

WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

30TH MARCH 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Atkinson in the Chair
Councillors Hanley, Harper, Lowe and McKenna

CO-OPTEES: Morgan Pugh - (Armley Community Forum)
Hazel Boutle - (Armley Community Forum)

67 Chair Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and also gave a warm welcome to Councillor McKenna on his return after a recent operation.

68 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Taggart and Jean Bedford, Bramley and Stanningley Community Forum. It was also reported that Morgan Pugh, Armley Community Forum will be arriving late to the meeting.

69 Late Item

The Chair gave notice of a late item of urgent business relating to the work being done in the West Leeds Area by the West Leeds Environmental Health Team during the present financial and the information on the priorities of that team within their service plan for the present financial year 2006/2007 (Minute 80 refers). The reason for the report and presentation being late was to enable Environmental Health Officer to present more up-to-date information on their service plan.

70 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest report at this point in the meeting.

71 Open Forum

The Chair referred to the provision in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum session at each Area Committee meeting to allow representations or questions on matters within the terms of reference of Area Committees. No items were raised.

72 Minutes and Matters Arising - 9th February 2006

(a) Minute 60 – West Inner Area Delivery Plan

The Chair reminded the meeting that Members approved the Area Delivery Plan, asking for any additional comments to be submitted by the 16th February 2006. The Area Delivery Plan has now been changed and a final document will be circulated to West Inner Area Committee Members in the near future.

(b) Minute 64 – Inner West Area Committee Well-being Budget – Listening Ear Application for Funding

The Chair sought ratification of the Listening Ear application due to the meeting being inquorate at the last meeting.

RESOLVED - That the Listening Ear application for funding be approved for £20,000 for 2006/2007.

(Note: Both Councillors Harper and McKenna declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this application as non-Executive Directors of West Yorkshire PCT and therefore, took no part in the discussion or vote thereon).

RESOLVED – That subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2006 be approved as a correct record.

73 Community Forum Minutes

(a) Minute 6.03, - Caravan Park and Boat Yard in Armley - Armley Community Forum – 21st February 2006

Councillor Harper reported that her request to be sent via e-mail details of proposals and further developments on the Caravan Park and Boat Yard in Armley had not been received.

RESOLVED - That the West Leeds Area Management Officer be requested to investigate and arrange for the information to be forwarded on to the Armley Ward Councillors.

(b) Minute 9.05 – Signs Advertising Alcohol - Armley Community Forum – 17th January 2006

Councillor Harper informed the meeting that Armley Forum had expressed strong objections to the signs advertising alcohol in the Armley Ward.

(c) Minute 5.0 – Bramley Shopping Centre - Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum – 26th January 2006

The Chair informed the meeting that there had been complaints from some residents that Somerfield Supermarket were charging very high prices and as a result, shoppers were avoiding the centre.

Steve Crocker, West Area Manager informed the meeting that he had contacted the centre manager at Bramley and had been assured that Somerfield were absolutely committed to staying in the Shopping Centre and, as a result, was assured that prices have now been lowered on some of the key items at the Somerfield store.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Armley Community Forum meetings held on 17th January and 21st February 2006, and the Bramley & Stanningley Community Forum on 26th January 2006 be noted.

74 Dates Times and Venues of Area Committee Meetings for 2006/2007

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report on dates, times and venues of Area Committee meetings for 2006/2007.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That approval be given to the following dates and times of the West Inner Area Committee meetings for the new municipal year:-
 - Thursday, 22nd June 2006 at 5.00 p.m.
 - Thursday, 14th September 2006 at 5.00 p.m.
 - Thursday, 19th October 2006 at 9.00 a.m.
 - Thursday, 7th December 2006 at 9.00 a.m.
 - Thursday, 8th February 2007 at 9.00 a.m.
 - Thursday, 29th March 2007 at 9.00 a.m.
- (c) That the venues listed in paragraph 5.1 of the report be agreed and decided on a Ward to Ward basis.

75 Operation Apollo

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted an update report on Operation Apollo which took place in January 2006. An appendices providing details of the Evaluation Report for Operation Apollo was also attached for Members' information.

Inspector Ward, West Yorkshire Police presented the report and informed the meeting that Operation Apollo had been a successful operation and that the feedback from all the agencies involved has been very positive. As a result, the Armley area is no longer considered a 'hot spot' for burglaries in Inner West Leeds.

The Chair referred to a recent presentation at a meeting for West Inner Leeds Ward Councillors where two members were present. Inspector Ward went into detail on the Policing Plan for 2006/2007 for the Pudsey/Weetwood Division and highlighted that improvements have been made across the board, in particular, the reduction of burglaries and theft of motor vehicles in the West Leeds area.

In summary, the main issues discussed related to the following:

- local update figures in relation to anti social behaviour and damage over the last 12 months.
- proposals to increase the amount of PCSOs in the areas and the possibility of placing them in hot spot areas for long periods in order to discourage anti social behaviour, criminal damage and , problems with youths etc.

The Chair thanked Inspector Ward for his informative presentation.

RESOLVED – That a copy of the Pudsey/Weetwood Division Policy Plan for 2006/2007 be forwarded to members of the West Inner Area Committee for information.

76 Bramley FIREPLACE

This item was deferred for consideration at the next West Inner Area Committee meeting in order that a presentation can be given by officers from the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Services. The Area Manager was asked to invite Mike Barnes from the Fire Service to attend the next meeting.

77 Youth Service Ward Plans

The West Leeds Area Manager submitted a report providing details of the Youth Service Ward Plans for the West Inner Leeds area. The plans, attached as an appendices to the report, provide a local focus on service delivery by the Youth Service in the Armley Ward and BARCA in the Bramley & Stanningley Ward.

Carole Clark, West Inner Area Management Officer presented the report and, together with Steve Crocker, West Area Manager responded to Members' questions and comments.

In brief, specific reference was made to the following issues:

- reference to the LAZER motorbike project and the need to organise more than two sessions per week, especially during the school holidays as the project has been really successful.
- the need to set up Youth Committee Forums.

Steve Crocker, West Area Manager informed the meeting that a Youth Bank Project has just been approved and explained that this is a project where young people are able to sit and judge applications made from other young people. A report will be submitted to a future Area Committee meeting on the development of this new project.

RESOLVED – That the details of the Youth Service Plans for Armley and Bramley & Stanningley Wards be noted.

78 What Should Leeds Do with its Waste? - Consultation on the Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-2035

This item was withdrawn at the request of the Director of City Services to allow further public consultation to be undertaken.

79 Town and District Centre Projects

The West Leeds Area Manager submitted a report on the progress of two projects in the Council's Town and District Centre bids for Armley District Centre and Bramley Shopping Centre.

Carole Clark, West Inner Area Management Officer and Steve Crocker, West Area Manager presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

A detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report.

In brief, specific reference was made to the following issues:

- the need to address traffic flow and car parking for Armley Shopping Centre.
- clarification of the Heritage Lottery Funding for Armley Town Street.
- the need for improvements at Bramley Shopping Centre following consultation with Asset Management.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

80 Late Item - Report and Presentation on Environmental Health Services Activity in the Inner West Area

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on the work of the West Leeds Environmental Health Team during the present financial year and information on the priorities of that team within their service plan for the coming year 2006/2007.

Ruth Lees, Environmental Health Services, presented the report and gave an intense presentation on the sort of work being done in the Inner West Area and the key work areas of the Environmental Health Team.

In summary, the main issues raised by Members were as follows:

- clarification of the number of empty properties, especially those properties that are empty long term in the West Inner Leeds area.
- clarification of the number of calls averaged per night in the Inner West Area for the out of hours service.
- clarification of any training the Environmental Health Service Team are doing with PCSOs/Neighbourhood Wardens.

The Chair thanked officers for their interesting presentation.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report and presentation on the work of the Environmental Health Team be noted.
- (b) That the Environmental Health Team provide Members of the West Inner Area Committee with the information on the amount of empty properties in Inner West Leeds and the length of time these properties have been empty.

81 Area Managers Report – October 2005 to March 2006

The West Leeds Area Manager submitted a detailed report identifying the progress made in Inner West Leeds over the last six months from October 2005 to March 2006, by delivering the actions in the plan and showing how these actions are helping to delivery the corporate priorities of the Council. The report also identified

progress being made through the support of partners on the West Leeds District Partnership.

Steve Crocker, West Area Manager presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

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

- the need to investigate the dangerous surface on the public footpath adjacent to Kirkstall Lock.
- reference was made to the illegal dumping of rubbish that is still occurring in Hunters Green.
- reference was also made about the problems occurring when hospital patients are being refused their request to be treated at Eccleshill, although they do come under the umbrella of Leeds West PCT. Instead they are being referred to either Leeds General Infirmary or St James' Hospital which is at the other side of Leeds.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the good progress being made to implement the key priorities of the Inner West Area Committee over the last six months be noted.
- (b) That the Children Leeds West Group be invited to a future meeting of West Inner Area Committee to present the "One Plan" improvement plan for Children's Services in West Leeds.
- (c) That the West Leeds Area Management Office investigate:
 - the dangerous surfacing on the public footpath adjacent to Kirkstall Lock.
 - the illegal dumping of rubbish in Hunters Green.
 - the problems occurring when hospital patients are being refused their request to be treated at Eccleshill, although they do come under the umbrella of Leeds West PCT.

82 Inner West Area Committee Well-Being Budget

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report to update Members on the current amount of capital and revenue funding committed and available via the Area Committee Well-Being Budget for Wards in the Inner West Leeds area. The report and appendices also sought approval for new projects commissioned by the Area Committee.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That this Area Committee notes the amount of Wellbeing Budget remaining to be spent by the Inner West Area Committee.
- (b) That the following decisions be taken in respect of new projects and requests for funding from the Wellbeing Budget contained in appendices to the report and separate reports on the agenda:-

Wellbeing Fund 2005/2006 - Large Grants

- (i) Leeds in Bloom - (Roundabout Stanningley Road/Town Street) – £1,500 – Approved.
- (ii) Warden for New Wortley - £23,000 - Approved.
- (iii) Summer Sporting Activities - £5,000 - Approved.

Wellbeing Fund 2006/2007 - Large and Small Grants

- (iv) Leeds Civic Newspaper (referred to in a separate report) - £2,500 - Deferred for further information.
 - (v) Site Based Gardeners (referred to in a separate report) - £71,200 - Deferred for further information.
 - (vi) Bramley Fireplace (referred to in a separate report) - £25,000 - Deferred for a presentation by the applicant.
 - (vii) Youth Service Dance Sessions at New Wortley Community Centre - £180 - Approved.
- (c) That it be noted that no small grant applications and no applications for a skip have been received since the last West Inner Area Committee meeting.

(The meeting concluded at 12.35 p.m.)