

# **BROWNNHILLS AND ALDRIDGE NORTH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 8 January 2007 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at Park View Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Alan Paul  
Councillor Barbara Cassidy  
Councillor Keith Sears  
Councillor Michael Flower  
Mr Keith Astin  
Mr Douglas Birch  
Mrs Lynda Cooper  
Ms Jackie Plant  
Mr Colin Roberts (arrived at 6.50 pm)  
Inspector Steve Mason

## **140/07 Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Ms Georgina Fereday, Councillor Harris, Councillor Turner and Ms Lesley Woakes.

## **141/07 Introductions**

Members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) introduced themselves to the meeting.

## **142/07 Election of Vice Chairman**

### **Resolved**

That the appointment of a WBSP Vice Chairman be deferred to the next meeting;

## **143/07 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2006, be approved subject to Keith Astin's name in the list of those attending being amended to read 'Astin' not 'Austin' and Lynda Cooper's name in the list of apologies being amended to read 'Lynda' not 'Linda'.

**144/07 Update from last meeting**

It was reported that the telephone number, as shown in the previous minutes, for contacting Brownhills police station should have read 0845 1135000 extension 78846714.

**145/07 Planter at the Parade**

It was reported that this item was covered in the funding report on the agenda.

**146/07 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**147/07 Petitions**

There were no Petitions received

**148/07 Public Forum**

**Q Litter Issues**

Various residents stated their concern that litter in Brownhills High Street was appalling throughout the Christmas period and suggested that wardens were required to patrol the area. The number of irresponsible fast food outlet owners also contributed to the litter problem. It was suggested that signs warning people of a fine would help prevent people from dropping litter. The market area was also a problem area for litter especially on Saturdays.

In response Councillor Cassidy thanked the residents who had voluntarily been cleaning the streets for some years and endorsed the view that owners of shops should be held more accountable.

Inspector Steve Mason explained that the police had powers to prosecute those caught dropping litter and reported that Brownhills market was policed on Saturdays.

The chair agreed to contact the relevant Street Pride department to highlight the issues raised by the public.

**Q Neighbourhood Office**

It was asked why the former neighbourhood office site had not been cleaned.

The chairman reported that he would investigate this issue and report back to the next meeting.

**Q. A461 Lichfield Road**

Problems were reported with regard to the state of the A461 Lichfield Road between Barrens Court and Spring Cottage. During wet weather there was high volume of surface water and pot holes were prevalent.

Officers agreed to investigate this issue and provide a response to the next meeting.

**Q. Five Ways Corner**

Regarding Five Ways Corner it was suggested that the bus stop and bollards were an obstruction and that the traffic congestion had increased.

It was reported that officers would investigate this issue and provide a response to the next meeting.

**Q. Under Age Drinking**

It was asked what steps were being undertaken to prevent the sale of alcohol to under 18's and also whether the alcohol ban on the high street included Brownhills Parish Church.

In response Inspector Steve Mason reported that the alcohol ban was in force on the high street and that covert operations were undertaken to try to establish those premises selling alcohol to underage people. Problems were encountered as shopkeepers would only sell alcohol to underage people that they already knew. He further stated that two officers were deployed in plain clothes to enforce the alcohol ban on a daily basis. Inspector Mason agreed to check whether the church was included in the alcohol ban area and report back to the next meeting.

**Q. Transport Links**

A question was raised regarding transport links from Aldridge to other parts of the conurbation.

In response Councillor Cassidy explained that she was submitting a notion of motion to Council on Monday 15 January 2006 on this issue and urge the member of the public to attend.

**Q. Health Service Consultations**

It was asked what involvement the LNP were prepared to adopt with regards to the three Health Service consultations.

In response it was reported that the Health CAG Group would be the most appropriate forum to receive such information.

**Q. Litter in Brooke Lane**

Residents explained that they were experiencing problems with litter in Brooke Lane.

In response it was reported that this issue was covered in the funding report which was item 8 on the agenda.

**Q. Lampost Signs**

Mr Corbitt asked why there were still signs on the lampost from the recent by election.

The chair agreed to investigate this issue and report back.

**Q. Parking Issues on Brownhills High Street**

It was asked what efforts were being made to reduce the parking issues in Brownhills high street. Various incidents were reported such as illegal parking on double yellow lines and unauthorised parking in disabled bays.

Inspector Mason explained that these were reportable offences and carried a fine and three points on the offenders licence. He agreed to provide statistics on the number of penalties issued in the high street, to the next meeting.

**Q. Traffic Warden**

It was asked what had happened to the traffic warden.

It was reported that this issue would be raised at the Safer Communities CAG and with the Safer Walsall Partnership.

**Q. CCTV**

With regard to CCTV radios it was asked whether the scheme would be rolled out to the rest of the borough now that funding had been agreed for Walsall town centre.

A response from the Safer Walsall Partnership would be provided to the next meeting.

## **Q. One Stop Shops**

The progress of One Stop Shop was questioned.

The chair reported that the possibility of implementing a 'mobile' one stop shop formed part of the budget report be considered by cabinet in February and ratified by Council before the end of the financial year.

149/07

### **Fund Report**

A report was submitted

(see annexed)

#### **Resolved that:-**

- (1) Progress on projects be noted.
- (2) Project champions feed back to next meeting
- (3) £70 funding be agreed to provide flowers at the planting bed at the bottom of the parade.
- (4) That it be noted that £1947.61 of the remaining funding for the heritage project be spent on marketing and promotion.
- (5) That £520 be agreed to provide two bins outside St Johns C E Primary School, Walsall Wood.
- (6) That £2950 be agreed to update the festive decorations on the Brownhills Island.
- (7) That the principle of adopting a community cash scheme be supported and that a further report be submitted to the meeting on 19 February 2007.

### **150/07 Update on Community Action Groups**

A report was submitted (see annexed)

#### **Resolved**

That the progress of Community Action Group be noted.

**The meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.**

Chairman: .....

Date: .....