

Pelsall and Rushall Local Neighbourhood Partnership

**Held at Education Development Centre,
Pelsall Lane, Rushall, Walsall**

30 October 2006

Progress Report

Item	Decision	Action	Progress
1. Introductions.	Received and noted		
2. Apologies.	Mrs. Ann Rice Ms. Lorraine Randell (Youth Service)		
3. Election of Vice-Chairman (2): (a) Appointment from Walsall Strategic Partnership (WBSP) nominated partners; (b) One to be appointed from Locally Appointed Partners	Mr. Rob Hughes Mr. John Ree		

4. Minutes – 5. 9. 06	Approved as a correct record		
5. Update on items from the last meeting	<p>Councillor Perry reported on progress on the petitions submitted to the last meeting:-</p> <p>(1) Residents of Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall – Request for resurfacing: Response received from Executive Director</p> <p>(2) Residents of St. David's Close, Pelsall: Request for tidying up of rear garage area and additional fencing to provide extra security at rear of St. Paul's Crescent, Pelsall;</p> <p>(3) Residents of Avon Crescent, Pelsall: Request for improvements to enhance the area, particularly the flats, including replacing missing fence panels, tree pruning, low level fencing in communal areas and general street cleaning</p>	<p>Councillor Perry will be informing residents of the contents of the response received from the Executive Director</p> <p>Site meeting held with residents two weeks ago. A quotation received for cost of additional security fencing which has been submitted to Council officers for approval</p> <p>Walsall Housing Group (WHG) and Council's Street Pride working with residents to tackle these problems, including environmental scheme for sites and rubbish clearance</p>	<p>Bollards have been installed at the garage area to the rear of St. David's Close. The situation is to be monitored to ensure these measures meet with the satisfaction of residents.</p>

	<p>(4) Anti-social behaviour in Cartbridge Lane: Councillor Longhi referred to minutes of former Brownhills/Aldridge District Committee held in February 20902 where these issues were discussed at length and asked for these to be made available to local residents who had raised concerns at the last meeting.</p> <p>Parveen Sangha reported that this issue was discussed at the Community Action Group meeting on 18 September and was referred to in the report at agenda item 12.</p>	Lesley Jones (Constitutional Services)	Minutes sent to local residents who raised concerns at 5 September 2006 LNP meeting.
6. Declarations of Interest	None		

<p>7. Petitions</p>	<p>Councillor Perry presented the following petitions:-</p> <p>(1) Traffic problems at Allens Lane Junction and Goscote Road, Heath End, Pelsall: Heath End Residents Association is requesting either a raised crossing or traffic calming measures (possible a `speed cushion` at or near the junction) due to heavy amount of traffic using this route from Pelsall Village via Commonsides to avoid rush hour traffic, to and from Walsall, on Walsall Road, Pelsall. (Councillor Perry advised the meeting that a proposal to install speed cameras along Walsall Road, Pelsall, was under discussion)</p>	<p>Jamie Morris/Neville Owen (Engineering and Transportation Services)</p>	<p>Neville Owen responds that the petition has been received and this matter is being investigated. A report will be submitted to the LNP when the investigation has been concluded. However, due to limited staff resources, it is not possible to estimate when the investigation will be completed. In respect of the possible installation of a safety camera in Walsall Road, Pelsall, objections have been received from residents adjacent to the proposed site. The Officer Dealing with the installation of safety cameras has been promoted to another section and has not yet been replaced. Consequently, this matter is currently on hold as there are no other resources available</p>
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	<p>(2) Pedestrian crossing by Finger Post, Traffic Lights, Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall:</p> <p>Local residents are requesting the construction of a pedestrian crossing on Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall, near the junction with Abbey Drive and Charles Crescent, Pelsall.</p> <p>(Both Councillor Perry and Councillor Longhi spoke of their longstanding efforts for safer crossing areas to be created and suitable measures to be taken to reduce speed of traffic along this road whose many users include heavy lorries travelling from Aldridge Industrial Estate to Wolverhampton</p>	<p>Jamie Morris (see also Public Forum)/Neville Owen (Engineering and Transportation Services)</p>	<p>Neville Owen responds that the number of pedestrians crossing over all four arms of this junction (at or within 150 metres of the junction) has been surveyed. The results indicate that there are no obvious desire lines and that the number of pedestrians involved does not sufficiently meet the criteria for the installation of pedestrian controlled facilities.</p> <p>The introduction of an all red phase into the traffic lights will result in a considerable increase in congestion, particularly at peak times and the estimated cost of modifying the signal equipment cannot be justified in terms of the pedestrian flow. Additionally, the Police have expressed concern that any increase in congestion may lead to further rat-running through residential areas.</p>
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	<p>(3) Campaign for Alcohol Free Designation Zones in Pelsall: Local residents have signed a petition supporting creation of Alcohol Free Designation Zones in Pelsall.</p>	<p>Jamie Morris</p>	<p>Wolverhampton Road forms part of the A4124, which is designated as part of the strategic highway network. This route is included on the proposed Red Route network to be introduced in the West Midlands. Funding for Package 1 (of 5) has been approved and bids will be submitted for the remaining four packages. The A4124 will be included in a future package and the opportunity will be taken to examine what pedestrian facilities can be introduced as part of the red route proposals. This depends on future packages being approved.</p> <p>Petition passed by Executive Director to PC Poole (ASB Unit) of Safer Walsall Borough Partnership. PC Poole is liaising with Sgt. Kevin Rowlands of H2 Division. He reports that, if an alcohol</p>
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	<p>(Councillor Perry referred, in particular, to Pelsall “hot spots” such as Commonside, Heath End area, North Common and Memorial Gardens in Church Road whose local residents have suffered continuing alcohol related problems and anti-social behaviour</p> <p>The LNP requested that progress reports on all petitions be submitted to the next meeting.</p>	Jamie MMorris	ban is requested, it will be made through the Police making a request to the Council’s Licensing Committee
8. Public Forum	<p>Violation of Common Land, North Common:</p> <p>A local resident reported that a group of travellers had moved onto Huddocks Moor Farm land which actually comes within the Staffordshire boundary but can be accessed only by driving across North Common, Pelsall. This has happened previously and took many years to resolve. The travellers have now erected a gate in an attempt to access this piece of land. The LNP was informed this is an area of Special Scientific Interest which</p>	Keith Rimmer (Pelsall and Rushall LNP Team)	Colin Manning of Countryside Services is aware of the situation. It is reported that the access has not been made by travellers, but by the farmer as it appears that these fields have no access other than via the Common. Mr. Manning has been in contact with Council’s Legal Services to ascertain the position regarding preventing access.

	<p>needs protection and was requested to take action to resolve this matter.</p> <p>Proposed pedestrian crossing by Finger Post, Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall: A local resident suggested that rather than campaigning for a pedestrian crossing in this area it would be preferable to seek approval for a pedestrian phased crossing at this junction similar to that constructed in Selmans Hill, Bloxwich. This would enable pedestrians to cross Wolverhampton Road in safety.</p> <p>Slacky Lane, Pelsall and Regeneration of Goscote Valley: (1) A local resident queried the impact of the Goscote Valley Regeneration Scheme and its impact on residents of Allens Lane area of Pelsall. (Councillor Perry referred to a presentation on the scheme made to Blakenall and Bloxwich LNP and requested that officers</p>	<p>Jamie Morris</p> <p>Andrew Rainsford (Pelsall and Rushall LNP Team)</p>	<p>Please refer to item "Petitions"</p> <p>Chas Stallard (Principal Regeneration Officer) reports that he has spoken to Councillor Robinson (Chair of Bloxwich and Blakenall LNP/Goscote Lane Project Reference Group) regarding consultation in Pelsall Rushall area. Given that the Focus of the study area is</p>
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	<p>make the same presentation to a future Pelsall and Rushall LNP meeting);</p>		<p>regeneration of the Goscote and southern Blakenall areas, the impact of the project on Pelsall/Rushall residents is likely to be low, but as a courtesy and or completeness of coverage, the Reference Group has agreed to consult within the LNP area.</p> <p>Provisional arrangements are in place for a series of drop-in events with a roadshow exhibition/and workshops at venues within the area which will look at the issues and options. The logistics are still being worked out, but this is likely to begin in Goscote on 31 January 2007, running into the first week of February (dates to be confirmed). It is suggested that a drop-in exhibition is held in the Pelsall/Rushall area at a venue close to the study boundary at this time.</p>
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	<p>(2) A local resident reported that recently installed wooden walk-in gates in the proximity of the hump-back bridge in Slacky Lane have been vandalised within a week of installation</p>		<p>If the LNP is happy with this proposal, a date and venue for the drop-in event will be arranged with Chas Stallard and agreed with LNP Members.</p>
	<p>Anti-social behaviour in Cartbridge Lane, Rushall: Local residents again complained about nuisance and anti-social behaviour caused by gangs of children, youths and adults riding untaxed and uninsured off-road trial bikes on</p>	<p>Keith Rimmer (Pelsall and Rushall LNP Team)</p> <p>Inspector Greg Bates (West Midlands Police) Keith Rimmer (Pelsall and Rushall LNP Team)</p>	<p>Tom Brown (Environmental Regeneration Section) is liaising with Keith Rimmer (LNP Team). The gate which was damaged was of a fairly robust construction. It is anticipated that a replacement gate of stronger design will be installed by the end of the year. Towpath improvements (of which this is part) are a joint project involving the Council, Groundwork and British Waterways. (the gate actually lies outside Pelsall/Rushall LNP area).</p> <p>Sgt. Rowlands confirms that the land in question (Cartbridge Lane, north in the direction of Yemscroft flats up to Station Road) is within H1 Police Division.</p>

	<p>Council-owned land backing onto Cartbridge Lane, Rushall.</p> <p>A local resident referred to similar problems on North Common, Pelsall, where instances of riders deliberately driving motorbikes at walkers has been reported.</p> <p>(Councillor Perry said that this was a recurring problem which he believed would only be solved by joint action by the Council in partnership with local residents and agencies such as the New Deal Board and West Midlands Police).</p>		<p>Police reports back to LNP will, therefore, be provided by H1 Division. Sgt. Martin Brown (H1) has been requested to report any action on this matter back to the LNP.</p>
9. Increasing Life Expectancy	<p>A presentation was made by Rachael Humphreys, Head of Health and Promotion, the LNPs tPCT representative.</p> <p>Following the presentation, Rachael answered questions from LNP Members and others at the meeting, in particular, on issues relating to the Hatherton/Rushall and Pelsall Ward Profiles.</p>		

	<p>The LNP agreed to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the presentation; (2) receive a presentation at a future meeting from Louise Mabley of the tPCT on the Expert Patient Programme 	Rachael Humphreys (TPCT)	
10. Proposed Pelsall Medical Centre	<p>A briefing was given by Councillor Longhi and Councillor Perry on proposals for a medical centre in Pelsall and progress to date on this issue. Councillor Longhi advised the LNP that the PCT Strategic Services Development Plan included proposals for such a Centre with an opening date of 2010, but that he and other campaigners were working to bring the date forward.</p> <p>The LNP urged all Pelsall residents to sign the petitions circulating in Pelsall in support of a medical centre.</p>	Rachael Humphreys (tPCT)	No progress to report on this matter

11. LNP Funding	<p>The LNP agreed:-</p> <p>(1) to note the progress on the projects outlined in the report to date;</p> <p>(2) to support Pelsall resident, Chris Morgan's campaign for resurfacing work to be carried out on the tennis courts in Railswood Drive, Pelsall, through Local Area Agreement Green Spaces funding.</p>	Parveen Sangha/ Aliyaah Baines (Neighbourhood Team/ Keith Rimmer (Pelsall and Rushall LNP Team)	Keith Rimmer (Play Areas Manager) reports that Greenspaces funding of £2,850 has been approved for the resurfacing work. Council Officers are presenting consulting with regular users on what work they wish to see carried out
12. Update on Community Action Groups	<p>The respective Chairmen of the Safer and Stronger Community Action Group and Health and People Action Group, Councillor Perry and Mr. John Ree gave update reports on the recent CAG meetings.</p> <p>Anyone having specific issues for inclusion on the next Safer and Stronger CAG meeting agenda on 20 November 2006 was asked to contact Parveen Sangha, the Senior Neighbourhood Partnership Officer.</p>	Parveen Sangha (Neighbourhood Partnership Team)	

	<p>Mr. Ree referred to a request for two nominations for appointment to Walsall Hospitals Foundation Trust Stakeholders Reference Group. This would be considered by the Community Action Group.</p> <p>The LNP agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) to continue to attend Community Action Group meetings; (2) to note the progress of Community Action Groups outlined in the report. 		
13. Proposed Limited Waiting, High Street, Pelsall	<p>The LNP noted the contents of the report, including proposals to consult with the various High Street business people and requested Regeneration Officers to put forward proposals for the improved utilisation of Pelsall Village Centre and for regenerating trading conditions in Pelsall Village.</p>	<p>Neville Owen/Andrew Rainsford (Pelsall and Rushall LNP Team/Steve Thomas (report contact officer)</p>	<p>Steve Thomas (Senior Engineer Planning and Transportation) confirms this was an interim report. The traders' views will be sought and proposals will be submitted in a further report to the LNP in due course.</p>

<p>14. Update on various issues raised in Public Forum</p>	<p>Cessation of 158 Travel West Midlands Bus Service: The LNP noted that Mr. David Donaldson, General Manager of Travel West Midlands, will attend the next LNP meeting on 18 December 2006 at Ryders Hayes Primary School to report on the results of the survey conducted in the area in response to requests to re-instate this bus route.</p> <p>The LNP agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the contents of the report; (2) to request Councillor Andrew (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise) to attend a future LNP meeting to give a briefing update on Walsall Town Centre's regeneration. 		<p>Mr. Donaldson advised that a new service has been registered which should overcome some of the problems caused by the cessation of 156 service (a replacement service incorporated within the 997 service). He will be attending on 18/12/06 to discuss bus-related matters with the LNP.</p> <p>No response received to date</p>
<p>15. Termination of Meeting</p>	<p>The meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.</p>		