

NORTH WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor B Chastney in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, S Bentley, J Chapman,
P Ewens, M Hamilton, G Harper,
J Illingworth, J Matthews, J Monaghan,
L Rhodes-Clayton and L Yeadon

OFFICERS: Jason Singh, Acting West North West Area Manager
Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Management
Kate Sibson, West North West Area Management
Graham Wilson, Environment and Neighbourhoods
Stuart Robinson, Chief Executive's Department

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Richard Tyler, Leeds HMO Lobby
Barrie Payne, Leeds HMO Lobby
Jessica Kirk, Leeds HMO Lobby
Tony Green, North Hyde Park Neighbourhood
Association
Josie Green, North Hyde Park Neighbourhood
Association
Ted Winter, Royal Park Community Consortium
D E Long, Leeds Schools Together
David Salinger, a local resident
Paul Hudson, a local resident
Sylvia Whyke, a local resident
Marian Charlton, a local resident
Tony Ray, a local resident
Rachel Reeves, a local resident
Nicholas Quin, a local resident
Fiona Ratcliffe, a local resident
Kathleen Mason, a local resident

79 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the February meeting of the North West (Inner) Area Committee held at Iveson Primary School, Iveson Rise, Leeds 16.

In particular, he also welcomed Councillor G Harper to the meeting following his election to the Council as a representative for the Hyde Park and Woodhouse ward.

80 Declarations of Interest

The following personal declarations were made:-

- Councillor J Illingworth in his capacity as an employee at the University of Leeds (Agenda Item 6) (Minute 82 refers)
- Councillor P Ewens in her capacity as a School Governor at the City of Leeds High School (Agenda Items 6 and 7) (Minutes 82 and 83 refer)
- Councillor B Chastney in his capacity as a Board Member on West North West Homes ALMO Board (Agenda Item 8) (Minute 85 refers)

81 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence received from Members of the Committee.

82 Open Forum

In accordance with paragraph 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed members of the public to make representations or ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee:-

a) Council's Policy regarding gritting on pavements

David Salinger, a local resident informed the meeting that he had not received any clarification in relation to the Council's policy regarding gritting on pavements in view of the dangers to the public, especially for those with specific mobility problems.

Jason Singh, Acting West North West Area Manager responded that the policy was outlined under Matters Arising, and that a copy of the Council's winter service plan would be sent to Mr Salinger.

b) Planning Matters/Wellbeing Budget/Neighbourhood Index

Dr Richard Tyler, Leeds HMO Lobby made reference to the following issues:-

Planning Matters

- HMO Consultation – he reported that the results of the consultation process had been announced on 27th January 2010 and following this announcement, the Use Classes Order would now be amended, subject to HMOs planning control. It was noted that the consultation was overwhelmingly in favour of this amendment and was due to come into effect on 3rd April 2010
- Core Strategy Consultation – he reported that the responses were overwhelmingly in support of the Council's proposals on Specialist Accommodation (which included students' housing and new policies on housing mix). He requested the Area Committee to lobby planners to implement these policies as soon as possible which was duly supported by Members. The Chair agreed to bring back a paper on this item when appropriate
- Community Planner – he reported that Jade Corcoran was resigning as Community Planner in early March and on behalf of residents he wished to place on record his thanks for her valuable support over the last two years

The Chair responded and agreed to write, on behalf of the Area Committee, to Jade Corcoran conveying the Committee's appreciation of the work undertaken within the NW Inner area. The Committee also supported the retention of the Community Planning Officer post which would be debated later in the meeting under the wellbeing item

- Wellbeing Budget – he reported his concerns that 25% of revenue was to be allocated in tackling student - generated problems (Woodhouse Moor, waste collection, Leave Leeds Tidy). Since the city benefited from the universities, he suggested that these costs should be born by the city as a whole
- Neighbourhood Index – he reported his concerns that the Index was suspect and disadvantageous to Inner NW Leeds. He made reference to the work undertaken on this issue by Leeds HMO Lobby which highlighted that the Index misrepresented the character of the area

c) HMO Issues

Councillor M Hamilton referred to HMO issues and praised the work undertaken by Jade Corcoran in this area. He also wished to place on record his appreciation to Dr Richard Tyler who had been a major player in HMO issues. He informed the meeting that there had been a recent meeting of Plans Panel Chair's to discuss the way forward with a view to finalising a plan of action which would be brought back to this meeting in due course.

d) Wellbeing Monies – Leave Leeds Tidy Project

Councillor B Atha referred to the issue of spending wellbeing monies on commercial waste. He stated that, in his opinion, the Landlords were to blame for this increasing problem. He condemned this practice and put forward a motion from this meeting to request that the Executive Board deplores the spending of wellbeing monies by Area Committees in relation to commercial waste.

Councillor J Monaghan made reference to the Leave Leeds Tidy Project and suggested it would be helpful for the Executive Board to ask the universities to make a contribution in this area.

The Chair responded and noted the above comments. He confirmed that the 'Leave Leeds Tidy Project' would be debated later under the wellbeing item.

e) City of Leeds High School

Marian Charlton, a local resident referred to the need for the retention of the City of Leeds High School and to bring the school up to a required standard.

In addition to this, Ms D E Long, on behalf of Leeds Schools Together, also supported the comments made for the retention of the City of Leeds High School. She also made specific reference to a recent public meeting where a number of proposals were put forward.

The Chair responded and noted the specific comments made.

- f) New Blog by the Guardian Newspaper
Councillor J Monaghan referred to the debate undertaken at the Council Meeting yesterday regarding a new blog by the Guardian Newspaper. It was noted that John Baron, a journalist, would be attending as many Council meetings as possible as his brief was to 'better cover the goings on of local government'.

He suggested that as the North West (Inner) Area Committee was heavily active in public engagement, an invitation should be made to Mr Baron to attend the next meeting in April.

Jason Singh, Acting West North West Area Manager responded and agreed to follow up this issue.

- g) Leeds Local Access Forum
Councillor J Illingworth referred to the above issue and informed the meeting that there were a number of vacancies on the Leeds Local Access Forum around footpaths.

The Committee noted the current position and requested Members and members of the public to contact the Governance Unit in the Civic Hall, Leeds for further details.

- h) Cycle Action Forum
Councillor J Illingworth referred to the above issue and stated the importance of Highways addressing the A660, as well as providing a cycle route from Cookridge to the City Centre.

83 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th January 2010 be approved as a correct record.

84 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a) Former Royal Park School (Minute 65 refers)
Councillor B Atha enquired on the latest position with regards to the former Royal Park School.

Jason Singh, Acting West North West Area Manager responded and confirmed that a report on Royal Park School would be submitted to the Executive Board meeting on 10th March 2010.

In summary, it was noted that the report was recommending the Executive Board to :-

- the sale of the property at best consideration in a manner which brings about its restoration as soon as possible
- using the Council's Well Being powers to facilitate community use for part of the building
- and seeking the views of Members on a request from Inner North West Area Committee that the Council does not pursue collection of its legal costs from members of the Royal Park Community Consortium group which were awarded by the Court

The Committee noted and welcomed the current position.

- b) Hyde Park and Woodhouse Forum (Minute 66 (d) refers)
Councillor G Harper enquired on the latest position with regard to convening a meeting of the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Forum.

Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Management responded and agreed to follow up this issue.

- c) 2010 Year of Volunteering in Leeds – The Area Committee Input (Minute 69 refers)

Councillor L Yeadon referred to the above issue and confirmed that she was prepared to act as 'Area Committee Year of the Volunteer Champion' on behalf of the Area Committee.

She stated that, to date, nobody had made contact with her with regards to what this specific role entails.

Jason Singh, the Acting West North West Area Manager responded and agreed to contact Steve Crocker, Leeds Year of Volunteering 2010 Co-ordinator to ensure that Councillor Yeadon was suitably briefed on this issue.

- d) Annual Community Safety Report 2009 (Minute 70 refers)
The Chair referred to the above issue and read out the contents of a letter he had received from the Chief Inspector, West Yorkshire Police regarding Police and Community Together meetings (PACT). It was noted that there were attempting to be more streamline in relation to these meetings, but were not allowed to lose their branding status.

Councillor L Yeadon enquired why Ward Councillors meetings with Inspectors had not taken place for some time. Members agreed that there was a need to re-introduce this process.

Jason Singh, Acting West North West Area Manager responded and agreed to follow this issue.

In concluding, Members noted that Inspector O' Brien had recently taken over from Inspector Naughton.

85 Restructure - Wardens to Local Community Environment Officers and Support Officers

Referring to Minute 14 of the meeting held on 14th July 2010, the Chief Officers for Regeneration and Health and Environmental Action Services submitted a report concerning the restructure of the new warden service, the new Community Environment Officer/Community Environment Support Officer posts and the initial deployment of the new posts.

Graham Wilson, Head of Environmental Action and Parking, Environment and Neighbourhoods presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- clarification of the deployment process outlined in Section 12 of the report and the need to retain those posts based in Hyde Park and Woodhouse and Kirkstall wards
- clarification as to why there were 1.5 posts in Hyde Park and Woodhouse and not 2 posts
- the view expressed that the deployment of posts should be on a need and flexible basis and not on a ward by ward basis
- the need to congratulate and acknowledge the work undertaken by the Hawksworth Wood warden
- clarification of the role of wardens employed within Parks and Countryside and whether they had any specific enforcement powers
- the need to look at changing the demographic area around the Haddons in Burley
- the need to refer the recommendations contained in the report to the Area Committee's Environmental Sub Group for consideration

RESOLVED –

- a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- b) That the recommendations contained in the report be referred to the Area Committee's Environmental Sub Group for consideration.

86 Wellbeing Fund Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report outlining the 2010/11 Wellbeing revenue and capital budgets and presenting new funding applications for the Area Committee to consider.

Appended to the report was a copy of a report entitled 'List of applications for funding from the 2010 revenue Wellbeing allocation' for the information/comment of the meeting.

Kate Sibson, West North West Area Management presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices, with specific reference to the Voluntary Action Leeds Funding Advice Officer

project and seeking clarification around project costs and standard redundancy payment issues.

Jason Singh, the Acting West North West Area Manager responded and informed the meeting that under the terms of the Voluntary Action Leeds funding agreement, the organisation was responsible for redundancy costs.

Councillor L Rhodes – Clayton sought clarification of Ward Based Initiative funding and the Acting West North West Area Manager agreed to follow up this issue with a report back to Councillor Rhodes-Clayton.

Kate Sibson, West North West Area Management also referred to recent discussions between the Chief Regeneration Officer and Area Management which had resulted in two further projects being put forward for consideration from the Weetwood allocation of the Area Committee's Well-being capital budget, namely:-

- Raynel Approach Shop Front Improvements - £10,479
- Silk Mill Shop Front Improvements - £18,086.89

Prior to considering the projects outlined in the report, the Committee specifically noted that the final budget of **£217,029** was available, which included £3,834 underspend from the Community Planning post.

RESOLVED-

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That approval be given to the following new projects as detailed in Sections 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 of the report from the 2009/10 Well-being revenue budget:-
 - Harolds and Thornvilles Home Zone Consultation - £2,990 revenue
 - Granbys Bin Yard Improvements - £9,018 capital
 - Tinshill Garth Play Area - £6,266.11 capital
- c) That, arising from recent discussions with the Chief Regeneration Officer, approval be given to funding the following projects from the Weetwood allocation of the Area Committee's Well-being capital budget:-
 - Raynel Approach Shop Front Improvements - £10,479
 - Silk Mill Shop Front Improvements - £18,086.89
- d) That approval be given to funding the following projects from the Area Committee's 2010/11 Well-being revenue allocation once the budget has been confirmed at Executive Board in March 2010:-

	Project	Applicant	Amount
1	Community Planning Officer	Development Service	£40,000
2	Environmental Action Team Officer	Environmental Services	£34,840
3	Overnight enforcement patrols during student	Environmental Services	£2,040

	changeover		
4	Youth mobile	Youth Service	£ 7,800
5	Streetscene student changeover services	Environmental Services	£ 9,825
6	Leave Leeds Tidy	Leeds University Student Union	£15,922
7	Enforcement officers for Woodhouse Moor	Parks & Countryside Service	£25,085
8	Kirkstall Ward revenue budget	Area Management	£10,000
9	Funding Advice Officer	Voluntary Action Leeds	£4,804 for two months project costs to cover notice
10	Festive Lights	Area Management	£12,014
11	Small Grants budget	Area Management	£17,992
12	Skips budget	Area Management	£1,000
13	Neighbourhood Design Statements	Area Management	£8,000
14	Police capture house	West Yorkshire Police	£4,000
15	Police capture car	West Yorkshire Police	£2,500
16	Trolley Bus (Assisted Supermarket Visits)	Older Active People	£7,500, subject to further clarification. If not, progressing with current applicant, commission from alternative provider
17	Seagulls Repaint	Seagulls Re-use Ltd	£6,430
18	Holt Park Friday Night Project	Extended Services	£5,844, subject to securing match funding.
19	Chair Exercise Class	Older Active People	£1,608

87 Neighbourhood Index

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report providing the meeting with a brief as to what the Neighbourhood Index was and how it could be used to better understand the demographic of, and the issues facing, the individual neighbourhoods throughout the city.

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- Leeds Neighbourhood Index – In-depth report (Appendix 1 refers)
- Neighbourhood Index data for Inner North West (Appendix 2 refers)

Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Management presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- the concern that the report did not sufficiently reference the demographic imbalance within the NW Inner area
- the concern that some of the locations referenced in the neighbourhood profile sections were inaccurate
- the concern that the report did not reference some of the more significant sport and cultural assets in the area
- the need to congratulate Leeds HMO Lobby on their work undertaken on this issue and to pass on this detail to the Neighbourhood Services Team with a request to develop the Neighbourhood Index further to more accurately reflect the issues around demography, crime and deprivation in certain parts of the inner North West area
- the need to focus on city-wide school provision within the document
- the need for Members to forward any further comments on the document to West North West Area Management as soon as possible

RESOLVED-

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That the individual comments made at the meeting be fed back to the report author by the Acting West North West Area Manager and that the work undertaken on this issue by the HMO Lobby be passed to the Neighbourhood Services Team with a request to develop the Neighbourhood Index further to more accurately reflect the issues around demography, crime and deprivation in certain parts of the inner North West area.
- c) That Members of the Area Committee be also requested to forward any further comments on the document to Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Management as soon as possible.

88 Progress Update on Residual Waste Treatment PFI Project

Referring to Minute 24 of the meeting held on 17th September 2010, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating the meeting on the Residual Waste Treatment PFI Project bid evaluation process, on communications undertaken to date and the proposed forward communication and consultation programme.

The following documents were appended to the report for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- A map showing the site locations (Appendix A refers)
- Figures on the estimated level of refuse collection vehicle deliveries (Appendix B refers)

- A map providing an indication of the routing of vehicles city-wide under the same two scenarios (Appendix C refers)

Arising from discussions, a member of the public sought clarification of the consultation process on the future of the Household Waste Sorting Site.

Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Management responded and agreed to follow up this issue with an update to be included within the matters arising document at the next meeting.

RESOLVED - That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.

89 Key Messages from Area Committee Sub Groups and Forums

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report providing the meeting with a summary of ward forums and sub groups that have taken place since the last Area Committee, together with providing information on future meeting dates for the Committee's forums and sub groups.

Appended to the report was a copy of a document entitled 'Inner North West Community Centre Pricing Review (directly managed centres)' for the information/comment of the meeting.

Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Management presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- the need for further clarification as to why a decision had been made in delaying a meeting of the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Forum due to purdah before 18th February 2010 by-election (Section 1.2 refers)
(Kate Sibson, West North West Area Management responded and agreed to make some further enquiries in this regard with a report back at the next meeting)
- clarification of the consultation arrangements to date in relation to the West Park Centre and the need for the Area Committee to be involved within the process (Section 6.1 refers)
(Jason Singh, Acting West North West Area Manager responded and informed the meeting that the official three month consultation period on the future of the West Park Centre was due to commence from the beginning of June 2010)
- the need for the Culture Sub Group to focus on major arts venues/facilities within the city i.e. music facilities at the West Park Centre and the Kirkstall Festival
(The Chair responded and informed the meeting that at the Culture Conference held on 28th January, the theme of the conference was to celebrate those smaller unknown schemes within the city)
- to welcome the recent allocation of Wellbeing funds for two Enforcement Officers for Woodhouse Moor and to seek clarification as

to whether or not the barbeque pilot on Woodhouse Moor would be implemented

(Jason Singh, Acting West North West Area Manager responded and agreed to liaise with Parks and Countryside on this issue with a report back at the next meeting)

- the need to finalise a date of the Environmental Sub Group as soon as possible
- the need to re-introduce the Young People's Sub Group following recent discussions with the Locality Enabler in Children's Services
(Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Management responded and agreed to convene a meeting with Councillor P Ewens and the Locality Enabler with a view to progressing this matter)
- clarification as to why 'themed' meetings were not being held anymore prior to Area Committee meetings
(The Chair responded and informed the meeting that these meetings had not been very productive with poor attendance. However the Committee did acknowledge that the timing of the meetings had not been user friendly for working families etc. The Chair also noted that if it was the desire of Members to re-instate such meetings, he was open to Members bringing forward appropriate 'themes' to future meetings)

RESOLVED-

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted
- b) That approval be given to the revisions to the community centre pricing and lettings policy as outlined in Appendix 1.

90 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 7.00pm (venue to be confirmed)

(The meeting concluded at 8.45pm)