

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Outer East Community Committee

**Cross Gates & Whinmoor, Garforth & Swillington,
Kippax & Methley, Temple Newsam**

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For Information

Outer East Community Committee - Update Report

Purpose of report

1. To bring to members' attention an update of the work which the Safer Stronger 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.

Main issues

3. Children and Families: Champion Cllr Michael Millar

The Each Community Committee has been allocated a Youth Activity Fund which it is responsible for administering. The Youth Activity Fund has been made available to provide local activities for children and young people aged 8-17 years across the city.

The Youth Activity Fund requires the engagement and participation of children and young people in the decision making and evaluation of the fund. Children and young people are involved in the funding process and advise Community Committees on the activities they would like to take part in, in their respective areas.

A Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey is now 'live' and young people can complete the survey by clicking the YAF Survey link, or alternatively, by scanning the QR code. The last day that young people can respond is the 31 March 2024.

YAF Survey link: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/H5X5TG/>

YAF Survey QR code:



Engagement with young people was held at the Outer East Breeze in the Park and Youth Activity Days which took place over the school summer holiday period, over 500 youth activity consultation surveys were completed by young people at these events.

4. Community Safety: Champion Cllr Mary Harland

An update will be provided for the next committee meeting.

5. Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT)

		% Change on previous month
Current East Caseload	171	+ 4%
Cases Open in last Month	34	+ 10%
Closed Cases in last Month	40	+ 8%:
% of active citywide caseload	36%	

The current active case load for the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) in the Outer East area is 26. Cases opened in the last 3 months by ward:

- Cross Gates & Whinmoor: 5 (ASB)
- Garforth & Swillington: 3 (2 Noise, 1 ASB)
- Kippax & Methley: 6 (2 Noise, 4 ASB)
- Temple Newsam: 7 (1 Noise, 6 ASB)

Key Issues:

- Citywide Nuisance Vehicle PSPO is now live and enforceable, it is hoped that this will help to address the ongoing vehicle related issues around The Springs, the East Leeds Orbital Road, Micklefield and the Temple Newsam estate.
- 20 Fixed Penalty Notices have already been issued to address this behaviour at other locations in the city. Signage has been erected at key "hotspots" and shortly to be extended to the main arterial routes into the city.
- 2 cases are domestic noise in Garforth and Swillington ward are currently being investigated using diaries, proactive monitoring, and Noise Monitoring Equipment. One of the cases LASBT has applied for an Injunction to protect staff due to threatening and abusive behaviour.
- LASBT are in the process of applying for 2 Injunctions that have come from a Partial Closure investigation in Allerton Bywater, 2 of the cases are due to ASB/ verbal abuse,

one of these is a council tenant and LASBT are waiting for a court outcome from the criminal proceedings before determining the appropriate tenancy/ civil action. 2 of the cases are domestic noise and are currently being investigated using diaries, proactive monitoring and Noise Monitoring Equipment.

6. **West Yorkshire Police**

Appendix 1 WYP Service Update provides the Committee with comprehensive information highlighting key themes and activities of work undertaken.

7. **Environment: 2022/23 Champion Cllr Pauleen Grahame**

An update will be provided for the next committee meeting.

8. **Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team (CNT)**

If you have any unwanted items that are not suitable for donation, and you cannot get to a Recycling Centre, you can book in a free unwanted items collection (bulky collection). If you live within the Leeds council tax area the service can collect up to 5 items per collection, with a maximum of 4 collections per year.

De-leafing is due to start week commencing the 02 October 2023. If there are specific sweeping issues especially of a health and safety nature, please continue to report in the normal way via the online portal or by emailing at eneaction@leeds.gov.uk

Cross Gates & Whinmoor, Temple Newsam

The top five service areas of complaint are as follows:

- Bulky Collections: 158
- Fly tipping (streets): 35
- Overgrown Vegetation: 23
- Fly tipping (Enforcement): 1
- Litter (streets): 5

The Environmental Crime Team (SECT) continue to focus on the large-scale Fly tipping and other environmental issue such as Waste Carriers. They have recently worked closely with Councillors and Contractors on the new East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR).

Environmental Action Officers continue to provide updates on specific cases where Ward Members are involved, for any additional queries, please contact Diane Otley, Team Leader: diane.otley@leeds.gov.uk

Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley

The top service areas of complaint for these wards are as follows:

- Bulky Collections: 499, this is down by 135 from the last quarter.
- Fly tipping (streets): 37, this is down by 17 from the last quarter.
- Fly tipping (Enforcement): 29, this is down by 17 from the last quarter.
- Overgrown Vegetation: 77, this is up by 47 from last quarter. (Due to time of year)
- Road Sweeping: 20, this is down by 6 from last quarter.

- Waste in Garden: 11, this is down by 8 from last quarter.
- Footpath Sweeping: 5, this is down by 6 from last quarter.
- Litter (streets): 3, this is down by 5 from the last quarter.

This quarters figures do show that there has been quite a significant decrease in the number of people requesting free bulky collections from the authority but that thankfully hasn't caused any spikes in the number of reactive/ proactively reported fly tipping incidents which have themselves seen a decrease in numbers reported to CNT. In fact, the top reported complaints to the service have dropped across both wards with the only exception being reports of overgrown vegetation which have understandably risen in this period due to it being the main growing period.

Environmental Action Officers continue to provide updates on specific cases where Ward Members are involved, for any additional queries, please contact Lee Hayward, Team Leader: lee.hayward@leeds.gov.uk

9. Employment, Skills & Welfare: Champion Cllr Jessica Lennox

Appendix 2 Employment, Skills & Welfare Service Update provides the Committee with comprehensive information highlighting key themes and activities of work undertaken.

10. Health and Wellbeing & Adult Social Care: Champion Cllr James Gibson

Appendix 3 Health & Wellbeing Report provides the Committee with comprehensive information highlighting key themes and activities of work undertaken.

11. Housing

Halton Moor and Swarcliffe

Voids Levels (empty properties): Demand for properties remains high across the areas, especially for houses. The Lettings Team is working hard to ensure properties are allocated in a timely manner.

Referrals continue to be made for issues and waste/ fly tipping, which are remove in a timely manner to ensure properties enjoy an appealing kerb-side appeal. The current number of Ready to Lets are as follows:

- Swarcliffe/ Whinmoor: 3
- Halton Moor/ Osmondthorpe: 0
- Total: 3

Income Collection: The rent collection figures for the areas are as follows:

- Swarcliffe: 94.03%
- Halton Moor: 92.33%

A comparison of the figures against the end of the last financial year show that Swarcliffe collection has increased by 0.49% and Halton Moor has increased by 0.78%. The team is working closely with residents to maximise their income, particularly through the cost of living crisis, by referring cases through to Benefit Advisors, assisting with Discretionary Housing Payments in acute cases and involving third party support agencies.

The team continues to make referrals to Leeds Credit Union for tenants who would benefit from budgeting accounts and who are experiencing the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. The Housing Officer (Income) is working with the more complex cases, linking in with support agencies, to ensure tenants receive advice on how they can maximise their incomes.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB): Focus on directing customers to Triage Team for ASB who risk assess all complaints, set out expectations in terms of reporting and ensure that the cases are passed to the correct team (Housing, LASBT or no further action). Police Officers are working in partnership within the team to share information.

There are 10 ASB cases have been reported across the Swarcliffe and Halton Moor areas, these are managed by the Housing Officers and reviewed monthly by the Team Leader. Six weekly partnership working meetings continue to take place with the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team to share information and discuss ongoing cases.

Annual Tenancy Check In (ATCI): Housing Officers are carrying out Annual Tenancy Check-in's for customers who are deemed a priority, such as customers with support needs or previous tenancy issues. Visits to residents who have not had an annual home visit for the last 3 years is currently underway.

Environmental Actions Team: Quarter 1 Estate Walkabouts have been carried out, fly tipping has been identified as the main issue. Housing Officers continue to proactively report all fly tipping on the estate whilst carrying out their day-to-day duties. Teams have access to the Skill Mill scheme, where referrals can be made for ad-hoc estate improvement work.

Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley

Voids Levels (empty properties): Demand for council housing remains high across both wards. The team have worked hard to reduce the number of ready to let properties and currently there is just one property in the area. The team are finding that their more difficult to let stock is Retirement Life accommodation as there are several schemes across the area of a very similar property type.

Income Collection: There has been an increase in rent collection with the short-term trend improving and showing good increases in collection. The team is working closely with residents to maximise their income, particularly through the cost-of-living crisis, by referring cases through to Benefit Advisors, assisting with Discretionary Housing Payments in acute cases and involving third party support agencies.

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Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB): Housing is focusing on directing customers to the Triage Team for ASB to risk assess each complaint, set out expectations in terms of reporting and ensure that the cases are passed to the correct team (e.g., Housing, LASBT or no further action). West Yorkshire Police are working within the team to share information.

There are 6 ASB cases across the areas which are managed by the Housing Officers and reviewed monthly by the Team Leader. Six weekly partnership working meetings continue to take place with the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team to share information and discuss ongoing cases.

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12. Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)

Peter Greenwood is currently covering panel area due to high levels of sickness across the team. Outer East continues to be a top priority due to the inconsistent staff support over the last two years. At the HAP meeting scheduled to take place on 28 September 2023 there are 5 bids to table and the plan on a page to refresh. There will also be an email issued to all tenants to inform them what the Tenant Engagement Team provide for tenants in the Outer East area and how they can get involved.

13. Youth Services

Appendix 4 Core Youth Work Report provides the Committee with comprehensive information highlighting key themes and activities of work undertaken.

14. Community Engagement: Forums

Forum meetings for Cross Gates & Whinmoor with representatives from West Yorkshire Police and key services have taken place and well attended by residents and partners with further meetings scheduled in the community throughout 2023.

- Whinmoor Forum, chaired by Cllr Jessica Lennox:
 - 20 September, Fieldhead Carr Community Centre (6pm)
 - 24 January 2024, Fieldhead Carr Community Centre (6pm)
- Manston & Swarcliffe Forum, chaired by Cllr Pauleen Grahame:
 - 19 September 2023, Barnbow Pub (6pm)
 - 23 January 2024, Swarcliffe Community Centre (6pm)

15. Community Engagement: Social Media

Appendix 5 Social Media Report provides the Committee with information on posts, and details recent social media activity for the Outer East Community Committee Facebook page. The report highlights key themes promoted through social media posts, as well as topics addressed relevant to the period. The report covers the period of June to September 2023. The four-ward based Coronavirus Facebook help pages remain suspended.

Corporate Considerations

16. Consultation and Engagement

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

17. Equality and Diversity/ Cohesion and Integration

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.

18. Council Policies and City Priorities

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:

- Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
- Best City Plan
- Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

19. Resources and Value for Money

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

20. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

21. Risk Management

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

Conclusions

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

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

24. None.

¹ 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.