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Report to Full Council

April 2023

Hooper ward priorities

- Improving road safety
- Addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces for everyone
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improving wellbeing by bringing people together whilst addressing loneliness, isolation and mental health

How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our ward priorities for the Hooper Ward, including:

- The new ward boundaries and the new ward profile including the previous Hooper ward priorities and the actions taken to address them
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders. We included an article in our ward e-bulletin asking residents for feedback on the priorities and what we could do in response. We also spoke to several organisations, groups and individuals working and/or living within the ward

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our approach to neighbourhood working is centred around the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy. This involves putting our community at the heart of everything we do. We do this through:

- Working with communities on the things that matter to them
- Listening and working together to make a difference

We seek to ensure:

- Neighbourhoods are safe and welcoming with good community spirit
- Residents use their skills and assets to contribute to the outcomes that matter to them

Progress so far

1. Improving road safety

We have raised a number of road safety issues highlighted to us by residents. Several solutions are now being explored and considered as part of the Local Neighbourhoods Road Safety Scheme Fund. Once more details are available, residents will be consulted. Further solutions to improve road safety have included us mobilising speed activation signs in key locations in the ward and supporting local schools with parking buddies.

Development and investigation will commence in the upcoming financial year for a pedestrian crossing at Cortonwood for the benefit of making it easier, quicker and more widely possible to cross the road.

We have also been working with South Yorkshire Police who have carried out several speed watches in the ward. These have been organised in locations highlighted by residents, following concerns about speeding vehicles in those areas.

2. Addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces for everyone

We have been working to support a community group who wish to help turn an existing green space into a community garden for everyone to enjoy. An initial draft masterplan was produced for the site, and we consulted with residents. We continue to work with the group and the Greenspaces team to finalise the plans, taking into consideration the feedback from residents.

A green space and shop frontage on Masefield Road, next to the junction of Christchurch Road, West Melton, will be improved through the Council's Towns and Villages Fund. Following consultation with residents, plans are underway for new pathways, a seating area, planting, new surface, bollards and a Christmas tree. The improvements will enhance the area and provide a focal point for the community. This will be a space for everyone to enjoy.

Wildflowers have been planted in several locations in the ward to enhance existing green spaces, whilst helping to improve the environment. Funded by ward councillors, the planting has been welcomed by the community and a new planting location has been identified for 2024.

As Councillors, we support local groups who take an active role in looking after the area and environment. Another example of this is the Wath, West Melton and Brampton Litter Picking Group. The group are regularly in the ward and can be seen picking up litter. We were able to support the group with more litter picking equipment, which was needed for new volunteers coming forward to help.

Other initiatives we have been involved in include blitz days (street cleaning initiatives), community skips days and new tree planting scheme.

3. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Multi agency walkabouts, local drop-ins and door knocks have been carried out in the ward by councillors and partners. This has helped identify issues, provide reassurance to residents, and build relationships with key partners and the community.

We produced a 'Know Who to Call' leaflet, which provides useful contacts details for people to get in touch with councillors, Council teams and key partners such as South Yorkshire Police. The leaflets were delivered in various locations in the Ward.

A new ward mobile CCTV camera has also been purchased through the ward budget to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

4. Improving wellbeing by bringing people together whilst addressing loneliness, isolation and mental health

As councillors, we have supported numerous groups in the ward that provide activities and events that help improve wellbeing by bringing people together. Just some of the initiatives, events, and activities we have supported included: an Easter trail, summer fun days, local food banks, the installation of a community defibrillator, a line dancing group, Christmas celebrations, family Christmas disco, community Christmas trees and even being Santa.

During the Queens Jubilee celebrations we were able to support several groups across the ward with funding that enabled them to put on free events for the community.

We also organised a Winter Information event alongside community groups, and organisations by providing lots of information stalls with useful advice, support and sign posting for local residents during the current Cost-of-Living crisis.