementation of the key holding policy is being explored for some users at Lewisham Park Centre and Windmill Youth Club. All user groups issued with keys have benefited from reduced lettings fees, as they don't have to pay the additional £9 per hour caretaking charges.
- 6.3 Work is ongoing to look at the future options of community centre provision in the Churwell area. Discussions have taken place with Ward Members and Asset Management Unit around the future viability of Churwell Community Centre and also the possibility of re-opening Stanhope Memorial Hall. An estimate for costs to re-open Stanhope stand at approximately £235,000 and the sale value of Churwell has been estimated in the region of £110,000. A meeting to discuss the way forward with this will be held in the New Year.
- 6.4 A request to review the level of rent at West Ardsley Community Centre has been put forward by Kaleidoscope, who lease the facility from the Council for the provision of before and after school childcare. They have requested that the rent remain at £3,000 for 2009/10. This is mainly due to the likely impact on numbers of a similar provision opening at the nearby Westerton Primary School. Area Management are awaiting for further information from Kaleidoscope and this will be presented to the February Area Committee for consideration and decision.

7.0 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group

- 7.1 The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group met on Tuesday 4th November, minutes at Appendix 2, to discuss Environmental issues and actions from the Area Delivery Plan (ADP). The new action plan format (Appendix 3) was agreed by the sub group to reflect the link with the ADP and to prioritise actions.
- 7.2 Operation Champion is a multi agency crime and grime initiative. It brings together a range of agencies working in partnership to; reduce crime and anti social behaviour, tackle environmental issues such as litter, and provide public reassurance and support. A full report on the recent Operation Champion held in Ardsley and Robin Hood will be considered elsewhere on the agenda. The Divisional Community Safety Partnership has approved the 2009 schedule (Appendix 4) for Operation Champion across South Leeds. Outer South continues to receive the two Champions per year and Members are asked to approve this schedule.

7.3 Litterbins

- 7.3.1 Recent weekends have seen installations of new litterbins in all four wards across the Outer South. Area Management continue to work with Environmental Services on litterbin installation and it is expected that the 2005/06 and 2007/08 litterbins projects will be completed by the end of the January 2009.
- 7.3.2 As a result of new litterbins being installed in Leeds City Centre, the old city centre litterbins are being refurbished to locate across the wider area. This will provide the Outer South Area Committee with an additional two litterbins per ward. Environmental Services will be coordinating identifying the locations, installation and maintenance of these litterbins. Area Committee is reminded that following the installation of all the litterbins funded by the Area Committee and the round of refurbished litterbins, Environmental Services have notified Area Management that the maintenance capacity will be reached and they can not support any further allocations of litterbins to be installed and emptied.

8.0 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme

8.1 Marsh Street

- 8.1.1 Delays continue with this project because of the intervention of planning. Parks & Countryside who have been commissioned to carry out the works are waiting for a report which will detail objections to the proposals. Once received officers will consider next steps. Work undertaken by Parking Services has seen the clearance of vegetation with only a small part of the site remaining to be cleared. When the full works begin the contractor will work from the back of the site so that minimal disruption is caused to the public and to ensure a clear safe pedestrian route is maintained.

8.2 Morley Bottoms

- 8.2.1 The lay-by is nearing completion, however the formal procedure for Highways to formally adopt the lay-by needs to be completed.
- 8.2.2 S215 Enforcement Action

One property has been renovated and a further two are lodged in court. One of the owners is now in breach and LCC intends to ask the court to take action against them, on the basis of a £50 per day fine. The prosecuting solicitor, requested further evidence, this has obtained from LCC Planning Enforcement officers. The cases are to be dealt with as a priority.

8.2.3 Chapel Hill Properties

A purchase price has been agreed with the property owners on a subject to contract/without prejudice basis.

Leeds City Council has agreed to gap fund the Yorkshire Housing Association scheme. Yorkshire Housing Association has undertaken revised appraisals. LCC officers will meet with YHA in order to discuss the appraisals and outline scheme. YHA intend to their proposals with the Housing Corporation in December/January.

9.0 Conservation Audits

- 9.1 At the September 2007 Area Committee, additional Well-being funding was approved towards conservation audits for Morley and Rothwell.

Morley

- 9.2 The Community Conservation Officer is appraising the existing conservation area and looking at areas of possible extension. A map will be created of any proposed areas of extension. Initial thoughts from the Conservation Officer are that it seems likely that the extensions will be fairly extensive.
- 9.3 The map outlining the proposed extended conversation area will form the basis of discussion with the steering group, Ward and town Councillors. The first draft of the consultation version of the appraisal will be prepared by early December, with the formal public consultation planned to take place in January.

Rothwell

- 9.4 Work is due to begin in December on the Rothwell Conservation Area Appraisal. The work will be undertaken by Naomi Archer, one of three community conservation officers who have been employed to carry out 18 conservation area appraisals this financial year.
- 9.5 Conservation areas are places with '*special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*'. The appraisal will clearly identify what makes Rothwell a special and distinctive place, identify any negative features or issues that currently detract from its special character and make recommendations for future conservation management and enhancement.
- 9.6 Initial research and analysis will begin in December with public consultation on a draft of the appraisal timetabled for February and adoption of the final appraisal by mid April. Community consultation is an important part of the process and essential to ensure that the appraisal reflects what is valued by the local community. Everyone will be encouraged to get involved and have their say.
- 9.7 In addition to this wider consultation, an advisory panel will be established to guide the production of the appraisal and will include representatives from the following groups:
- Area Committee
 - Rothwell & District Historical Society
 - Rothwell In Bloom
 - Rothwell Traders

The Panel's role will be to provide local knowledge on the issues affecting the town and its historic environment.

10.0 Participatory Budgeting

- 10.1 Area Management were invited by the Participatory Budgeting Unit to deliver a presentation on the process and findings from the South Leeds pilot at a seminar at Bradford University on the 6th November. The seminar was aimed at local authority and voluntary sector officers who were researching the concept of PB. The Participatory Budgeting Unit are undertaking a programme of education and marketing of PB to support the achievement of the following aim outlined in the 'Participatory Budgeting: a National Strategy' that *'By 2012, the Government's ambition is that participatory budgeting is used in every local authority area'*.
- 10.2 Directors from the Board of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) visited Leeds on Friday 7th November. A number from the party received a tour of South Leeds that concluded in a presentation on the Outer South PB pilot. Drighlington Parish Council and Area Management Officers gave an account of the project and its outcomes. Members from CLG welcomed the comments from the Parish Council representatives as key partners in the scheme and as community members.
- 10.3 In support of the Area Committee's role of community engagement, Area Management applied to the Aire Valley Homes, Outer South Area Panel for £30,000 to support participatory budgeting schemes in the Outer South. AMT attended the panel meeting on the 6th November where the idea was well received; the panel approved the full amount over two years. This funding for participatory budgeting schemes will form part of the Outer South community engagement strategy, to be considered elsewhere on the agenda.

11.0 Youth Service

- 11.1 In 2008/09 the Executive Board gave Area Committees an enhanced responsibility in influencing, developing and consulting over local Children and Young People's Plans.
- 11.2 Youth workers focus on the actions and behaviour of young people and address relevant matters. Young people are encouraged to reflect on their behaviour and the consequences to the community and themselves. All the Youth Service sessions are linked to the Every Child Matters five key outcomes (Staying Safe, Enjoying & Achieving, Being Healthy, Making a positive contribution and Economic Well being). The Youth Service has also included Equality within the ECM, to ensure all young people are supported.
- 11.3 Details of the full programme of activities operated by Youth Service in Ardsley and Robin Hood (Appendix 5), Rothwell (Appendix 6) and Morley (Appendix 7) are attached for Members to note.
- 11.4 Mobile Provision and Staffing
- 11.4.1 A mobile unit has been allocated to Outer South Area, under the direction of the Youth service Managers. At present the mobile provision has been operational since 20th October 2008 and is delivering sessions for sixteen and a half hours per week in the Outer South.
- 11.4.2 The mobile provision is a new facility that Leeds Youth Service is committed to and aims to ensure maximum usage is achieved and of a benefit to young people across

the Outer South Area on an ongoing basis. The following areas are identified as priority areas:

- Ardsley & Robin Hood (West Ardsley / Robin Hood / Hopefields)
- Rothwell Ward (Wood Lane / Woodlesford)
- Morley North (Drighlington / Gildersome)
- Morley South (Central Morley / Newlands)

11.4.3 The Youth Service, is currently recruiting staff that when appointed it will see the facility operational for five nights per week across the Outer South Area. The mobile provision is new to the Outer South Area and is aimed at primarily targeting young people aged 13+, the facility will enable the Youth Service to focus in parts of the area that have previously been difficult to engage with young people. The priorities for the Youth Service are to provide guidance, support and be an advocate while assisting young people to develop their lifestyle. Youth Workers aim to guide young people into becoming more active citizens within their community, while addressing issues of Anti Social / criminal behaviour. The mobile is a warm welcoming facility that is proving popular and reducing the level of ASB reports. The mobile provision will increase the number of opportunities for young people to engage in.

11.4.4 Leeds Youth Service has spent a total of £69,237.00 on purchasing the bus and covering staffing, fuel and parking for one year.

11.4.5 The facility will contribute to the reduction of anti social behaviour and can target areas of concerns. Young people will have access to facilities that support the reduction in teenage pregnancies / STD's. Young people will be able to utilise their social time in a positive manner, and be supported in directing their energy into constructive outcomes. The facility will aim to develop positive relationships between young people / youth workers and Police, reducing the negative image of young people in the community.

11.4.6 Youth Service Managers aim to use the mobile provision to target areas where young people are known to congregate and will engage young people in diversionary activities in a safe environment. A proposal has been developed with member support, in conjunction with Area Management and Youth Service requesting Area Committee match funding to improve the facilities available on the bus. Details are presented for consideration in Well-being Report.

12.0 Recommendations

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

12.2 Members are asked to comment on identifying and adopting or sponsoring telephone boxes in the Outer South as outlined in 2.2.

12.3 Members are asked to note the progress made in developing a protocol for the use of CCTV.

12.4 Members are asked to agree the arrangements for the Rothwell Conservation Appraisal and agree a representative to the Advisory Panel.

12.5 Members are asked to consider ring fencing a proportion of capital well being funding for developments at Smithy Lane Recreational Ground as outlined in 4.1.

12.6 Members are asked to agree the 2009 schedule of Operation Champions at Appendix 4 as outlined in 7.2.

12.5 Members are asked to note the Outer South programme of youth service activities as outlined in 11.4.

Background Papers:

- CCTV 7th July 2008
- Well being Report 20th October 2008
- Area Managers 20th October 2008
- Marsh Street Car Park February 2008
- Conservation Area Reviews 10th September 2007
- Area Committee Roles for 2008/09 1st September 2008
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 1st September