

WILLENHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday 10 January 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

At New Invention Junior School, Cannock Road, New Invention, Willenhall

Present

Councillor Ian Shires (Chairman)
Susan Peters (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Arthur Bentley
Councillor John Cook
Wendy Evans
Inspector Bob Gessey
Sgt. Theresa Hinsley
Rupy Pandaal
Councillor Mrs. Eileen Pitt
Wendy Powell
Councillor Doreen Shires
Mr. Stanley Taylor
Councillor Angela Underhill

140/07 Public Forum

Mr. T. Hutchinson, New Invention, addressed the Committee on concerns regarding the poor condition of the footpaths and roads as well as the lack of policing in the Allens Rough Estate area. There were no parking facilities at the flats on Dorchester Road and cars visiting the flats parked on the footpath and, as a result, pedestrians had to walk on the road.

The Chairman requested feedback on these issues at the next meeting in order that residents could be kept informed and that they be informed of the date, time and place of the meeting at which they would be considered.

Mr. James Rice, Pool Hayes, referred to a number of burglaries that had taken place during December and no one on the estate had been advised of the extent of the problem.

Inspector Gessey advised the Partnership that a Communication and Re-assurance Officer was employed at Bloxwich Police Station to ensure that issues were communicated as widely as possible. He also referred to a number of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme operating in the policing area and the "ring round" scheme to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to advise them of issues within their area to be passed on to other residents in the Neighbourhood Watch area.

The Chairman stated that parking and crime matters should be referred to the next Community Action Group and requested information on the Neighbourhood Watch schemes within the LNP area.

Members were also advised that the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting would be held on 8th February at Willenhall Police Station at 7.00 p.m.

Mr. Nightingale, Manor Farm Estate, referred to the lack of advertising for the meeting venue.

James Sherrif, Allens Rough Estate, asked the Partnership to consider providing a youth club or football facility in the area for young people, particularly in view of problems experienced when they play in the street. It was felt that the Out Reach Workers had done nothing to assist them.

In response to questions, Mr. Sherrif informed the Partnership that, when they used facilities at Sneyd School, there was a cost of £24 per hour. A Youth Worker had handed out questionnaires to young people in the area requesting that they complete them if they wanted to take part in activities, but the questionnaires were never collected.

Wendy Evans informed the Partnership that the young people had contacted her and handed in their questionnaires and had requested more from the Youth Worker as more young people wanted to be involved.

Councillor Shires reminded the LNP that funding had been allocated for a youth project, but no schemes had been suggested.

Mr. Tranter informed the Partnership that the Senior District Youth Officer would be attending the Community Action Group to be held on 18th January at The Square, New Invention, at 6.00 p.m. when this matter would be discussed, members of the public interested could attend that meeting.

The members of the public present were thanked for their attendance and the public forum ended at 7.10 p.m.

141/07 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Raj Singh, Peter Arch, Vera Birch, Station Officer Walker, Councillor Woodruff, Councillor Coughlan, Councillor Creaney, T. Webster and Nigel Patterson.

The Partnership heard of the resignation of Mrs. V. Till, WBSP Appointed Partner.

The Chairman welcomed Steve Pretty, the new Lead Officer for the LNP to the meeting.

The Chairman was advised that the Partnership meeting had been advertised in the press as a Community Action Group meeting.

142/07 Introductions

Members, Officers and members of the public present introduced themselves at the meeting.

143/07 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2006, be approved as a correct record.

144/07 Feedback

With regard to minute no 131/06, Ms. Ball indicated that she would be in a position to find out why the LNP had not been involved in consultation regarding extended schools later this week

With regard to minute no. 133/06, Mrs. Ensor informed the Partnership that the Community Safety Intervention Group would be in the Willenhall area from 15 January 2007 for eight weeks. The Police Sergeant leading the Group would be made aware of any problems in order that appropriate action could be taken

With regard to minute no. 134/06, Mr. Tranter reported that Amey had stated that they would leave the spotlight switched on at the Lane Head/Short Heath War Memorial

145/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

146/07 Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

147/07 Funding Report

The Funding Report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parpinder Singh reported that the Youth Engagement Project would be considered at the Community Action Group to be held on 18th January 2007.

With regard to the Community Safety issues, investigations were taking place into the possibility of identifying external funding for a Community Warden Project across the three Wards of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

With regard to the Christmas lights, Antonia Pompa congratulated everyone on their efforts to make the Christmas lights in the area a success.

The Council was in a position to fund lighting within district centres, but not other areas and equipment could be replaced when this was required. There was no funding available to support Christmas trees in district centres. The LNP would be informed of this year's maintenance cost when these were known.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their involvement in the Christmas lights in the Willenhall area.

With regard to the Lane Head War Memorial, Councillors Mrs. Shires and J. Cook, together with Ms. Wendy Evans, agreed to be involved in the design improvements.

The Chairman referred to an application to install a mobile phone mast in close proximity to two local schools in the area, as well as a mast in the vicinity of The Square, New Invention, and that Members should raise any objections to the proposals as appropriate.

Resolved

The funding report was received and noted.

At this juncture, the time being 8.00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned as the fire alarm had been activated.

Chairman:

Date: