



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 8th September 2010

Subject: Acting Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley
Bramley & Stanningley

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

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan is the delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan in the Inner West area. This report identifies progress against the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

3. Main Issues

Culture

3.1 The 6th 'I Love West Leeds' festival 2010 featured over 40 events spread over three weeks. The festival reached over 7,500 people and in addition, many more people will have seen the Lamppost Gallery which was exhibited on the main streets of Armley, Bramley, Rodley, Farsley and Pudsey.

- 3.2 The festival worked with all generations from primary age to older people. Ten primary schools took part in projects this year and over 100 older people attended a live music and tea dance event produced in partnership with the neighbourhood network schemes. The festival's first writers in residence scheme saw five young writers working hard under the mentorship of professional writer Rommi Smith. Swallow Hill Community College held their own in-school festival.
- 3.3 Volunteers played a strong role in the festival with 40 volunteers helping to make 500 plaster hippos that were decorated by school children and further volunteers worked on a range of festival events. Libraries played a key part in the festival with hippo events taking place at libraries across west Leeds and live music taking place in Pudsey library, bringing new visitors in. Armley Mills Museum hosts the festival office and featured events such as the family film club, the young writers Word Café and the opening of the new gallery The Millspace which attracted over 70 attendees including the head of the Arts Council England (Yorkshire).
- 3.4 Local partnerships with organisations like Pudsey Business Forum, the Armley & Pudsey Town Centre Manager and Bramley Shopping Centre enabled events to take place in Pudsey Park and Bramley Shopping Centre entertaining local people with live music and activities.
- 3.5 Planning has already begun for autumn and winter events under the festival brand. A full report will be submitted to the Area Committee in October. It should be noted that discussions have taken place with I Love West Leeds to advise that Area Committee funding at previous levels cannot be provided indefinitely. The organisation is actively seeking alternative funding.
- 3.6 The Armley Fun Day took place on 28th July. The Area Committee has supported Armley Common Rights with a small grant of £500 to enhance this event. The Area Management Team hosted a stall jointly with Year of the Volunteer and Armley Townscape Heritage Initiative. The team used the opportunity to promote the Armley Shop Local campaign through an Armley treasure hunt activity and also asked people to complete a questionnaire on local crime and grime issues.
- 3.7 The first Armley summer celebration event took place on 26th June, including summer bands in the park, a dog show, inflatables and other family attractions. It is hoped to increase attendance next year by improving attractions and publicity.

Enterprise and Economy

- 3.8 The Inner West area now has a new Business Facilities and Social Enterprise Manager (BFSEM) – Bill Graham – employed through BARCA Leeds under the Community Centres Consortium. He will attend the Inner West Area Committee in September to introduce himself to members. His role is to improve the long term sustainability of Fairfield Community Centre, New Wortley Community Centre and Wyther Community House.
- 3.9 He started in post in July 2010 and has a strong business background with over 20 years experience starting and developing business and as a director. In Leeds, he started the Leeds Guide 12 years ago with his business partner and built the company into one of the leading independent media groups in Leeds with a strong brand image. He has much experience of motivating staff and coming up with workable business ideas.

- 3.10 The BFSEM is currently putting together a plan to make the social enterprises at the community centres increase sales and turnover and run more efficiently. The plan will include some capital expenditure aimed at giving the centres more opportunities to increase income, looking at staffing issues and ensuring good financial reporting systems are in place. The first outline of the plan will be submitted to the October Area Committee and feedback will be sought from Members.

Debt advice and Debt First Aid Training

- 3.11 Debt and financial advice services continue to be promoted in the area. The Burley Lodge Centre provides weekly debt advice outreach sessions in Armley, Fairfields and Bramley. General advice sessions are available to parents with children aged under five years in Armley Moor, Bramley, Holly Bush and Castleton Children's Centre in New Wortley.
- 3.12 An evaluation report of the Debt Advice Pilot which was undertaken in Seacroft and Armley highlighted the success of the Debt First Aid training which was provided by Leeds Citizens Advice Bureau to frontline staff in the two areas. Since the completion of the pilot, five further training sessions have been arranged. One of these sessions took place at the Healthy Living Network's offices in Armley with staff attending from the following services and organisations: Healthy Living Network, Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Sanctuary Housing. In total over 70 frontline staff from the Inner West area have received the Debt First Aid training.

Affordable Credit

- 3.13 Promotion of Leeds City Credit Union services continues in the area, recently supported by £10,000 Well-being funding from the Inner West Area Committee. In addition to their branch in Armley One Stop Centre, Leeds City Credit Union has collection points in most primary schools and children's centres in the area.
- 3.14 By the end of June 2010, there were 2,910 adult and 568 child credit union members in the Inner West area. In the three months from April to June 2010, a total of 79 adult members and 11 child members joined the credit union in the area.

Town Centre Manager (TCM) update

- 3.15 Traders on Armley Town Street and Branch Road have reported problems of anti social behaviour with numbers of people gathering and drinking in the street. The Police are committed to addressing this problem. As part of the Area Committee funded Armley DPPO, the Area Management is arranging for the DPPO message to be translated into several community languages for posters to be displayed in local shops, pubs and off licenses.
- 3.16 The TCM has been working with the Chamber of Commerce to explore ways of helping existing businesses through training and advice. It should however, be noted that this was tried last year with very low take up from the retailers.
- 3.17 The TCM has decided to suspend the Reward Card scheme in Armley after considerable efforts to promote the scheme. The TCM has tried to encourage traders to promote the scheme but there has not been sufficient support from traders and

shoppers to support the scheme. The TCM is considering potential alternatives to support local retailers and increase footfall.

- 3.18 A business event is being planned for October that will highlight Armley's potential for retailers to locate to the town. The intention is for a number of agencies to have displays highlighting their activities in the area as well as information about investment in the area such as the Townscape Heritage Initiative and Town & District Centre schemes and the new leisure centre. A venue is to be confirmed. In addition, there will be a programme of Arts in Unusual Spaces in four vacant retail units on Armley Town Street. These will be interactive and involve artists from different disciplines holding workshops and demonstrations. The idea is to have involvement from members of the public rather than just displays. It is anticipated that the scheme will commence in September.
- 3.19 The TCM has been in discussions with Morbaine in relation to the development site on Carr Crofts. The developers have attended a number of events and a positive working relationship has been established.
- 3.20 Armley Action Days have continued to take place weekly and their impact is currently being assessed. They have had considerable success but the various agencies involved will be convening shortly to review the Action Days and consider the most effective way forward.
- 3.21 Planning for the Armley Christmas lights event is going well. A traffic management plan has been agreed and some early discussions have taken place regarding road closures. The TCM has sent a letter to all businesses on Town Street to ask for their support for the event and particularly whether they could contribute financially.
- 3.22 Attendance was up at the last Business Forum. A number of issues were discussed including concerns about Police coverage on Town Street. The TCM has asked for Police presence to be increased.

West Leeds Enterprise Centre (LEGI)

- 3.23 A full report on the West Leeds Enterprise Centre is presented elsewhere on this agenda.

Environment

- 3.24 In relation to a query raised at the last Inner West Area Committee regarding Armley Moor proposals, it has now been confirmed that the 10 year maintenance cost covers five cuts of the grass per year, pruning of trees and shrubs once per year and treatment of Japanese Knotweed. The Council have agreed to meet these costs.
- 3.25 The Environmental Action Team continues to take a lead on the town centre action days. The scheme has moved away from the 6 weekly action days and now takes the format of a once a week 2 hour patrol with a member of the EAT and either Police or PCSO.
- 3.26 The launch of the T&DC scheme took place on 20th July and was well supported by Members, partners and officers. The scheme is now officially complete and an end of scheme is available which demonstrates the outcomes of the project.

Thriving Communities

- 3.27 The Armley DPPO is being implemented and complimented by posters in community languages which will be displayed in shops and pubs.
- 3.28 The Alert Box scheme is working well, with traders reporting that they are pleased with its effects.
- 3.29 The Area Committee agreed support for the Edinburghs dispersal order at its last meeting. This is currently being implemented and will also be referred to in the Community Safety report elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.30 Work has been ongoing to secure improvements to 2 Branch Road. Agreement has not been reached with the owner for the Council to acquire the property. The owner has expressed an interest in progressing a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) scheme and the THI officer is currently exploring the scope of a potential scheme. In parallel, enforcement action is continuing in relation to the failure of the building owner being prosecuted, work on the building is continuing in an attempt to satisfy the requirements of the enforcement notices.
- 3.31 Funding applications to Grantscape and Green Leeds have been submitted to support the refurbishment of Armley Moor, with decisions expected later in the summer. In principle, agreement has been reached regarding the use of Section 106 monies and how long term maintenance will be funded, given that the Council have had preliminary discussions with the Armley Common Rights Trust (ACRT) regarding the potential of undertaking maintenance of this site given its high profile setting. HM Land Registry have confirmed that ACRT own Armley Moor.
- 3.32 Following Area Committee and WNWHL approval of funding to support the creation of a temporary community garden at New Wortley, work is ongoing internally to determine the appropriate form of license to allow this work to take place on land owned by the Council. Work continues to consider the Compulsory Purchase Order approach to bring Holdsforth Place into the Council's ownership. Sufficient funding to support this work and ultimately the acquisition cost needs to be identified before the CPO can be promoted.
- 3.33 A Conservation Management Plan is nearing completion for the Armley Mills and Dunkirk Hill sites. This will identify where any possible future improvements to this area can be made and what elements are key to preserving the historic setting of the existing buildings. Work to consider how the museum offer can be improved and complemented will take place over the next six months. This will then be used as a means to secure funding and potential partners to work with the Council

Harmonious Communities

- 3.34 **Wythers** – Team Wythers, the sub group set up to focus on the community development strategy met with residents and youths on 16th June, the 3 key issues that came out of that meeting were:
- Removal of bottlebank
 - Speeding
 - Litter

- 3.35 As a result following consultation with residents and partners, the bottlebank is on the list to be removed. With regards to speeding, the Neighbourhood Policing Team will be monitoring speeding on Cockshott Lane and as for litter, enforcement was pursued e.g. through a litter pick as part of Operation Champion on 29th & 30th July. Operation Champion received positive feedback from residents and agencies and offered re-assurance by engaging with young people in the area.
- 3.36 BARCA has moved out of Wyther Community House. They are moving to Fairfields Community Centre. West North West Homes Leeds (WNWHL) is carrying out an options appraisal regarding the Community House. BARCA is happy to be key holders and organise activities at Wyther Community House. The Youth Service will be moving their activities to Raynville Primary School. The girls group may possibly move to the Venerable Bede Church or Raynville Primary School. The mums and tots group may also have to move.
- 3.37 WNWHL is working alongside the Environmental Action Team and carries out monthly audits of the area.
- 3.38 **Fairfields** – It has been agreed to have a Community Centre Open Day in October half term working in partnership with Aramark and the LAMP partnership. Based on community centre availability the event will be held on Thursday 21st October (roughly lunch time until about 6pm so that people who are working have chance to come along too). The focus will be for people to come along and find out what's on offer at the centre, with a focus on cooking (with Aramark catering staff)/nutrition/free food as well as a focus on enterprise and support with unemployment issues. Aramark are very keen to support the worklessness element and food as these are their main areas of expertise.
- 3.39 It is proposed that following the event, the LAMP partnership and Aramark will reconvene to discuss the programme of works for the following year. It is hoped the event will give both the LAMP and Aramark a clearer direction in how we want the partnership to work and what kind of things we need to do and focus on. This event will provide a great opportunity to promote volunteering and other opportunities within the Centre (i.e. becoming a board member, becoming a treasurer, volunteering/coming to tea time club, etc).
- 3.40 **New Wortley** – '4 Families' are moving out of New Wortley Community Centre as funding is to be cut at the end of July. Jobs and Skills are taking on clients but do not have a dedicated worker. This may impact on the delivery of work in this area. This will be picked up at the West North West worklessness meetings. Healthy Living Network and NHS Leeds are looking at the Health & Well-Being priorities for the area and will be working in conjunction with the strong, thriving residents associations to identify these priorities.
- 3.41 The Youth Service football sessions are going well with 30-40 young people per week. A sexual health drop in is also going well. The Youth Service is contributing £500 p/a based on paying £5-£8 p/w on the café. The pool table makes 20p per game and this could potentially be made available during the day to raise money. The LAMP group is exploring the possibility of schools delivering classes through the community centre e.g. 1 hr p/w after school to improve attainment. A meeting to be held with Extended Services to discuss if there is a gap in this provision.

- 3.42 Intelligence on acquisitive crime, ASB, environment etc will steer the future action days and be supported by crime prevention. The priority for Inner West is Armley, focusing on prolific offenders and offender management.

Broadleas Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

- 3.43 A joint PACT meeting is to be trialed with the Moorside PACT meeting to try and improve attendance. The community shop is on hold while funding issues are investigated.
- 3.44 There will be an action day on the estate in August. This will be to tackle subletting but will also be linked to an environmental action day. Skips will be available and estate caretakers will be deployed on the estate.
- 3.45 The tenants association will receive support to help elect new panels, chair etc and publicity around the estate.

Community Centres Consortium

- 3.46 The CCC is working well with the Business Facilities and Social Enterprise Manager in post. He will present a full report to the October Area Committee. The future of the Wyther Community House is currently in question and the ALMO are conducting an options appraisal to plan for its future. The ALMO will be consulting with ward members and residents on the future of the WCH.

Community Engagement

- 3.47 A full report on the West North West Community Engagement Strategy is included elsewhere on this agenda.

Health & Well Being

- 3.48 A full report is included elsewhere on this agenda which updates the Area Committee on the work to date of the health Improvement Manager.
- 3.49 The Youth Service has a number of activities running in Armley ward. 24 weekly sessions take place including two sports programmes, two motorbike sessions, the Friday Night Project and three mobile sessions.
- 3.50 Despite the loss of the Community Development Worker, Neighbourhood Wardens and caretaker in New Wortley, Youth Service staff have been committed to keeping the youth club running and it currently attracts more than 20 young people on each Tuesday evening. Other centre based youth clubs have continued to be delivered at Christchurch, the Sikh Temple and Swallow Hill where a Service Level Agreement is now in place, backed up with support from Extended Services and the school. Sessions have also continued to take place at the LAZER Centre and with young people from the mosque at Strawberry Lane. Sessions have included focusing on healthy lifestyles, food and cookery, alcohol and drugs awareness, respect and sports.
- 3.51 Highlights of 2010 have included:
- New Wortley Health drop-in at Lloyds pharmacy on Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm. The primary function is to help young people make positive choices and

provide support around four key areas that affect young people – health and lifestyle, mental and emotional well being, substance use, healthy relationships and sex

- Armley Sports Project at Armley Leisure Centre on Tuesdays 8.45-10.15pm. The aim is to give the young people from the Cedars area a healthy positive recreational activity and to divert them away from crime hot spot areas. Around 15-20 young people attend each week.
- Wythers Girls Group on Wednesdays. The group continues to meet each week and is planning to do an accredited horse riding programme in September. The young people showed their commitment to improving their local area by attending a local residents group meeting in June.
- Castleton Football Sports Leadership Award – Four young people completed their sports leadership award allowing them to coach under 12s
- Towpath Tidy Volunteer Day with British Waterways – Three young people got their names in the Guardian Newspaper for their excellent contribution as volunteers

- 3.52 Barca continue to be actively involved in partnership work in Inner West Leeds to deliver improvements. They are leading on play and family support service delivery for example delivering the Strengthening Families Parenting Programme, a nationally recognised programme which focuses on parental behavioural management and positive relationships. Barca has also provided intensive family support for 15 families across Inner West including behaviour management and dealing with domestic violence. Issue based play sessions have been targeted at 180 of the most vulnerable children across West Leeds.
- 3.53 Barca continues to run youth provision for 11-19 year olds, with 80% of these being 13+ year olds from Bramley & Stanningley ward. During June, monitoring of attendance identified that some mobile sessions were unpopular and therefore outreach work has been undertaken instead, which has increased contact with groups of young people who were previously not worked with. Working alongside the Connexions team, 10 young people have been identified as potential young volunteers / leaders and an accredited training programme is being developed by workers and young people for delivery in September.
- 3.54 Barca's Community Drug Treatment Service, including young peoples' and adults' harm reduction has recently seen improved performance against targets in recent months.
- 3.55 Community development work has been undertaken in Moorside, Broadleas, Wythers and Fairfield, including physical activity sessions, Change 4 Life cookery courses, flu prevention and immunisation work and ongoing community engagement to involve local people in local planning and decision making e.g. the LAMPs for Wythers, Fairfields and New Wortley and the Broadleas NIP.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Inner West is administered through the West North West Leeds Area Management Team.
- 4.2 Well-Being projects develop from Inner West's Leeds Area Delivery Plan and through consultation with Area Committee members. The plan helps to fulfill the Council's Corporate Plan objectives by aiming to create better neighbourhoods and confident communities.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions, funding is supplied via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.
- 5.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council departments mainstream budgets, and external partner agencies e.g. the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected by the fact that the Area Committee's role here is to influence, develop and consult. However, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects here e.g. area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The functions and roles of the Area Committee aim to:
- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
 - Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between Ward Members and their communities.
 - To co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Inner West Area Committee members are invited to:
- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised
 - suggest items for inclusion on future Area Manager's reports

Background Papers

None