

St Matthews & Birchills/Leamore Partnership – 18th January 2005

Placecheck

1. Brief summary of report

This report introduces a presentation on the 'Placecheck' Community Engagement technique and its potential to be used by St Matthews & Birchills/Leamore LNP to engage the wider community in the LNP process.

2. Purpose of report

- To inform the St Matthews & Birchills/Leamore LNP about the contents of the presentation that introduces 'Placecheck'
- To seek the St Matthews & Birchills/Leamore LNP's approval to implement Placecheck to engage the wider community in the LNP process

3. Recommendation

For St Matthews & Birchills/Leamore LNP to note the contents of the presentation that introduces 'Placecheck' and agree to implement the technique to engage the wider community in the LNP process.

4. The Placecheck Approach

Placecheck is a nationally recognised method of assessing the qualities of a place, showing what improvements are needed, and focusing people on working together to achieve them. Its aim is to identify a range of issues in specific locations and suggest actions for addressing the issues through asking participants a series of questions.

It is envisaged that the *Placecheck* locations would be identified by the LNPs following the 'Ward Walks'. These walks create an opportunity for the LNPs to identify 'neighbourhood grot spots' where action is required to address issues such as poor environmental quality and anti social behaviour. *Placecheck* would be lead by the LNPs and used to engage the wider community in identifying and prioritising the issues and arriving at potential solutions.

This process provides a nationally recognised framework in which the ward walks sit and may contribute towards achieving 'Best Practice' recognition.

5. The relationship to LNP Partnership Plan

This approach will help drive forward the implementation of actions identified in the initial LNP plans; widen local engagement and ownership of the plans through members of the partnerships delivering *Placechecks* in all of the 9 LNP areas. This will contribute towards achieving an externally led process whereby a robust partnership is developed that works with and genuinely empowers communities.

6. Vision 2008

The ability of all sections of the community to influence the LNP process, as a result of the presentation, will contribute to the following Council Priorities, identified in Vision 2008:

- Ensure a clean & green borough
- Ensure all people are safe & secure
- Make Walsall a healthy and caring place
- Encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall
- Make it easier to access local services
- Listen to what people want

6. Financial and Legal Considerations

- Financial considerations –Placecheck will be funded from existing council budget and supported by staff from within the LNP team and Environmental Regeneration Section. This will fund an external consultant to train LNP members in Placecheck's implementation and the cost of any resources required
- Legal considerations – there are no legal considerations.

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