



Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

Meeting: South (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 30th March 2009

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley & Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

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

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 Community Centres

2.1 The minutes of the Community Centres Sub Committee of the 18th February are attached for information at **Appendix 1**. The following are details of issues currently being addressed by Area Management on behalf of the Community Centres Sub Committee.

- 2.2 Members will recall the recent decision to house the Rothwell Judo Club in the refurbished Windmill Youth Club building. However, since the relocation of the Judo Club to Windmill a number of issues have arisen. These mainly centre on the operation of the building when sessions of both the Youth Club and judo Club overlap on Friday evening. Area Management staff along with Ward Members have been supporting both groups in an effort to iron out any difficulties, address concerns from both groups and provide for a smooth operation of the building. Mediation has taken place at meetings involving both parties, AMT staff, Councillor Don Wilson and Corporate Property Management. An operational protocol was agreed along with some further minor work on the building, such as installing a buzzer system and signage at the side entrance and in the Judo Room. Further mediation is planned as we progress the resolution of these issues
- 2.3 In February 2008 Members agreed to a lower level of rent during 2008/09 for a childcare provider, Kaleidoscope, who hold the lease at West Ardsley Community Centre to allow it to develop and ensure its long term sustainability. Discussions have been ongoing with Kaleidoscope in order to determine the level of rent for 2009/10. At present, the rental payment per annum stands at £3,000. In accordance with the original agreement, payments should stand at approximately £8,900. For financial year 2009/10, Kaleidoscope have again requested that the level of rent remains at £3,000. This is due to another before and after school club opening at a local Primary School and numbers of young people decreasing to attend the new provision. This matter was discussed at the last Outer South Community Centres Sub Committee (see 6.3) who conditionally endorsed the £3,000 rent subject formal Area Committee approval, with the conditions that there should be more regular financial reporting and increasing the rent in lower increments of £1,000 per annum.
- 2.4 Ward Members have requested some investigations into current state of the old Stanhope centre in Churwell. A request has been made to Corporate Property Management for a more detailed Conditions Survey to enable a schedule of renovation works to be identified prior to considering possible funding sources. However, Corporate Property Management and Asset Management recommend a feasibility study be undertaken at an approximate cost of £4,000 revenue funding to the Area Committee. Members are also asked to note that investigations at Churwell have established that no restriction covenant exists that might affect the future disposal of the property.

3.0 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group

3.1 Litterbins

- 3.1.1 At the February Area Committee, it was reported that the Cleaner Neighbourhood Sub Group welcomed confirmation from Environmental Services that the 2005/06 and 2007/08 round of additional litterbins had been installed. Environmental Services have now confirmed the 12 additional litterbins for the Rothwell Ward have also been fitted.

3.2 Environmental Pride Initiative

- 3.2.1 The Environmental Pride group have regularly meet in 2009 and have seen the completion of a successful clean up on Leigh Road on the 18th February which saw partnership working between Aire Valley Homes and Streetscene staff to undertake a

significant clean up of fly tipping on Leigh Road and also resulted in an Asbestos issue being identified and cleared.

- 3.2.2 Partners from the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group continue to work together outside of the meeting to successfully tackle environmental issues raised by Members and partners.

4.0 Area Delivery Plan (ADP) 2008- 11

4.1 Community Engagement

- 4.1.1 A Community Engagement report was presented to Members at the December 2008 Area Committee outlining an Outer South Community Engagement Plan that would utilise the range of current engagement activities and also be supplemented with additional events and activities that would ensure a Ward wide engagement approach that would feed into a revised ADP. A draft timetable recommended engagement events in the Spring that would generate feedback to influence the revision of the ADP during Autumn.
- 4.1.2 There are several key Area Committee engagement events that Area Management are currently working towards during February – July. A family event to engage with residents of Oakwells Fairfax Estate in Drighlington as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan programme is planned for Saturday 21st March at Drighlington Meeting Hall. The Priority Neighbourhood Worker has worked well with partners to organise the event; undertaking promotional activities and putting an exciting format for consultation that includes an ‘Ideas Tree’, children’s activities, free Easter Eggs and a visit from Ronnie the Rhino.
- 4.1.3 Further work on community engagement events includes an event planned in conjunction with Ed Carlisle from the charity ‘Together for Peace’ regarding a ‘Network Meal’ for Morley to be held on 28th April at Morley Town Hall. Using a methodology called ‘The World Café’, planning is underway for a pilot event in Morley which will be delivered in partnership with the Outer South Area Committee, Morley Town Council and will be hosted by community development charity Together for Peace (T4P). This event will be based on previous events held by T4P that aim to create stronger communities. Morley’s Network Meal will bring together people from different backgrounds to an informal and creative environment focused on sitting down together over a meal to ‘connect’ with each other. The World Café concept seeks to use a conversational process based on set of integrated design principles, which reveal a way for individuals to co-evolve a collective future. These conversations link and build on each other as people move between groups, cross pollinate ideas and action common aims. The Area Management Team is seeking to understand if this concept can be used to support community engagement activities and contribute to the framing of the ADP.
- 4.1.4 A Ward Member Briefing meeting with Ardsley and Robin Hood Members agreed that a Participatory Budgeting initiative focusing on the Lofthouse Estate, would benefit the neighbourhood and residents. The Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Customer Involvement Officer for Aire Valley Homes are working together on supporting the Tenants and Residents Association, whilst Area Management are working to deliver the project plan which will see a Decision Day held in early June.

4.1.5 A Community Engagement Report will be presented at the June Area Committee which will give further information on community engagement events being undertaken and planned and also demonstrate how information will be captured to link with priority setting and evidence the creation of actions in the ADP.

4.2 Thematic Leads

4.2.1 Since the introduction of the new ADP format and its crucial role to capture how partnership working at a local level is contributing to meeting to aims of the Leeds Strategic Plan, Members have been identified as Thematic Leads to support this process. Appendix 2 notes Cllr Grayshon as the Health and Well being Thematic lead

4.2.2 As reported to the last meeting, Area Management continue to work with the Corporate Performance Team on providing performance management data to the Area Committee that it local and meaningful. In addition to this, a working group with membership from all three Area Management wedges and the Corporate Performance Team are developing a revised action plan template. This work is due to conclude in time for an ADP review report to the June Area Committee.

5.0 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme

5.1 Marsh Street

5.1.1 We are informed that this work is now complete and subject to a final site inspection.

5.2 Morley Bottoms

5.2.1 The lay-by is completed and the formal procedure for Highways to formally adopt the lay-by is being progressed -

5.2.2 S215 Enforcement Action

Prosecution in respect of 1 Brunswick St. This matter has been before the courts three times now. The owner has carried out some repairs but not in compliance with the order. The court may fine the owner if he fails to complete the works. However, if the works remain incomplete LCC will have to prosecute again.

1a Queen St has been completed i.e. the notice was complied with. 2a Queen St the matter is before the court, the owner of the property has not appealed. The works should be completed by 5 May, if not completed, LCC will prosecute. 3 Brunswick Street - the notice has been fully complied with and the works have been completed.

5.2.3 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. YHA have met with the Housing Corporation and expect the Housing Corporation to make a decision regarding grant funding at the beginning of March.

6.0 Queensway Car Park - Review

- 6.1 In February 2008 Area Committee approved a three hour waiting limit for part of the Queensway Car Park in order to attract shoppers and ease traffic flows. Members asked for the scheme to be monitored after the first 6 months.
- 6.2 Following consultation and amendment of traffic orders, the scheme went live in September 2008. It was agreed that a “bedding in” period would be included during which people would only get a fine if they park outside the bays or in bays for the disabled without displaying a blue badge.
- 6.3 Monitoring by the Town Centre Manager has comprised observing traffic flows and ongoing discussions with Car Parking, Enforcement, Traffic Wardens, Traders, Ward Members, the Market Management / Traders and users of the car park. This has revealed overwhelming support for the scheme.
- 6.4 In December 2008 Car Parking Enforcement undertook a survey of the number of people obtaining tickets indicating the time of their arrival. It showed: At 12:30pm there were 175 vehicles with tickets in and 26 vehicles with no tickets in. The area was inspected again 3 hours later and there were 140 vehicles with tickets and 29 vehicles with no tickets. No vehicles were displaying expired tickets.
- 6.5 On 18 February the Town Centre Manager undertook a questionnaire of people using the car park. The survey was conducted in the three hour zone and showed that 40% used it for shopping, 25% for work, and 25% for the bank and picking up a relative. 30 people responded.
30% used it daily, 30% weekly, and the remainder were less frequent including one who was a first time shopper in Morley.
80% said they could always find a parking place when they visited and 93% said it was easier to park now than before the scheme was introduced.
93% said the current arrangement is suitable. One person said it should be 2 hours maximum and one said it should be unlimited throughout.
Positive comments received included: New scheme works excellently, Far better now, Better with heavy bags and children, Been great success, Good except for snow, It brings shoppers in from other areas as parking better now, Got it right, Works well with no charging as that would detract people. Heard about charity shops and came to visit.
Negative comments were: Like a skating rink when snow came, No sign of enforcing, Ice should be cleaned up, Tickets aren't available, Should put a Morrison's trolley bay in bottom section.
- 6.6 The intention of the scheme is to improve the management of the car park so that space is available for short stay visitors. As this is currently being achieved, enforcement is not required. However, the situation is being monitored by Parking Services and enforcement will be carried out if this changes.

7.0 Rothwell Library Garden

- 7.1 Following receipt of a substantial bequest, Rothwell in Bloom approached Groundwork regarding the development of land in front of Rothwell Library. A Steering Group was created with representatives from Groundwork, Rothwell in Bloom (RIB), Libraries, Area Management, Youth Service and Parks and Countryside. Regular steering group meetings have overseen a project plan that included successful consultation with the local community and library staff, and workshops with young people to design elements of the garden.
- 7.2 On Friday 5th March, the Steering Group met and agreed the following timeline for project completion:
- Metal work design: Artist to visit young people again with the designs at the library 17th Mar 6 – 7.30pm.
 - Planting day: 7th and 8th April.
 - 9th April. Week for 'snagging'
 - Official Opening day: Sat 18th April.
 - August 09: Agreed to have a follow on day in August to celebrate the achievement when garden more established and in full bloom. Link in with Library reading game. To plan after opening day.

8.0 Rothwell 600

- 8.1 Area Committee supported the Rothwell 600 Committee with £15,000 to deliver a range of events during 2008 to celebrate the 600th anniversary of Rothwell receiving its Royal Charter. Twenty two events were successfully organised by the committee who delivered a great programme to celebrate the anniversary.
- 8.2 The Rothwell 600 celebrations were held as a fillip for the town throughout the period of major demolition and rebuilding of the town centre in 2008.
- 8.3 Local Councillors and Area Management Officers are supporting the Rothwell 600 group, who have decided to continue to meet as a wider coalition of Rothwell Groups with the aim to over see a programme of Rothwell events over the coming year. The group meets monthly and all event organisers are welcome to attend.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the above information and make comment as appropriate.
- 9.2 Members are asked to approve the Outer South Community Centres Sub Committee decision to maintain the rent for the childcare provider Kaleidoscope at West Ardsley Community Centre to £3,000 per annum for 2009/10 subject to the conditions of regular financial reporting and increasing the rent in lower increments of £1,000 per annum.
- 9.3 Members are asked to note the impact of the time restrictions introduced at Queensway Car Park as outlined in 6.0 and approve the recommendation to continue with the limited parking restrictions.

Background Papers:

- CCTV 7th July 2008
- Well being Report 9th February 2009
- Area Managers 9th February 2009
- Marsh Street Car Park 25th February 2008
- Area Committee Roles for 2008/09 1st September 2008
- Queensway Car Park Survey 17th December 2007