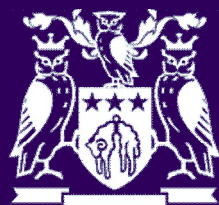


Inner South Area Committee



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

ISSUE 5
SEPT 2013

COVERING THE WARDS OF:

- Beeston & Holbeck
- City & Hunslet
- Middleton Park

MEETING OF THE INNER SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE

Held at Tenants Hall
Enterprise Centre,
Middleton

COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Angela Gabriel
(Chair)
- David Congreve
- Adam Ogilvie
- Patrick Davey
- Judith Blake
- Kim Groves
- Paul Truswell

APOLOGIES

RECEIVED:

- Elizabeth Nash
- Mohammed Iqbal

Welfare Reform and High Interest Lending

The Area Committee discussed the impact of the government's welfare reforms and the rise in high interest lending.

Recent benefit changes include the so-called bedroom tax, cuts to Council Tax Benefit and the benefit cap affecting larger families. The imminent introduction of Universal Credit will see families paid their benefit monthly in arrears. These benefit changes are likely to make people receiving benefits a target for high interest lenders – there is a rise in the number of people getting into spiralling debt problems with high interest borrowing.

In response, the Council has blocked access to high interest and other payday loan companies from any Council computer including libraries and other public access terminals. There are alternatives to high interest lenders, for example a loan from Leeds City Credit Union is much more affordable.

The Council provides support to those who need it, for example, by offering food boxes and white goods through its Local Welfare Support scheme and by channelling help, support and advice on benefits and debts through Children's Centres. Two food banks have recently been set up in South Leeds. For more information on the Local Welfare Support Scheme, please visit Advice [Leeds](http://www.adviceleeds.org.uk) website: www.adviceleeds.org.uk.

Recent key work

The South East Area Support Team presented a report detailing work carried out in the area and responded to Member's comments and queries.

Area Committee agreed the refreshed **Inner South Area Committee Business Plan's priorities and action plan** for the municipal year.

Community Learning Programme

18 organisations have been appointed to deliver training within the three Inner South wards. The 18 providers have

proposed training across 13 of the 15 service sector areas.

Confirmation of courses and venues to be announced soon. Areas included in Community Learning:

- * Personal and community development
- * Family English, Maths and Language
- * Wider family learning, supporting different generations of family members to learn together
- * Skills for Jobs
- * Targeted Learning

* Community Responsive (responding to an emerging need e.g. retail training for local residents in preparation for job opportunities arising from a new development)

Members agreed the use of the youth activities fund totalling **£11,250** for providing three mini breeze events in Inner South:

- ⇒ 7th Sept- Holbeck Moor
1-5pm
- ⇒ 14th Sept- Middleton Park –1-5pm
- ⇒ 21st Sept - Hunslet Moor
1-5pm

Day of Dance

Over 900 people enjoyed a day of dance organised by Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL) at the South Leeds Academy. This included 400 young people who performed on the day with hundreds of others watching the performances and taking part in workshops covering a large number of dance styles including street, contemporary, jazz and cheerdance and also finding out about dance organisations and upcoming dance events. Ian Rodley DAZL's Artistic Director said: "Our young dance leaders have done a wonderful job in organising this great day of dance." The young dance leaders aged 16 – 19 years are

taking part in a Dance and Sports Leaders training programme run by DAZL and funded by the Inner South Area Committee.

Working with the Community

Community involvement will be strengthened in City and Hunslet and Middleton Park Wards thanks to the recent appointment of a Neighbourhood Improvement Officer who will work in these two wards. The Neighbourhood Improvement Officer, funded by the Inner South Area Committee, will work with community groups

and local organisations to strengthen community infrastructure and provide support to develop community capacity. Ian Kenning has been recruited to the post, is employed by Health For All and based in the Area Support Team. Ian said: "I'm really looking forward to working with local people to develop the local community's infrastructure and helping to get projects going."



Another step forward for Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan

The City Council will shortly be considering Holbeck Neighbourhood

Forum's application for the designation of the Holbeck area for the Plan.

You can follow progress the Forum is making in developing the Plan on their website:

www.holbeckneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Wellbeing Funding approved includes:

- **£5,875** for
Groundwork Leeds
- Marlborough
Green Roof
Projects –Phase 2
- **£3,500** for
Groundwork Leeds
- Beeston Hill
Waste and
recycling Junior
Wardens Scheme
- **£2,500** for
Christmas Lights in
Beeston & Holbeck
- **£162** for Litter Bin
outside South
Leeds Academy

New Jobshops and Credit Union branches opened at St George's Centre in Middleton and Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre.



A new Jobshop and Credit Union branch were opened in the St George's Centre in Middleton on Thursday 5 September by Cllr Keith Wakefield, leader of Leeds City Council.

Speaking at the opening, Cllr Kim Groves said it had taken a lot of work to get the Jobshop established and thanked the partner agencies including Igen, TUC Learn, Aire Valley Homes and Land Securities.

Cllr Kim Groves said; "The journey starts here. Getting our people back to work and securing the future for the next generation." (First appeared in South Leeds Life Blog)

Have your say - get involved

The Inner South Area Committee discuss topics across all three wards. Meetings are open to the public and there is 10 minutes open forum session, giving you the opportunity to ask Elected Members questions.

The meetings scheduled in this cycle are:

- 6th November 2013 – Beeston Village Community Centre
- 11th December 2013 – Civic Hall - Committee Room 4
- 5th February 2013 - Committee Room 4
- 19th March 2013 – TBC

All meetings start at 6pm

For further information call the **South East Area Support Team on 0113 224 3040** or email: southeast.ast@leeds.gov.uk