

REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION TEAM REPORT – ASPLEY, BILBOROUGH AND LEEN VALLEY

1 SUMMARY

As part of the new Neighbourhood Management way of working, Neighbourhood Action Officers (NAO) will submit a report every six months with an update of work currently being carried out and any issues and concerns raised by members of the community.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the West Area Committee members note the report and approve funding of £8,810.00 to support works identified in sections 3.5.1 and 3.7 of this report. A breakdown of costs is provided in the financial implications section of this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In April 2008, the new Neighbourhood Management way of working was introduced. This is aimed at involving local people more and getting them to be more involved in influencing decisions that affect their lives. As such, each ward across the City has been allocated a Neighbourhood Action Officer to work on issues and concerns raised by local residents and champion the role of local councillors.
- 3.2 As part of the new way of working Neighbourhood Management has developed a variety of community engagement structures which allow residents the opportunity to voice their concerns and raise any issues. For example, in each of the three wards within the West Area, Local Action Groups (LAGs) have been developed or are in the process of being established. These groups give local residents the opportunity to participate in meetings and help find joint solutions to problems raised. Other engagement methods are also used e.g. consultation at community events for example Parklife, Christmas Festival, Sure Start events.
- 3.3 The new Neighbourhood Management way of working also involves the establishment of Neighbourhood Action Teams (NAT's). These are co-terminus with the Police beats across the City. The NAT's structure provides a framework to develop and establish a joint working partnership approach to target issues that matter most to our communities and agree joint responses to resolve problems in our neighbourhoods. NAT's are made up of the NAO plus a core group of representatives from Police Beat Managers, Street Scene, Nottingham

City Homes, Youth Service, and whoever else is needed as necessary. The NAT's are co-ordinated by the ward NAO. In Aspley and Bilborough the NAT's are ward based, but in Leen Valley they are at a beat level due to working across two Police Local Area Commands.

3.4 Sioban Campbell is the NAO for the Aspley ward, Debbie Fenton is the NAO for Bilborough, and Susan Ward-Rice is the NAO for the Leen Valley ward.

3.5 **ASPLEY**

3.5.1 Requests for funding have been received for £1,710.00 as contributions towards the organisation of Christmas parties across the Aspley ward. Parties were held on 19 December 2008 at the Aspley Sports Centre, 20 December 2008 at the Strelley Club and 22 December 2008 at the Bells Lane Community Centre. The funding will also contribute to room hire at the Council House for the intergenerational tea dance project on 17 February 2009. Members for the Aspley ward are aware of the requests and have agreed to support these.

3.5.2 Ward walks are established and going well in the Aspley ward.

3.5.3 The NAT's continue to work towards resolving priorities raised at LAGs.

3.5.4 The NAO is working closely with Highways on the Greens Car Parking Schemes. Camborne Close Green Car Parking Scheme is almost complete. Tunstall Crescent and Tilbury Rise Green Car Parking Schemes will commence in January and February 2009. The NAO, Highways and Nottingham City Homes will look at alternative car parking options for greens for 2009/10.

3.5.5 Aspley ward has nineteen closes which could potentially benefit from car parking schemes. Allendale Avenue will become the first pilot scheme and is hoped to be completed by April 2009. The NAO is working with Nottingham City Homes Patch Managers, the Police and Highways on this project.

3.6 **BILBOROUGH**

3.6.1 In Bilborough, the NAT and local councillors have undertaken their first ward walk on Firbeck Road and Plantation Road in Balloonwoods. A number of issues were raised including overgrown boundaries and the possible development of the green space on Firbeck Road.

3.6.2 The LAGs are continuing to set priorities which at present include:

- anti-social behaviour and youth congregation;
- illegal cycling on pavements and the fear of personal safety;
- litter problems;
- grate and gulley flooding.

The NAT's are working in partnership to resolve these issues for local residents.

Neighbourhood Management are also working with Bilborough Library to try and encourage more residents to use its services. Previously, this library has been one of the under performing libraries in the City and it has been agreed that Neighbourhood Management and partners work together to promote and deliver various activities to improve performance.

3.6.3 We are continuing to support Bilborough Arts Project and provide them with local information about areas and local contacts.

3.6.4 Neighbourhood Management are working with One Nottingham on engaging with local businesses on Glaisdale Drive Industrial Estate. Previously the Police have tried to engage and work with local businesses around business crime but received a negative response. Therefore, partners have agreed that a joint approach may be more effective and we are in the process of organising a business breakfast in March 2009.

3.7 LEEN VALLEY

3.7.1 In the Leen Valley ward, the NAO has carried out a ward walk on Cyril Avenue, Edward Avenue and Albert Avenue. A number of issues were highlighted including wheelie bins being left out, blocked drains and a need to highlight the problems of dog fouling by distributing a leaflet to all households.

3.7.2 Other work currently being carried out by the NAO includes work to develop the disused Robert Shaw playing field into a local community green space which can be used by both the school and the local community.

3.7.3 In addition, the NAO is currently working with New Whitemoor Residents Association to look at re-developing their local park. The group has carried out a survey on the estate about the park and have set up a sub-group to work with the Parks Development Officer.

3.7.4 The LAGs in Leen Valley are continuing to set priorities which at present include:

- parking issues in the area, particularly on the school run, are currently being addressed with Traffic Management and Safer Routes to School;
- litter problems on Aspley Lane.

3.7.5 As LAGs are a good mechanism for residents to engage in, it has been identified that they continually need to be publicised locally. A request for funding of £1000.00 will enable publicity to go out on a regular basis for each of the three beats.

3.7.6 A piece of work that has arisen from the Beechdale Beat LAG is a request for funding for Beechdale Mews Park. The park has recently been refurbished, however, in recent months resident's fencing surrounding the park has been damaged due to anti-social behaviour. After some consultation with residents in the area, it has been identified that placing some large boulders on the park

would deter football from being played near residential fencing and therefore reduce damage to residential fencing.

- 3.7.7 From councillor's surgeries it has been identified that a series of trees need to be replaced on Robinswood Road (in between Aspley Park Drive and Aspley Lane), whilst new trees are being planted it is a perfect opportunity to resurface the footpaths. The cost for replacing the trees is £2,500 and the cost for the footpath resurfacing is £3,000.

4 PROPOSALS

It is proposed that members agree to the request made in the Section 2 of this report.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Aspley:

Funding of £1,710.00 for Christmas parties can be met as follows:

£710.00 from the uncommitted balance of Councillor Chapman's budget. The uncommitted balance of Councillor Chapman's budget, not including the affect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows;

Councillor Chapman	£3000.00
--------------------	----------

£500.00 from the uncommitted balance of Councillor Unczur's budget. The uncommitted balance of Councillor Unczur's budget, not including the affect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows:

Councillor Unczur	£3000.00
-------------------	----------

£500.00 from the uncommitted balance of Councillor James' budget. The uncommitted balance of Councillor James' budget, not including the affect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows:

Councillor James	£3000.00
------------------	----------

Leen Valley:

The £600.00 can be met by charging the uncommitted balances of Councillor Foster's budget. The uncommitted balance of Councillor Foster's budget, not including the affect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows:

Councillor Foster	£3000.00
-------------------	----------

The £1000.00 for publicising the work of the LAGs can be met from the uncommitted balance of Councillor Long's budget. The uncommitted balance of Councillor Long's budget, not including the affect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows:

Councillor Long £3000.00

The £5500.00 for trees and pavement resurfacing on Robinswood Road can be met from the uncommitted balance of the Leen Valley Public Realm budget. The uncommitted balance of Leen Valley Public Realm budget, not including the affect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows:

Leen Valley Public Realm £12000.00

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The NAOs strive to ensure that their work meets the needs of the community and ensures that equality and diversity is at the heart of any work that is delivered.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The projects are reliant on the money from this Committee, without which they cannot take place.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

Much of the work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Management Teams contributes to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour across Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley. The Neighbourhood Management Team participates fully in putting together Police beat action plans to address hot spots for crime and anti-social behaviour which help ensure the West Area is on target to meet reductions specified by the Crime and Drugs Partnership.

10 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Ensuring local development in decision-making – the new Neighbourhood Management way of working is aimed at involving local people more and getting them to be more involved in influencing decision that affect their lives.

11 VALUE FOR MONEY

Neighbourhood Management should bring about smarter working between department and agencies and resolve issues particularly more effectively.

12 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

13 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

**LIANNE TAYLOR
ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Isabella Street

Nottingham

NG1 6AT

Tel: 0115 9158615

Email: lianne.taylor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Contact Officer:

Asif Mohammed

Acting Neighbourhood Manager

Tel: 0115 9157656

Email: asif.mohammed@nottinghamcity.gov.uk