



Report of the East North East Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 2nd February 2009

Subject: Actions and Achievements Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Ward members consulted
(referred to in this report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

x

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements relating to priorities and work of the Area Committee since the Area Committee meeting in December 2008.

Purpose of this report

1. This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements since the last Area Committee meeting. Appendix 1 provides more detailed information on the successful Volunteer Thank You Event held by the Area Committee during this quarter.

Highlights

Oakwood Town & District Centre Scheme

2. Phase 1 of the Oakwood Town & District Centre scheme commenced on site on 31st March 2008. The primary aim of the scheme is to contribute towards increasing the economic vitality of the district centre through having an impact on business activity. The scheme proposes to do this through making improvements to the environmental appearance of the area and by improving car parking facilities. Phase 1 consisted of resurfacing and remarking of the bays in Oakwood Clock car park and junction improvements to the car park. This work was completed in February 2008.
3. Phase 2 of the project started work on 17th November 2008 and will address construction of the new parking area on Roundhay Road, lighting of the clock car park and replacement of street furniture. This work is on-going and there no issues to report.

Community Engagement

4. The Area Management Team have been planning the spring 2009 community engagement events as agreed in the Area Committee's community engagement strategy. The focus of these events will be the setting out to residents of the action planned by agencies in their area for the year ahead. A separate report in provided on this.

Community Centres

5. The Mandela Centre and Palace Youth Centre were transferred to Environment and Neighbourhoods Department on 1st February 2008. The responsibilities for the management of the centres now falls to the Area Management Team. It is currently envisaged that budgets and an operational pricing and discount policy will be in place from October 2009. At this point the Area Committee will have responsibility to oversee the financial management and effective operation of the centres.

Mandela Centre

6. The Area Management Team have successfully bid for full replacement of the lights in the sports hall. This work was completed before Christmas.
7. The Young Persons Steering Group has been re-established and continues to meet on a regular basis, managing the development of the upstairs rooms. Questionnaires have been distributed to young people who use the centre and they have provided feedback to the main steering group. The main steering group will provide further direction and a plan of projects for the young people's steering group to lead on.
8. A funding bid has been submitted to the LS Cash and the Area management Team is waiting to hear if this has been successful. This will pay for the development of the

upstairs rooms and decorating the whole building. Alongside this the short term aims for the steering group include setting up a website, production of a newsletter, developing the outside sports area and extending the dance floor in the main hall upstairs.

The Palace

9. The Area Management Team have actively been seeking proposals from organisations about how the rooms in the building can be better used and have met with a number of organisations based in the local area. This includes the Youth offending Team, People in Action, Somali Family Services, Deen Enterprises, Invisible Circle Education and East Street Arts. Contact has also been made with Business in the Community, who have made proposals in the past to decorate and improve this facility as part a corporate responsibility agenda.

Open Door

10. The Open Door has been open since March 2008 as a youth and community centre with a customer service point for ENEHL. The project is now staffed by ENEHL on Mondays and Thursdays and Police Community Support Officers Monday to Friday 1-3. A new computer system has been installed to allow any member of staff from ENEHL to work from the centre, which now also hosts a benefits advisor, the Bracken Woods TRA and Lidgett Towers TRA. The management committee are currently seeking to become a registered company and will seek to apply for charitable status.

Probation Services

11. The contract with Probation Services has now been signed. Up until the 12th January, Probation Services have completed a total of 440 offender hours in the inner area and done work in St.Johns churchyard, Ginnels in Oakwood, Lidgett Walk and Potternewton Lane. Probation also now do a weekly cleanup in the Beckhill area. The aim of this exercise is to link it directly with the Beckhill tenants and residents association so they can identify work and direct this service. Progress has been made in advertising this service to local groups and more referrals are coming in as a consequence.

Volunteer Thank You Event

12. This year's Thank You event took place on the 15th December between 6pm and 8.30pm. Entertainment was provided by the Mixed Voices and Church of God the Prophecy Gospel Choir, RJC Dance and the Children's Circus and was attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor.
13. The date for next years event has been arranged and it will take place on the 10th December. The Well Being Fund working group recommended support of this event.
14. Please see appendix 1 of this report for a full review of the Volunteer Thank You Event and recommended next steps.
15. A DVD is being produced of the event and it is hoped a preview will be shown at the Area Committee meeting to support this paper.

Priority Neighbourhoods update

16. The Area Committee will be aware that three neighbourhoods in the north east have been identified as priority areas for multi-agency action to narrow the gap between these areas and the rest of the city. This is based on deprivation indicators. All three neighbourhoods are in the inner area – Chapeltown (IMPACT partnership), Beckhill (Beckhill Implementation Group) and Moor Allerton (MAP). Area Management staff are responsible for driving forward action in these areas through partnership arrangements. The following are progress updates from the partnership groups.

Beckhill Implementation Group

17. Operation Champion took place in early December. 2 Drugs warrants were carried out and five arrests made, 5 Search warrants were carried out on properties and three arrests made, 20 visits were carried out to known perpetrators of crime in the Beckhill estate, 17 Stop and searches were carried out. The ENEHL Estate Caretaking team carried out much of the work on the Environmental Audit of over 40 addresses or communal areas.
18. Plans are underway to deliver a series of healthy living activities following the award of £4,000 to BIG from NHS Leeds. Applications for specific have been received and funding agreements will be issued shortly. The kinds of activities being planned include a Slipper Exchange, intergenerational recipe swap, the BIG sing along and Strictly Beckhill – Ballroom dancing and a community football tournament.
19. A second newsletter will be produced by ENEH in the spring, with contributions from other partners and the Area Management Team. It will include an article about the work of probation services on the estate and advertise the Healthy Living Activities. The Take Action Card will be distributed as part of this and will encourage local people to identify work for probation services to carry out.
20. The former FSU building in the estate is in the process of being renovated by ENE Homes, with probation services contributing to this. Work is currently being undertaken to identify uses for this building and encourage use by local people.
21. Probation Services are now based on the Beckhill Estate, one day a week and have done significant work in clearing litter from pathways. Proposals for other work are being investigated and wardens will become involved acting as a link between residents and this service.

IMPACT

22. The IMPACT Residents Network continues to meet regularly and is now chaired by a resident. It has recently decided that it wants to become a constituted organisation. This will allow the network to become sustainable and enable it to seek alternative funds from, for example, Social Landlords and other grant making bodies. A core group of residents has been established to help steer the network and a draft format with key speakers has been agreed for future meetings.
23. Early February will see the planting of 13 replacement trees in the Sholebrokes, 6 in the Reginalds and a further 6 around Harehills Corner with decorative, but robust tree guards.
24. Following on from an environmental audit and Clean-up on Spencer Place in October, Chapel Allerton tasking has funded the cutting back of 10 extremely overgrown hedges – some as tall as 15 feet high. This initiative was done in partnership with a number of social landlords and clearly explained as a one-off

gesture of good will. It has gone some way to improve the lines of sight and general look and feel of the road.

25. Chapel Allerton tasking fund (and Chapel Allerton Councillors Mice Money) has been used to purchase 200 timer switches and 100 personal attack alarms. These have been distributed to residents through a variety of methods. In addition, tasking funds have been used to install ten Dusk 'til Dawn lights in the IMPaCT area by Care and Repair. The aim was to improve home security for residents and to reduce the fear of crime in their area.
26. Theatre in Education are about to begin delivery of the new Educational Theatre Programme "losing it" raising issues of anti-social behaviour, community cohesion & division and male violence, to single sex and mixed youth groups in the IMPaCT area. Beneficiaries will be targeted through existing LCC Youth Service groups including groups at the Prince Philip Centre, the Mandela Centre, the Bangladeshi and Islamic Centres.
27. A workshop has been held with IMPaCT partners to consider ways of working more closely on Resident Engagement. A timetable of partners engagement activities is being developed as a result and housing providers have agreed to work more collaboratively on estate inspections and clean ups - looking particularly at streets where a landlord may only have one or two properties.

Moor Allerton Partnership (MAP)

28. The MAP area spans the outer and inner area. Area Management staff are responsible for driving forward action in these areas through partnership arrangements. The Moor Allerton Partnership includes the following sub-groups.
29. The Area Management Team are currently working closely with the Board of Trustees to develop the Open House and solve the current issues. Open House remains open and is being run by a group of volunteers. The Youth Service continue to operate from the building and the AGM took place on the 20th January.

Recommendations

29. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.