

PELSALL AND RUSHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday 11th July 2006 at 6.00 pm

at Rushall Community Centre, Springfields, Rushall

Present

Councillor Clive Ault
Mr. Ron Carpenter
Councillor Al Griffiths
Mr. Robert Hughes
Councillor Catherine Micklewright
Councillor Garry Perry
Mr. John Ree
Mrs Ann Rice

In attendance:

Inspector Greg Bates
Andy Burns
Acting Chief Inspector Johal
Sergeant Kelvin Rowlands
Parveen Sangha

124/06. Election of Chairman

Resolved

That Councillor Catherine Micklewright be elected as Chairman of Pelsall and Rushall Local Neighbourhood Partnership for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

125/06. Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

That the election of two Vice-Chairmen be deferred to the next meeting.

126/06. **Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked each member of the LNP to introduce themselves.

127/06. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. Margaret Hayes, Ms. Rachael Humphreys, Mrs. Isabel Mason, Mr. Colin Payton, Councillor Rachel Walker and Diane Southall of Manor Farm Community Association.

128/06. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pelsall and Rushall Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 6 April 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

129/06. **Declarations of interest**

Councillors Micklewright and Ault declared an interest in any planning issues raised during the meeting. They said that they would leave the room during the discussions as they were both members of the Development Control Committee.

130/06. **Petitions**

Councillor Longhi presented a petition on behalf of residents of Allens Lane, Goscote Road and Marlpool Drive, Pelsall, in respect of land at the rear of 15 Goscote Road, Pelsall, being used to dump rubbish and cars.

Resolved

That the petition be received and noted and forwarded by the LNP to the relevant Officers for action.

131/06. **Terms of Reference**

It was noted that the report and appendix circulated with the papers for the meeting had been withdrawn from the agenda and replaced by an extract from the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership Constitution that was circulated to all Members of the LNP prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Resolved

That the extract from the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership Constitution be received and noted.

132/06. **LNP Funding – Possible Environmental Improvements on the corner site at Ryders Hayes Lane and Norton Road, Pelsall**

A presentation was made by Glen Buglass of the Creative Development Team and Bob Osborne, the Regeneration Manager (Landscape Design) on developing a design for a landscape feature on the corner of Ryders Hayes Lane and Norton Road, Pelsall.

Mr. Buglass said that this prominent corner site had been a problem since houses had been demolished there in 1975. Currently the site was featureless and comprised grass bisected by an unsurfaced access track to adjoining properties. It was bounded by broken and rusty trip rails and there had been problems with illegal parking there.

Mr. Buglass and Mr. Osborne then showed various designs for possible improvements to the site, including tree planting, spring bulb planting and simple robust steel trip rails to prevent vehicle access, but allowing the grass to be mowed. Designs for a sculpture panel fronting the road depicting a local theme, either on Pelsall's coal mining history or local wildlife showing a canal side scene, were shown to the meeting. The chosen graphic sculpture theme would be laser cut from steel plate to give a silhouette effect.

In conclusion, Mr. Buglass said that they were looking for suggestions and the views of the local community to these proposals.

Mr. Buglass and Mr. Osbourne were then questioned by Members of the LNP and local residents. In answer to concerns about possible traffic problems, Mr. Osbourne said that advice would be taken from the relevant Council Officers before the plans were finalised. He also confirmed that the LNP would be contributing £3,000 towards the cost of the project; but that the rest of the £12,000 funding to complete the improvements would come from Walsall Council.

It was **AGREED** that the plans be agreed in principle with LNP Members favouring a sculpture representing the mining heritage of Pelsall, but that local residents and schools be consulted about the plans before a final decision is made.

Mr. Buglass confirmed that it was hoped that the sculpture panels, railings and improved ground works would be completed by the Winter.

It was also **AGREED** that interested local residents at the meeting who had expressed their views about the proposals be invited to meet with Mr. Buglass and Mr. Osbourne to discuss their own ideas further.

133/06. **LNP Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team advised Members of progress to date with regard to the funding priorities 2005/06 and the criteria for the allocated funding for 2006/07.

Concern was expressed by a member of the public that the Council was only allocating £10,000 to LNPs for 2006/07 rather than the £20,000 they received in their 2005/06 allocation.

In response, Councillor Perry said that the Council's allocation to the LNPs was £10,000, but over the next two years each LNP would also receive funding allocated from other pots of money through the Local Area Agreement to spend in specific areas. There were already a number of schemes in progress, including one on crime and community safety.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress on funding priorities for 2005/06 as detailed in the report now submitted be noted;
- (2) That the current spend as set out in the report be noted;
- (3) That the criteria for the allocated funding 2006/07 as detailed in the report now submitted be noted.

134/06. **Community Action Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The report was introduced by Parveen Sangha of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team who explained the LNP move from Task Groups to Community Action Groups (CAGs). She said the CAGs would be engaging with service providers at local level and advising the LNP of issues and ideas raised by the wider community. It was recommended in the report that two LNP CAG Chairs be appointed from the LNP membership, one for the Safer and Stronger CAG and the other for the Health and People CAG. The Chairs would be supported by an allocated Neighbourhood Partnership Officer. The CAG Chairs would feed-back information between the LNP and the CAG as well as chairing the CAG meetings.

Following discussion, it was decided to defer appointing Chairs of the two CAGs until the full complement of Locally Appointed Partners and WBSP nominated partners was established.

Resolved

- (1) That the move from Task Groups to Community Action Groups, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (2) That the Terms of Reference for the Community Action Groups as attached to the report be noted;
- (3) That the dates set for the Community Action Groups for the 2006/07 Municipal Year, as detailed in the report, be agreed;
- (4) That the appointment of two Local Neighbourhood Partnership CAG Chairs be deferred until the full complement of Locally Appointed Partners and WBSP nominated partners is established.

135/06. Local Neighbourhood Agreement

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The report was introduced by Parveen Sangha of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team.

In answer to a question from a local resident about how publicity for LNP and CAG meetings could be increased, she said that funding had been secured for three extra posts in the LNP Team. The postholders would be engaged in raising awareness in the local community about the work of the LNPs and CAGs by talking to local groups and residents and encouraging their involvement in the work of the LNP.

Resolved

- (1) That the current developments around the Local Neighbourhood Agreement, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (2) That the finalised pledges, as agreed at the last meeting of the LNP and detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, be noted.

136/06. Urban Design Framework for the A454 and A461

A report was submitted and a presentation was given by Cherry Shine, the Principal Regeneration Officer:-

(see annexed)

Cherry Shine reported on the progress of Walsall Strategic Corridors and Gateways Regeneration Initiative on the A454 and A461 Urban Design Framework, in particular, the eight projects proposed for Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield LNP area.

Mr. Phil Baker of Station Road, Rushall, voiced his concerns about pedestrian access in Rushall and how this could be improved. He said that there was great difficulty for pedestrians in crossing Station Road in Rushall.

In reply, Cherry Shine said that she was well aware of these problems and there were proposals for improvements in Rushall, although the details were yet to be finalised. It was acknowledged that there was a need for better pedestrian crossings in Rushall and it was intended to address this problem.

During the course of the discussions, local residents also raised concerns about the present traffic congestion in Walsall through the building of the ring road and what plans there were for dealing with this and parking problems in Walsall Town Centre.

Mr. Neville Owen, Team Leader – Highway Development Control, acknowledged these concerns and the present problems in Walsall town centre. He said that there were also major problems affecting roads in Walsall over which they had no control because of the long-term repair work on M6 motorway.

Councillor Longhi said that a number of projects were causing congestion in Walsall. One suggestion had been to let visitors know well in advance of entering Walsall of these present problems by having strategically placed signs at entry and exit points of the motorway junctions informing visitors of ongoing work. The end results of the present road improvements in Walsall would, however, bring great benefits to the Borough.

Resolved

That the contents of the presentation and report be received and noted.

137/06. **Removal of Public Call Boxes**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet's decision about the role they would like to see LNPs take in the local consultation about the removal of the last public call box in an area/local neighbourhood, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

138/06. **Locally Appointed Partners – Re-selection Process**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team said that the purpose of the report was to inform the Members of recent changes to the Locally Appointed Partner (LAP) selection process. She said that the membership of the existing LAPs would continue until October 2006 in order for a revised selection process to be introduced. One third of the existing LAPs would be re-selected at the October/November LNP meetings and the nomination process would run from August to September 2007.

Following discussion, it was:-

Resolved

- (1) To note the changes in the selection process for Locally Appointed Partners be noted;

- (2) To determine which Locally Appointed Partners will be asked to stand down for re-selection by looking at their attendance records at LNP and CAG meetings over the previous year;
- (3) To note the findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment on LNP Membership, attached to the report.

139/06. **Green Spaces Strategy**

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

140/06. **Sponsorship of Traffic Islands**

A presentation was made by Mr. Steve Chapman, Policy and Performance Manager – Street Pride, on a scheme to raise funds by asking companies to sponsor traffic islands in the various LNP areas.

Mr. Chapman said that in the Pelsall/Rushall LNP area there was only one traffic island on Stubbers Green Road.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to approve the sponsorship of traffic island scheme and to agree to naming the traffic island in Stubbers Green Road “Swan Pool Island”.

141/06. **Schedule of Meetings of Local Neighbourhood Partnership 2006/07**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the dates of meetings of Pelsall and Rushall Local Neighbourhood Partnership for 2006/07 Municipal Year be noted;
- (2) That the venues for LNP meetings, as detailed in the report, be confirmed, all meetings commence at 6.00 p.m.

142/06. **Redefining Conservation Areas in Pelsall/Building Conservation in Rushall-Shelfield Ward**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mrs. Maureen Payton, the Chair of the Friends of Pelsall Common, asked that her thanks be recorded to Claire Hines, the Conservation Officer for Pelsall, who had joined local residents on a Heritage Walk around Pelsall on 5 June 2006, to identify possible buildings and sites for local listing. She said that it was a pleasure to meet someone who really knew her job and who had been such a great help to them.

Mrs. Payton said that a record had been made on the Heritage Walk of what local residents considered should be added to the local list. There were two lists, a statutory list which was available on the internet and a local list which could not be down-loaded at the present time. Mrs. Payton requested that if anyone wished to have buildings or sites added to the local list, that they contact Claire Hines at the Civic Centre.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

143/06. Update on issues raised at the last Pelsall and Rushall LNP meeting

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the contents of the report be received and noted.

144/06. Public Forum

Anti-Social Behaviour in Pelsall

Councillor Perry, on behalf of the residents of Heath End, Pelsall, raised the problem of the abuse of Heath End Common by some young people. He said that the police were aware of the problem and he was working with the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership and the Detached Youth Team on an action plan to deal with this and the problem of under-age drinking at this location. He said that the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership was targeting certain shops selling alcohol to under-age drinkers and hopefully this would lead to convictions.

Councillor Perry said that other concerns were how to deal with damage to Pelsall Common and how to tackle anti-social behaviour at Church Road Gardens, Pelsall, and in the area behind the public toilets in Norton Road, Pelsall. He suggested that these issues be discussed further at a future LNP or CAG meeting with funding possibly being made available through the community safety pillar. Councillor Perry stressed, however, that the way to deal with these problems was to work with the young people in Pelsall.

Clock in Rushall Square

Local residents asked about the whereabouts of the clock that had been removed from Rushall Square many years ago.

Councillor Griffiths said that, from his enquiries, it appeared that the clock had been destroyed, but investigations were on-going with the company that had made the original clock about the possibility of them producing a replacement clock, using external funding.

Removal of plaque to clock in Pelsall Village

Local residents asked whether the plaque which had been removed from the clock in Pelsall Village could be returned.

The LNP asked that enquiries be carried out in the local community about the whereabouts of the plaque and that the results of these enquiries be reported back to the LNP.

Rushall Library - Notice

On behalf of the local residents, Councillor Mrs. Micklewright asked whether a notice could be erected prohibiting children from playing ball games outside Rushall Library because of the danger to children, people using the library and car drivers.

The LNP asked that the appropriate Council Officers be approached in respect of this matter.

Problems in Station Road, Rushall

Mr. Phil Baker of Station Road, Rushall, referred to the proposal to build houses in Station Road, Rushall, and asked whether any Section 106 funding from the developers could be used to provide brown bins for local residents and to repair the pavements which were in a bad state of repair through being dug up by cable TV companies.

Councillor Griffiths said that he and the other Rushall-Shelfield Councillors would arrange to meet with Mr. Baker to discuss this matter further.

Flower Beds in Shelfield

On behalf of the local residents, Councillor Mrs. Micklewright asked whether consideration could be given to providing more flower beds in Shelfield to make the area more attractive.

The LNP requested that this matter be investigated further with appropriate Council Officers.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.55 pm

Chairman:

Date: