

DARLASTON LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 11 October, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

Moxley People's Centre, Queen Street, Moxley

Present

Councillor Bill Madeley (Chairman)
Mr. Peter Burton (Vice-Chairman)
Cath Boneham
Councillor Rose Burley
Julie Haywood
Councillor Ayshea Johnson
Mr. Keith Middleton
Mr. David Owen
P.C. Singh
Councillor Graham Wilkes

In Attendance

Narinder Singh Chumber
Steve Lewis
Paul Wilde

133/06 Death of Tony Steadman

Councillor Madeley referred to the death of Tony Steadman, a Locally Appointed Partner, and drew attention to his work on behalf of the people of Darlaston. He requested that the meeting should stand in silence as a mark of respect for Tony Steadman.

The Partnership stood in silence in remembrance of Tony Steadman.

134/06 Appointment of Vice-Chairman from Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership Nominated Partners

Resolved

That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Partnership.

135/06 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Chambers, Andy Clarke, Rashid Varachhia, Ismail Patel, Jan Madeley, Gary Fulford, Sue Machin, Denise Birkett and Mark Anslow.

136/06 Introductions

Each Member of the Partnership and the Officers present introduced themselves and explained in brief the organisation they represented.

137/06 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2006, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

138/06 Public Forum

Residents of Stafford Road, Darlaston

Councillor Burley introduced Mr. Salt, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wilmore, residents of Stafford Road, Darlaston, to the meeting and explained that they wished to address the Partnership about the speed of traffic using Stafford Road.

Mrs. Wilmore requested that the existing speed humps be removed and replaced with other traffic calming measures, e.g. chicanes. She expressed concern about the noise and vibration which occurred when lorries travelled over the speed humps. She added that the houses were being affected by the vibrations from the lorries. She asked if a 20 mph speed limit could be introduced in Stafford Road. She referred to the fact that planning permission had recently been granted for 52 houses and 18 apartments in Stafford Road which would only exacerbate existing problems.

Mr. Salt informed the meeting that vehicles regularly travelled over the existing speed humps at speeds in excess of 40 mph. Skip lorries regularly used Stafford Road and it was a bus route. He added that some of the speed humps had been damaged by traffic and needed repair.

Councillor Johnson asked if residents had drawn up a petition in support of their concerns. Mrs. Wilmore replied that a petition signed by everyone in Stafford Road asking for the road humps to be removed had been submitted to the Local Authority approximately two years ago.

Resolved

- (1) That the Highways Section be requested to revisit this issue and investigate the removal of the existing road humps and their replacement with chicanes and a 20 mph speed limit order;
- (2) That a report on this matter be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

139/06 Presentation Re: Increasing Life Expectancy

Cath Boneham gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding increasing life expectancy.

A copy of the presentation was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Burley commented that she was surprised that housing was not a key issue in the Darlaston South area, because there was still overcrowding and a lack of affordable homes for young people. She also questioned the sustainability of the project. Cath Boneham replied that sustainability was one of the themes that was being carefully considered, together with the growing of understanding and commissioning.

Peter Burton referred to the work undertaken by the Health Action Zone (HAZ). He was concerned that its findings had not been taken on board. Cath Boneham replied that HAZ funding had only been available for seven years. She added that the Primary Care Trust was intending to set up four practice based groups across the area.

Councillor Madeley asked whether minor surgery could be carried out in the area's existing health centres to ease the pressure on the Manor Hospital and reduce the distances travelled by patients. Cath Boneham replied that the Primary Care Trust was encouraging GP's to do this.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the presentation be received.

140/06 **Darlaston Capacity Building Project**

Julie Haywood (Walsall Housing Group) explained that the capacity building project would link into regeneration proposals for Darlaston and Bentley. The project would help local people to become involved with regeneration by employing them as “community experts”. It would link into the health proposals too. She added that WHG was putting in a bid for European funding to the Local Authority. The project outline would be circulated shortly and consideration was being given to bringing Leys Hall back into community use.

Peter Burton expressed concern that neither Rough Hay Local Committee nor Youth Opinions Unite had been involved in WHG’s consultation exercise.

Councillor Burley questioned how widely WHG had consulted on the project. She hoped that the group would act upon the information obtained during the consultation and not just do what WHG wanted.

Councillor Madeley referred to the attempts to get Leys Hall open again and indicated that WHG were assisting with the project. He added that it would cost in the region of £50,000 to put the Hall back into use. Julie Haywood replied that consultation would be as wide as possible and information gained would be taken on board. She referred to the pilot project which had been carried out in the Goscote area where engaging local people had worked very well.

Steve Lewis concurred that the project would lead to real changes for Darlaston with Bentley, Moxley and Darlaston Town Centre all being regenerated.

David Owen stated that he had raised the matter with the Local Neighbourhood Partnership to ensure that groups which did not normally have an opportunity to comment were allowed to have their say.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the presentation be noted.

141/06 **LNP Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Narinder Chumber referred to section 5 of the report on the new project proposal to fund 6 performances of the production of EcoGirl in primary schools in the Darlaston area.

Councillor Burley asked if the Friends of Moorcroft Wood had submitted an application. Steve Lewis replied that they had been contacted and application forms had been sent out but had not been returned.

Peter Burton referred to the membership of the Partnership and suggested that a representative of Youth Opinions Unit should be added. He referred to the problems of anti-social behaviour in the Rough Hay area.

Steve Lewis reported that a meeting with Jan Madeley and the Community Action Group to consider the problems of anti-social behaviour around the recreation ground would be held shortly.

Councillor Burley stated that information about the recreation ground and community association had been requested at the last meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Community Action Group and a report was expected at the next meeting. Steve Lewis reported that answers would be provided at the next Community Action Group meeting.

Councillor Madeley expressed concern that the Partnership's needs were not being addressed. At previous meetings, a request had been made for Transportation Officers to attend to discuss traffic problems in Pinfold Street, Darlaston, but no one had ever attended. A similar situation had arisen over the closure of Darlaston Town Hall. A report had been requested but nothing had been forthcoming and Officers had not attended to explain verbally. He added that Local Neighbourhood Partnerships were supposed to give local people a voice but feed-back was very poor.

Councillor Wilkes concurred with Councillor Madeley's remarks.

Councillor Johnson expressed concern that Local Neighbourhood Partnerships did not seem to be achieving anything.

Councillor Burley stated that she welcomed Partnership working, but Members could not go back to members of the public because answers were not being provided. She added that the Cabinet system should not by-pass Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership:-

- (1) notes the progress on funding priorities for 2005/06;
- (2) notes the current spend in the sum of £7,531;
- (3) notes the criteria for the allocated 2006/07 funding;
- (4) notes the deadline for spend for 2006/07 is 31st March 2007;

- (5) supports the funding of 6 performances of EcoGirl in primary schools in the Darlaston area.

142/06 **Update from Community Action Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Narinder Chumber enlarged upon the report and drew attention to the importance of all LNP Members attending Community Action Group meetings as attendance had been limited at some meetings.

Cath Boneham explained what had happened at the Health and People Community Action Group held on 23 August 2006.

Councillor Burley expressed disappointment at the poor turnout for the Health and People Community Community Action Group held on 23 August. At the Safer and Stronger Communities Community Action Group held on 18 September attendance had been good when feed-back from the bus tour had been given. She felt that publicity for Community Action Group meetings needed to be improved. She added that she was looking for a thematic approach to meetings. She hoped that the Chief Superintendent of Police would attend the next Support and Stronger Community Action Group meeting to discuss neighbourhood policing; that a representative from the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership would be available to speak and that the warden scheme would be discussed. She added that a meeting should be held at the end of the Municipal Year to review what Community Action Groups had achieved with a view to improving them if they under-achieved.

Steve Lewis enlarged upon the bus tour and reported that over 50% of the 99 issues which had been identified had been dealt with. Ultimately, 20 could not be assigned to any particular service area so would be progressed through the Community Action Groups themselves. He added that the Local Area Agreement had recognised and funded the work of the bus tour.

Cath Boneham referred to the lack of continuity at Action Group meetings and to the disappointing attendance at those meetings.

Councillor Burley suggested that the press should be encouraged to publicise meetings of the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Action Groups more to encourage people to attend them.

Narinder Chumber advised that Christine Donaldson was now in post and she would be looking at ways to publicise the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships in new and innovative ways and would be visiting future meetings to discuss publicity.

Councillor Burley requested Officers to write to Chief Superintendent Munroe to request that a senior police officer attend meetings of the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That Local Neighbourhood Partnership Members continue to attend Community Action Group meetings;
- (2) That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership notes the progress of Community Action Groups;
- (3) That Officers write to Chief Superintendent Munroe to request that a senior police officer attends meetings of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

143/06 Selection Panel for Locally Appointed Partners

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed\)

Resolved

That the Selection Panel for Locally Appointed Partners be comprised of:-

- Councillor Madeley
- Councillor Johnson
- Keith Middleton
- Cath Boneham
- An independent adviser from the Community Empowerment Partnership Board

144/06 Sponsorship of Traffic Islands

Steve Chapman made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the sponsorship of traffic islands. A copy of the slide show had been circulated to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

He added that under the scheme the traffic islands would be upgraded, planted and maintained to the highest of standards.

Resolved

- (1) That the presentation be received;
- (2) That the following traffic islands be named:-
 - St. Lawrence Way/New Street/Willenhall Street - St. Lawrence Way Island
 - Marshland Way/Bentley Road/Industrial Estate – Bentley Road South Island
 - The Green/Midland Road – The Green Island
 - Park Lane/Axletree Way – Park Lane Island
 - Walsall Road/Park Lane – Walsall Road Island
 - Moxley – Moxley Island

145/06 Master Plan for the Regeneration of Moxley

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Madeley suggested that Councillor Rose Burley, Councillor Graham Wilkes, Mr. Gary Fulford (Darlaston Housing Trust), a representative from Accord Housing and a representative from the West Midlands Police should form the 5 Members to join the Project Reference Group, together with the following representatives from the community:-

- Reverend Richard Inglesby - All Saints Church
- Ms. Lisa Walton - Curtin Drive Residents' Association
- Mrs. Margaret Steadman - Moxley Resident
- Ms. Wendy Pearce - Moxley Peoples' Centre
- Mrs. Amanda Potts -

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the establishment of a Project Reference Group to oversee the Moxley Masterplan be supported;

(3) That the following five persons be nominated to join the Project Reference Group:-

- Councillor Rose Burley
- Councillor Graham Wilkes
- Mr. Gary Fulford (Darlaston Housing Trust)
- A representative from Accord Housing
- A representative from the West Midlands Police

(4) That the following representatives of named organisations be nominated to join the Project Reference Group:-

- Reverend Richard Inglesby (All Saints Church)
- Ms Lisa Walton (Curtin Drive Residents' Association)
- Mrs. Margaret Steadman (Moxley Resident)
- Ms. Wendy Pearce (Moxley Peoples' Centre)
- Mrs. Amanda Potts ()

146/06 Darlaston Town Hall

Closure for Refurbishment Lettings Fees

Councillor Madeley expressed concern that no one was in attendance to report on these items.

Councillor Burley complained that she had only received a letter about the closure of the Town Hall rather than a written report which was expected.

Councillor Madeley commented that events at Darlaston Town Hall were not advertised as much as those in Walsall Town Hall were. He felt that the letting fees were inappropriate and expensive, discouraging people from using the building.

Referring to the works being carried out to the Town Hall, Councillor Madeley expressed concern that no information had been as given to their duration.

Resolved

That the concern of the Partnership that an Officer was not in attendance to report on these items be recorded.

147/06 Darlaston Capacity Building Project

This matter had been considered earlier in the meeting.

148/06 **Master Plan Public Consultation Day – 30 September 2006**

Steve Lewis reported that the consultation event had been held at the Emanuel Church, Bentley, and over 300 people had visited the site and given their views on the proposals. A report would be prepared on the findings for consideration in November 2006. This would provide the option stage for the development of Bentley.

Councillor Madeley referred to the fact that the consultation day had been heavily advertised in local newspapers and a letter drop had been carried out in the Bentley area. As a result, lots of people had been involved in the event and a successful day had resulted.

David Owen reported that the people from the church had confirmed that it had been a very good and enjoyable day for everyone concerned.

Steve Lewis indicated that further progress reports on the development of Bentley would be submitted to future meetings of the Partnership.

Resolved

That the verbal update be noted.

149/06 **Removal of Telephone Boxes**

Councillor Burley requested that consideration be given to the removal of the telephone boxes in Peacock Road, Darlaston, and Bull Lane, Moxley.

Resolved

That Officers investigate the removal of the telephone boxes in Peacock Road, Darlaston, and Great Bridge Road at the junction with Bull Lane, Moxley.

150/06 **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Partnership would be held on Tuesday, 14 November 2006, at Bentley Leisure Pavilion, Bentley Road North, Bentley, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: