

INNER SOUTH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor M Iqbal in the Chair

Councillors G Almass, S Burke, E Carlisle,
W Dixon, E Pogson-Golden, A Scopes and
P Wray

13 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

14 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

15 Late Items

There were no formal late items, however, there was supplementary information submitted in relation to item 9 – Inner South Community Committee Finance Report, which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

16 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting:

Councillor E Carlisle declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in relation to Agenda Item 9, Inner South Community Committee Finance Report, as his spouse was employed by St Luke's Cares and the organisation had applied for Wellbeing funds. Details of this application can be found at page 60 of the report pack at point 31. In declaring his DPI, Councillor Carlisle took no part in the discussion or decision making of this specific funding application.

Councillor Dixon drew the Committee's attention to the fact he and his spouse are involved with Middleton Juniors F.C. in a voluntary capacity only. Details of this application can be found in *Inner South Community Committee 6th September – Supplementary Pack for Item 9 – Finance Report (2)*.

Details of the decision, and associated discussion, for these applications can be found below at minute 9.

17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Maloney.

18 Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to updating the title of Sergeant Daniel Wilson from West Yorkshire Police (WYP) at minute 8.

19 Open Forum

In accordance with the Community Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed a period of up to 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or ask questions within the terms of reference of the Community Committee.

No submissions were made as part of the Open Forum.

20 Gypsy Traveller Service

The report of the Gypsy Traveller Service provided the Inner South Community Committee with an update regarding the ongoing work of the service.

The Gypsy Traveller Service Manager presented the report, noting the following information:

- The service was responsible for city wide traveller encampments and also management of the two permeant caravan sites and Cottingley Springs and Kidacre Park.
- There was an average of 100 roadside encampments per year in Leeds.
- Historically encampments had occurred in the South and East area but more recently the North of Leeds had also been experiencing a number of encampments.
- Costs of the service in their response to encampments were for clean ups, porta loos, legal fees and associated fees with the eviction process.
- Negotiated stopping was sometimes agreed with groups of travellers for them to use a piece of land for a short period of time, which was usually 28 days.
- Eviction of encampments was conducted via a Section 61 order through WYP.
- Over the past 3 years, the percentage of encampments that had occurred in the Inner South area had fallen but had still been around a third of all encampments in the district occurring there.
- The encampment locations had changed over time, but Leeds Urban Bike Park and John Charles Sports Centre had been used fairly regularly.
- Liaison work was ongoing with groups that frequent in Leeds, which were on average comprised of around 10 caravans. Bigger groups of travellers occur during the summer months as they pass through.
- The negotiated stopping was more often used on void pieces of land due for resale or disposal. A list of what makes for a suitable negotiated stopping site was available at page 69 of the report pack which had been developed in collaboration with Asset Management.
- Leeds GATE was a charity that the service regularly works and engages with traveller groups and tries resolve disputes with other communities affected by encampments.

In response to questions from Members, the following points were discussed:

- The Kidacre Site was noted to be fairly small and had temporary planning permission for HS2. It was unclear whether the planning permission would be actioned, but if so, the site would have to be decamped.
- The use of bonds to encourage groups to leave the land in the same state they found it was not known to the service and it was noted transactions may be difficult.
- Leeds City Council was recognised as good for their response and engagement with traveller groups.
- More sites for negotiated stops were needed to be identified to provide sensible, better options for travellers and local communities. A conversation with Elected Members across all wards was needed.
- Evidence for fly tipping was needed for any convictions. It was also noted that other people may take the opportunity of an encampment to place blame on travellers for fly tipping. It was noted that the use of cameras to monitor fly tipping was expensive.
- The process for determining the use of a section 61 eviction was done through discussion between WYP, the Council and relevant partners with factors including, any events planned on the site, what anti-social behaviour had been reported and the immediate impact on a local community.
- WYP had a dedicated officers for dealing with encampments.
- The initial approach when an encampment occurs was to ask the group to look after the site and then ongoing monitoring. It was noted that a new protocol was being developed to determine appropriate action.
- The East Leeds Orbital Road and associated green space had become a frequent location for encampments.
- After the 28 day negotiated stopping period, a Section 21 order may be implemented to regain possession of the land back to the owner.
- The negotiated stopping process had assisted with reducing evictions and associated costs such as clean ups and legal fees.
- Collaboration with WYP, relevant organisations and travelling communities was key to resolving disputes. It was outlined that determining priorities and explaining the processes to travelling communities and the public was difficult.
- A Section 61 order was a WYP decision and was dependant on the affected site, the circumstances of encampment, the impact on local communities and infrastructure and also required involvement from the Council and the landowner.
- New Section 60 legislation had recently been adopted which assisted with creating better policy for dealing with damages.
- The designated WYP officer was noted to generally have good relationships with the travellers, had good intelligence due to experience and checked every encampment site. Number plates of caravans and vehicles were often logged as it was better to deal with known travellers and assisted with risk assessments.
- Budget constraints caused the development or conversion of new long-term sites to be difficult and slow. A request for a regular site within

Middleton Park was made, with Ward Members offering to be involved in the process to identify and investigate potential sites.

- It was noted that although there was not many permanently agreed negotiated stopping sites, they had assisted with keeping costs down.
- Some of the potential sites for negotiated stopping were within planning Site Allocation Plans (SAP). It was outlined that land management plans, in collaboration with Asset Management will be needed to identify appropriate sites.
- It was suggested that permanent short stay sites may alleviate the impact of the larger groups that pass-through Leeds over the summer months.
- A meeting with relevant bodies was scheduled in September 2023 where a case was going to be made for the need for permanent temporary use sites. Members offered their support of the idea.
- Statistics showed the background of most travellers frequenting sites in Leeds were Irish and English, and also some French and Belgian groups.
- Traveller families often contact each other and swap encampment sites.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted.

21 Inner South Community Committee Update Report

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships brought Member's attention to an update of the work in which the Communities Team was engaged in based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. It also provided opportunities for further questioning or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

The following point were highlighted:

- The Youth Activity Fund (YAF) consultation link was available at page 19, at point 3 of the report and was open until March 2024.
- An update on recent work by the Committee appointed Champion for Children's and Families was provided, noting, there has been 5 YAF consultation events over summer, with over 250 8 to 17year olds from the Inner South Area submitting responses. Coding a Minecraft had been the top priority for young people identified through the consultation, with outdoor events preferred over indoor. A Sub Group meeting had been scheduled for the 12th of September to discuss the Youth Summit for 2023. It was also noted the Children's Mayor programme will be opening again soon.
- The Champion for Environment and Community Safety outlined a Sub Group meeting had been held on the 31st of August 2023 which had been attended by a multitude of agencies and encouraged Committee Members to attend future meetings.
- The Champion for Health and Wellbeing outlined that there were several health and wellbeing parcels to distribute, and Members were requested to assist with identifying residents whom they would benefit

as well as scheduling Health and Wellbeing days in Hunslet & Riverside and Beeston & Holbeck. The Middleton Park Welcome Centre was scheduled to launch soon, and a credited supporting mental health course had been run recently. Suicide Prevention Day was on the 10th of September where suggestions for an outdoor space to hold an event were needed. A campaign was ongoing for inaccessibility of GP services and digital exclusion created by new models of patient engagement.

- With the data for universal credit claimants rising by 99% since March 2020, a specific breakdown of why and who is claiming was requested. It was the Committee's intention to invite an Officer from Employment and Skills to discuss this topic.
- The work on boosting the social media account and posts was ongoing and further information will be provided back the Members by the Localities Officer once available.

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) Officers, attended the meeting and provided the Committee with an update, outlining the following information:

- Inspector Mark Lunn had been appointed as the Neighbourhood Police Inspector for South Leeds.
- Inspector Lunn had 21 years experience working in the Police force and was passionate to solve issues within the community.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) had experienced budget constraints and staffing issues, but a recruitment push was coming into fruition.

In response to questions from Members, the following points were discussed:

- As part of the Health and Wellbeing update, it was noted by the Chair for the Adults Health & Active Lifestyle that the Board will be considering an item on GP access on the 12th of September.
- With the fourth appointed NPT Inspector for the area in 2 years, Members appealed to WYP Commanding Officers to provide stability. Inspector Lunn outlined his intention to remain in the position as he had strong experience in the area, felt highly suited to the role and did not want to add any further strain on partnerships.
- Members encouraged partnership working, particularly surrounding the meetings to resolve challenges around drug dealing and sex work in the area.
- A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was to be adopted across the Leeds District to tackle anti-social vehicle use. With cars racing in the area, close to a Police Station, more presence and effort was needed.
- WYP Officers noted a number of Section 59 orders had been conducted in the area to seize dangerously driven vehicles and more work will be done for monitoring and mitigating anti-social vehicle use, such as CCTV, speed bumps and greater presence.
- Anti-social behaviour occurring in Cross Flats Park, particularly regarding vehicle use and gel pellet guns, were encouraged to be reported via ringing 101 or submission online, which can both be done anonymously. WYP Officers noted that the more reports received lead

to improved action and outcome and re-establish public confidence in the force.

- As anti-social quad bike and e-bike usage occurs more often at late evenings the off-road bike team were encouraged to extend their hours of touring. WYP Officers noted that new policy for using tire spiking stingers was in development.
- The dedicated phone line for issues relating to sex workers was noted to be outdated and not always working. The importance of the phone line was recognised, calls outside of the 11:00 – 19:00 hours will be checked and followed up and there was an intention for the phonenumber to be switched to a smart phone so images can also be provided by the public, The Community Committee discussed possibly providing funding for the smart phone.
- A Trap house at Stafford Street had recently been shutdown and a meeting to prevent new trap houses opening had been scheduled with relevant partners. Operation Jemlock was ongoing to target serious offenders and access executive warrants to provide results.
- Sniffer dogs were noted to be effective for solving drug crimes, however, the capacity for use was limited and required clearance.
- Issues were regularly occurring at the square near Tempest Road and gangs often get moved from one corner then change to the next one along. This was noted to contribute to the lack of public confidence. WYP Officers outlined that bail conditions and ASBOs will be better utilised.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted.

22 Inner South Community Committee - Finance Report

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships provided the Community Committee with an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund, Youth Activity Fund (YAF), Capital Budget as well as the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget for 2023/24.

The Localities Officer presented the report, outlining the following information:

- The available Wellbeing budget was detailed at page 56 of the report with the ward split as Beeston & Holbeck £35,758.37, Hunslet & Riverside £29,113.50 and Middleton Park £38,249.79.
- A ring fence of £5,000 from the CIL budget for the Trees for Streets project was proposed at point 21 on page 57 of the report.
- Approved delegated decisions since the last meeting of the Inner South Community Committee was detailed at point 32 on page 60 of the report. Declined projects were available at point 33.
- Details of the Let's Move: South Leeds event and the awarded £750 were available at page 62 of the report.
- The YAF figures were available at table 2 on page 62 of the report.
- The Small Grants figures were available at table 3 on page 63 of the report.

- The Community Skips figures were available at table 4 on page 63 of the report.
- The Capital Budget was available at table 5 on page 64 of the report.
- The CIL budget figures were available at table 6 on page 64 of the report, with an injection of £205,349.30.

During consideration of the funding application, the following was discussed:

- Members agreed to the £5,000 ringfence for the Trees for Streets project. This was an adopt a tree scheme which allowed the public to provide maintenance of trees which was noted to be positive for the community and saved the Council money.
- The Inner South – Bumpy project was deferred in order to seek further information regarding the reduction of re-offending rates, but the premise was supported as a good environment for young people to learn to safely operate motorbikes.
- Although agreed, the details of the Flaxton Street – Bollards project were discussed. The consultation process for tenants and residents and the best location for the bollards were queried, however, the safety of local people led the Committee to resolve to approve the project due to cars regularly turning in an unsafe manner.
- The Youth Club project was deferred to gather further information on the organisations strategy to draw in the wider community, provide sustainability details and their ability to link up with wider services such as the Council’s Youth Service.
- * The Hunslet Club Community Events project was approved in principle, but Members requested that efforts should be made to reduce the cost of each meal per head as £30 each was a substantial amount.
- The Middleton Park Juniors project was deferred as Members requested clarity for the rental costs at the different facilities mentioned in the summary, with Coburn Highschool’s pitch not being opened until April 2024 and some Council facilities being free for tier 1 activities (the offer being that anyone under 15 can use them before 20:00 daily).
- Members also requested further clarity as to the breakdown of provision within the locality as 45 young people, approximately 19%, were noted to be outside of the Inner South area. The Committee had also funded floodlights and nets and wanted to see a sustainability plan from the organisation.
- Members agreed to ring fencing £10,000 (CIL) to fund the closure of Back Camberley Street (Hunslet & Riverside) as detailed in the supplementary pack.
- As a £97,000 underspend had been identified from Section106 funding, the Committee suggested other Community Committees may want to check to see if they can utilize any underspends.

RESOLVED –

- a. That the details of the Wellbeing Budget position, be noted (Table 1)
- b. That the Wellbeing ringfence for consideration and approval, be noted (paragraph 20)

- c. That the Wellbeing proposals for consideration and approval, be noted (paragraph 22)
- d. That the details of the projects approved via Delegated Decision, be noted. (paragraph 32)
- e. That funding proposals as detailed in the report for consideration, be determined as follows:

Project Title	Ward	Amount	Decision
Hunslet Moor Signs	Hunslet & Riverside	£400	Agreed
Inner South - Bumpy	Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside and Middleton Park	£6,680	Deferred
Beeston & Holbeck Christmas Trees	Beeston & Holbeck	£3,334	Agreed
Woodhouse Hill Road – Shrub Bed	Hunslet & Riverside	£858.50	Agreed
Balm Road - Telford Knee Rail Fencing	Hunslet & Riverside	£780	Agreed
Greenmount Street – Knee Rail Fencing	Hunslet & Riverside	£1,433.50	Agreed
Flaxton Street - Bollards	Hunslet & Riverside	£2,700	Agreed
Leasowe Close - Resurfacing	Hunslet & Riverside	£750	Agreed
Youth Club	Beeston & Holbeck and Hunslet & Riverside	£9,964.25	Deferred
Community Space Upgrade	Hunslet & Riverside	£5,630	Agreed
Church Street barrier	Hunslet & Riverside	£3,500	Agreed
Hunslet Club Community Events	Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside and Middleton Park	£3,850	Agreed in principle*
Middleton Park Juniors – cost of living support	Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside and Middleton Park	£11,448	Deferred
Trees for Trees Ringfence	Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet	£5,000	Agreed

	& Riverside and Middleton Park		
Closure of Back Camberley Street Ringfence	Hunslet & Riverside	£10,000	Agreed

- f. That the details of the declined projects, be noted (paragraph 33)
- g. That the monitoring information of its funded projects, be noted (paragraph 34)
- h. That the details of the Youth Activities Fund position, be noted (Table 2)
- i. That the details of the Small Grants Budget, be noted. (Table 3)
- j. That the details of the Community Skips Budget, be noted. (Table 4)
- k. That the details of the Capital Budget, be noted. (Table 5)
- l. That the details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget, be noted (Table 6)

23 Highways - Leeds Safe Roads Vision Zero

The report of the Team Leader, Safe and Sustainable Travel, provided the Inner South Community Committee with an understanding of the recently adopted Vision Zero Strategy and its action plan and to gather input from Elected Members and residents.

The Team Leader for Safe and Sustainable Travel presented the report, noting the following:

- The Vision Zero strategy was adopted by the Council in October 2022, putting in place, measures to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, whilst increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all by 2040.
- Road traffic accident figures were decreasing until around 2013, however since then, and even more so during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, road incident figures had risen.
The strategy and action plan were developed to stop the trend of increasing road traffic incidents and imbedding the notion that no loss of life is acceptable.
Figures specific to the Inner South area from 2017 to 2021 were outlined as 7 fatalities, 319 serious injuries and 1361 slight injuries.
- The vision will reject traditional road safety data and targets and change the language surrounding the topic to understand difficulties in compelling people to behave properly when using roads to reduce harm and fatalities for vehicle passengers and pedestrians.
- The safe systems approach aims to prevent mistakes but also mitigate the potential for disastrous events when driver error occurs as reducing mistakes on the road to zero was noted to be unrealistic, so measures strive to improve overall road safety.
- Everyone can take responsibility in delivering the vision by following the Highway Code. The Council models for delivery were noted as, road design, traffic management and strategy, public health, education and leading by example through the fleet services and taxi and private hire licensing.
- The Council had engaged with WYP, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services, National Highways, Ambulance Services,

and road safety charities such as Safe Road Partners.

- Council and Police operations working to deliver the strategy were noted as, SPARC (Supporting Partnership Action to Reduce Road Casualties), SNAP (Safer Roads Digital Submissions Portal) and Safety Camera Partnership. Behaviour change campaigns, targeted communications, education, funding bids and data reported were outlined as direct, positive, public facing activity.
- Safe system pillars of action were noted as, safe speeds, safe roads, safe vehicles, safe behaviours, and post-collision learning and care, which feed into overarching strategic objectives and then a tangible delivery plan.
- The 'fatal five' are the leading causes for collisions on the road which are, speeding, distractions, the influence of drink or drugs, seatbelt non-compliance and careless driving.
- The changes in language surrounding collisions on highways, for example, reference to drivers not vehicles and focusing on victims, are to personalise the incident, not to allow it to become another statistic. The updates to the highway code in 2022 created a hierarchy of road users, in terms of vulnerability to injury, noting drivers are most likely to cause harm.
- In February 2023 WYP and West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership published a revision to speed camera criteria with greater flexibility for new camera provision with no new pre-warning signage of upcoming speed cameras to be installed.
- Infrastructure changes to mitigate road incident risk in Leeds will be revised speed limits, more designated cycle lanes and improved pedestrian crossings and safety measures.
- Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) will become more widely available with both mobile and fixed lamppost devices to target areas in need of monitoring. Road safety collision data will be analysed to identify current and emerging areas of concern.
- School based road safety training included, pedestrian, scooter and cycling courses. City wide, targeted communications and education are also being implemented.
- Members were advised how they can promote the vision and strategy through sharing information on the highway code, Operation SNAP and using their reach and social media platforms to communities.

The following was discussed:

- As footfall was significant during Leeds United FC matchdays at Elland Road, Highways Officers agreed to look into potentially creating a clear marked route from Queens Hotel to the stadium.
- There was a plan to address the gaps in provision for the cycle infrastructure in and around the city to create safer routes.
- Speed camera placement criteria was mostly statistic based; however, mobile enforcement placement based on community consultation was emerging.

- Data gathered by SIDs would be useful to be more widely available and subsequent collaborative work with NPT will provide effectiveness in tackling speeding.
- A pilot for the use of E-bikes for hire around the city was due to begin on the 15th of September. It was noted that E-scooters were still illegal to use outside of private late.
- The conversation to improve safe crossing outside of schools had opened through Vision Zero, with additional funding from Active Travel secured.
- The Leeds walking infrastructure plan was in development, collaboratively with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- There had been recent changes to the Highway Code, with pedestrians having priority when crossing side streets.
- It was raised that there was some research that widely using 20mph speed limits may reduce overall effectiveness. Highways Officers noted 20mph speed limits applied to most residential streets in Leeds and data showed fatalities were significantly lower in these zones.
- It was suggested Vision Zero engagement could be done in the Inner South area through Beeston Festival and Holbeck Gala.
- Quietways, cycle or pedestrian routes through less busy areas, may be a useful as a means of meeting the vision's aims.
- School streets was an effective programme that had been launched to encourage walking to school and limiting traffic. Enforcement issues had been experienced.
- To limit rat running through estate, barriers and closed off streets had been the infrastructure used. The low traffic neighbourhoods' scheme had been paused for the time being.
- An aim that linked into other Council strategies such as net zero and active lifestyles was increasing cycling and walking which would reduce overall vehicle collisions.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, presentation and Vision Zero Strategy/Action plan, along with Members comments, be noted.

24 Any Other Business

Members noted that the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin was scheduled to visit Middleton Park on the 25th of September.

The Chair outlined their intention to hold the next meeting at a later starting time of 1:30pm.

A message of thanks for their community work was extended to South Leeds Live.

25 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday, the 29th of November 2023 at 1.30pm, be noted.