

# **PELSALL AND RUSHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 18 December 2006 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at Ryders Hayes Primary School, Gilpin Crescent, Pelsall**

## **Present**

Mr. Robert Hughes (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr John Ree (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Clive Ault  
Inspector Steve Mason  
Mr Ron Carpenter  
Mrs Margaret Hayes  
Ms. Rachael Humphreys  
Mr. Steve Palmer  
Councillor Marco Longhi  
Councillor Garry Perry

## **In attendance:**

PC Harriman  
Parveen Sangha  
James Walsh  
Lesley Jones  
Sgt Martin Brown

## **170/06 Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Catherine Micklewright (Chairman), Inspector Greg Bates Councillor Al Griffiths, Mr Anthony Orlik, Mrs. Ann Rice, Mr. James Thomas and Councillor Rachel Walker.

## **Mr Robert Hughes (Vice Chairman) in the Chair**

## **171/06 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pelsall and Rushall Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 30 October 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**172/06 Update on items from Last Meeting**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

**173/06 Anti-Social Behaviour in Cartbridge Lane, Rushall**

Councillor Perry referred to the site meeting held with local residents on 1 December 2006. He said that this would be reported on at agenda item 10 – Community Action Groups Update report.

**174/06 Regeneration of Goscote Valley**

The Partnership was informed that a series of drop-in events with Road Show Exhibition/Workshops was planned for venues within the Bloxwich and Blakenall LNP area in late January running into the first week of February. The regeneration team had suggested that a drop-in event/exhibition be held in the Pelsall/Rushall LNP area close to the regeneration study boundary at this time.

Following discussion it was agreed that the regeneration team be requested to arrange a drop-in event/road show exhibition in Pelsall and Rushall LNP area during the first week of February 2007 and that Partnership members be informed of the arrangements in due course.

**175/06 Violation of Common Land, North Common**

A local resident asked why there had been no response from Council's legal services regarding the position with travellers gaining access to the site on Huddocks Moor farm by driving across Pelsall North Common, which is a site of Special Scientific Interest.

The LNP requested that a response be made and that this be reported to the next meeting.

**176/06 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

177/06    **Petitions**

Councillor Perry presented the following Petition:-

**Residents of Charles Crescent and Abbey Drive, Pelsall**

Residents were requesting traffic calming measures be introduced in Charles Crescent and Abbey Drive, Pelsall to prevent them being used as a “rat run” by motorists avoiding the traffic lights at the Finger Post to access Norton Road, Pelsall in the direction of the A5.

**Resolved**

That the Petition be received and noted and forwarded by the LNP to the relevant officers for action and that a progress report be submitted to the LNP.

178/06    **Public Forum**

**Locally Appointed Partners (LAPS)**

Mr B Sheasby of Green Lane, Pelsall queried the attendance of LAPS at meetings. He said that this was the second LNP meeting he had attended where only three LAPS were in attendance. He also enquired about the present position in respect of the re-selection process for LAPS.

In response, Parveen Sangha (Senior Neighbourhood Partnership Officer) said that several LAPs had sent apologies. She said that the re-selection process of LAPS to fill the present vacancies was progressing and a report on this matter would be submitted to the next meeting on 13 February 2007.

**Publicity for LNP meetings**

Mrs Sheila Sheasby of Green Lane, Pelsall asked whether more could be done to publicise and to make local people more aware of the time and date of the LNP meetings. She suggested more use be made of leaflets placed in buildings such as the local library and perhaps by the use of local radio.

Mrs Margaret Hayes commented that she actively advertised the LNP and its meetings through the Autumn Close residents group and other local groups with which she was associated.

The Chairman urged everyone to publicise the work of the LNP amongst local residents. Parveen Sangha asked that all suggestions for publicising LNPs be brought to the Community Action Group meetings for discussion.

## **Street Lighting**

Mr Bob Parker of Heath End Residents Association asked whether the Council had given any consideration to varying the switch-on and switch-off times of street lighting and the number of street lights in order to save energy costs in the borough.

Councillor Perry said that the Cabinet was currently investigating this issue and the Council was looking at ways that energy costs could be reduced in the borough, including street lighting. He went on to say, however, that the Council had a duty to provide adequate street lighting to make people feel safe and secure but the next phase of the street lighting contract would be looking at more efficient use of the energy provided.

## **Crime statistics in Pelsall and Rushall LNP area**

Mr Bob Parker of Heath End Residents Association said that at a recent neighbourhood watch meeting it had been stated that there had been 62 reported crimes in the area between 2 November and 7 December 2006 but that out of the 62 crimes only 2 arrests had been made and these were for the same crime. Mr Parker queried whether this meant that 61 crimes remained undetected and whether all reported crime was logged.

In reply, Inspector Steve Mason who was attending the meeting in the absence of Inspector Greg Bates said that the figure of 62 referred to reported incidents and not necessarily reported crimes. He stressed that the police were under a duty to record all reported crime. He was pleased to report that figures for crime nationally were falling and that West Midlands Police was the second highest performing police force in the country. The crime figures for Pelsall were among the lowest in the borough.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour in Cartbridge Lane, Rushall**

Mr Kevin O'Connell and Mrs Maureen Gough of Cartbridge Lane, Rushall raised issues relating to anti-social behaviour incidents in Cartbridge Lane, Rushall.

The Chairman referred to agenda item 10, the Community Action Group Update report, and said that the matter of anti-social behaviour in Cartbridge Lane would be discussed at this point in the meeting. He said that this was a very important issue for local residents as it had been a subject of discussion at the last three LNP meetings.

### **Pedestrian Fingerpost in Pelsall**

Councillor Perry spoke on behalf of Mr Andrew Weller the Chair of Pelsall Civic Society who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Weller was requesting that consideration be given by the LNP to erecting a pedestrian fingerpost in Pelsall, with direction signs for sites such as the Local History Centre, the Community Centre, Church Hall, Library and Public Toilets. Mr Weller suggested that the design be in keeping with the local area and that the costs possibly be shared by the Council and other local organisations.

Councillor Perry asked that this request be investigated and the results of the investigations be reported back to the LNP.

### **Problems in Ryders Hayes Lane, Pelsall**

Councillor Perry spoke on behalf of local residents about their concerns relating to problems caused by parked cars, vans and mini motorbikes on land adjacent to a property on the corner of Ryders Hayes Lane, Pelsall. He said that the Pelsall Councillors had met with relevant council officers recently to see what could be done to address the concerns of local residents. An enforcement notice has been served on the owner of the property to tidy up the site. He reported that to date the owner had not responded to the enforcement notice and he understood the property had now been put up for sale.

Councillor Perry said that local residents were asking for the situation to be monitored and if necessary for the owner of the property to be prosecuted.

### **Parking at Labour Club in Church Road, Pelsall**

A local resident, Mr Dave Wood raised the problem caused by inconsiderate car owners using Pelsall Labour Club in Church Road. He said that although there was a large car park at the rear of the club, cars were being parked at the side of the club, obstructing the highway and on Pelsall Common opposite the club.

Councillor Perry requested that this matter be investigated and that the licensee of Pelsall Labour Club be requested to put up notices asking car owners to park more considerately by using the large club car park. He asked that the situation be monitored.

The LNP requested that all matters raised in Public Forum be investigated further with the relevant council officers and other partnerships representatives and the results of these investigations be reported back to the LNP.

179/06 **Bus-Related Matters in Pelsall and Rushall LNP areas**

A briefing was given by Mr Dave Donaldson, the general manager of Travel West Midlands.

Mr Donaldson said that he was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss bus related matters with local residents. He was happy to report that in response to concerns raised at the previous LNP meeting and petitioning by local residents and councillors regarding the cessation of the 158 bus service to Birmingham, the 997 bus service would be diverted through Pelsall, High Heath and Shelfield twice a day with effect from 7 January 2007. He said that timetables were not yet available but the bus would leave Bloxwich at 7.19 am in the morning and return from Birmingham at 17.20 pm in the afternoon, Mondays to Fridays. Other changes in the area that he could report were changes to the route of the 396A and 396C service. Mr Donaldson said that bus users were experiencing delays though the effect of road works and congestion in the borough and the timetables of some services have been altered in response to this and to feedback received from bus users.

In conclusion, Mr Donaldson said that he hoped that the changes to the 997 bus service would meet the needs of the previous users of the 158 service to Birmingham. He said that he would be happy to attend any future meeting of the LNP to speak on bus-related matters again if requested.

Following the briefing, Mr Donaldson answered questions from partnership members and local residents on bus-related issues.

On behalf of the partnership, the Chairman thanked Mr Donaldson for his attendance at the meeting.

180/06 **LNP Funding Update**

A report was submitted:-

(See annexed)

Parveen Sangha of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team, said that the landscape feature on the corner of Ryders Hayes Lane /Norton Road should soon be completed. The Greenhouse Project involving five primary schools in the area would be delivered in partnership with Ground Work Black Country.

Parveen Sangha said that £600 had been allocated for the dog fouling bins project in the LNP area. It was proposed that the three bins be placed in Pelsall, Rushall and High Heath.

In answer to points raised, Parveen Sangha said that the £600 for the bins needed to be allocated by the end of the financial year, i.e. 31 March 2007. She requested Partnership members and local residents to bring their proposals for the location of the three bins to the Community Action Group (CAG) meeting on 19 December 2006. The proposed locations for the three bins would be reported to the next meeting of the LNP.

Mr Steve Palmer of West Midlands Fire Service asked whether consideration could be given to erecting steel bins to discourage arson attacks by vandals.

Parveen Sangha referred to a project proposal which had been received for a sign to be erected to signpost people to Rushall Olympic Football Club. It was proposed to allocate the remaining LNP 2005/06 funding towards the sign with the rest being met by Rushall Olympic Football Club. The total cost of the sign would be £1,200 and the LNP contribution would be £441 40.

In answer to concerns raised about the cost of the sign, Mr John Ree said that a sign indicating the entrance to the football club was needed as it was situated in a busy area and there were often delays caused by traffic slowing down trying to find the entrance to the club.

Following discussion it was agreed to approve the project proposal in principle subject to a full breakdown of the proposed costs being submitted to a future meeting of the LNP.

### **Resolved.**

The LNP agreed:-

1. To note the progress to date on projects outlined in the report.
2. To finalise the location of the three dog fouling bins in Pelsall, High Heath, and Rushall at the Health and People Community Action Group meeting on 19 December 2006 and the proposed locations to be reported to the next meeting of the LNP.
3. To approve the project proposal for a signpost for Rushall Olympic Football Club, subject to a full breakdown of the proposed costs being submitted to a future LNP meeting.

### **181/06 Community Action Group Update**

A report was submitted:-

(See annexed)

Councillor Perry reported on the site meeting of Cartbridge Lane residents with local councillors, council officers and the police which had taken place on 1 December 2006. He said that the following actions had been agreed:-

1. To clear up graffiti/fly tipping by the bridge in Cartbridge Lane South
2. To check whether the Coalpool access barrier complied with the Disciplinary Discrimination Act.
3. To investigate the possible blocking off of the barrier to prevent access to mini bike riders.
4. In the short term to install cameras to help gather evidence against fly tippers and motorbike riders.
5. In the long term, in consultation with Highways and Regeneration and the LNP, to look at possible options for the bikers' alternative use.
6. To issue a press release in conjunction with Trading Standards, highlighting health and safety concerns to mini bike riders and to draw to parents' attention the legality of their use i.e. the requirement for a licence, insurance and road tax.
7. The Police Community Support Officers to extend their walk-way plans to cover the Cartbridge Lane area and to issue mini bike riders with counter forms to identify which area they come from.

The Partnership was advised that H1 and H2 police divisions were liaising on this problem and that a joint workshop with the police with a Community Safety framework was planned for January 2007 with a view to appointing Safer Stronger Community Champions to move forward these actions.

Several local residents expressed concern that they had no knowledge of the site meeting and had therefore, been unable to attend. They queried how well the meeting had been publicised.

Councillor Perry said that he was concerned that some of the local residents had been unaware of the meeting and he apologised to those residents who had therefore been unable to attend. He asked that this matter be investigated. Councillor Perry went on to say that dealing with the problems in Cartbridge Lane was an ongoing process and the effect of the measures agreed at the 1 December 2006 meeting would be assessed at the Safer and Stronger CAG meeting on 11 January 2007 at Rushall Community Centre.



Mr John Ree, Chair of the Health and People CAG said that at the last meeting he had requested two nominations for appointment to Walsall Hospitals Foundation Trust Stakeholders Reference Group. He said that he had in fact received three nominations, Mrs Shirley Sheasby, Mrs Diane Carpenter and Councillor Catherine Micklewright. He was pleased to report all three nominations had been accepted by the Foundation Trust and invited to the first meeting on 6 December 2006. Mr Ree said that the next Health and People CAG meeting would be held on 19 December 2007 at Autumn Close Meeting Room, Pelsall when the Expert Patient Programme would be discussed. The input of local residents at the meeting would be very welcome.

### **Resolved**

The LNP agreed:-

1. That LNP members continue in attendance at Community Action Group meetings.
2. That the progress of the Community Action Groups outlined in the report be noted.

### **182/06 LNP News**

Parveen Sangha referred to the last meeting of the LNP when Pelsall resident Chris Morgan had attended to ask for support for his campaign for resurfacing work to be carried out on the tennis courts in Railswood Drive in Pelsall. She was pleased to report that Local Agreement Green Space funding of £2,850 had been approved for the resurfacing work. Regular users were being consulted on the work they wished to see carried out with a view to the resurfacing being completed by the end of March 2007. She stressed the importance of LNP support for residents such as Chris Morgan who wanted to improve things for young people in Pelsall.

Councillor Perry said that he was pleased to report that additional funding had been secured for a replacement play area for Highfield Road North in Pelsall after a two year campaign for new facilities for young people. He said that there had been considerable consultation with local residents about the new play area and hopefully it would be completed by Spring 2007.

Mrs Margaret Hayes referred to the presentation made at a previous LNP meeting about the Small Sparks Project. She said that as a result of the presentation funding had been obtained for a rolling programme over the new two to three years in High Heath and Shelfield for disabled children and adults that involved them in bulb-planting. This would be a great help in engaging disadvantaged people in community activities.

The Chairman said that it was gratifying to hear such good news stories resulting from the LNP working with the local community.

**Termination of Meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....