

ALDRIDGE SOUTH AND STREETLY LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday 18 January 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

at the Aldridge School, Tynings Lane, Aldridge

Present

Councillor Tom Ansell (Chairman)
Councillor Gary Clarke
Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul
Mr. Phil Griffin
Mrs Jenny Henney
Mrs Pauline Heydon
Councillor Eddie Hughes
Councillor John O'Hare
Mr. Ron Perks
Mr. Peter Roberts
Councillor John Rochelle
Inspector Dave Storr

In attendance:

Mr. Andy Burns
Mr. Jon Lord
Mr. Frazer Powell
Ms. Parveen Sangha
Mr. James Walsh

14/05. Introductions

Each member of the Partnership introduced themselves and explained in brief the organisation they represented.

15/05. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Mr. Tony Harrison, Mr. Dusan Popratnjak and Mrs Jan Taylor.

16/05. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 20 September 2004, a copy having previously being circulated to each member of the Partnership be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/05. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

18/05. **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted for consideration at this meeting.

19/05. **Public forum**

20/05. **Mr. J. Cartridge**

Mr. Cartridge of 4 Myatt, Redhouse Estate, Aldridge said that he considered Aldridge had in the past missed out on funding and in particular the Redhouse estate was a deprived area which needed financial support from government.

Replying to this comment, Councillor Ansell said that he understood the comments made and the Council was doing its utmost to secure funding from Central Government for the Redhouse estate.

21/05. **Parking of vehicles in Aldridge**

Mrs Houghton of 32 Bonner Grove, Aldridge expressed her concern at parking of vehicles in Middlemore Lane and said that this was a problem which occurred throughout Aldridge. She said that the parking of vehicles outside properties damaged the grass verge and could lead to a depreciation of property values.

Mrs Wilson of 59 Bonner Grove, Aldridge said that she supported the comments of the previous speaker and the parking of cars on grass verges was a general problem throughout Aldridge.

The Chairman advised members that the Council had signed up to the decriminalisation of parking and that traffic wardens would now come under the control of the Council. He said that the Council would be seeking to tackle this issue, this would not be an easy task as it was recognised to be a serious problem.

22/05. **Anti-social behaviour in Streetly**

Mr. P. Lloyd of 167 Chester Road, said that he was concerned by the anti-social behaviour of youths who were consuming alcohol and causing problems in an alley way adjacent to his property. He said that many people in the area had found the conduct of the youths intimidating.

Mr. Lloyd said that the youths seemed to be purchasing alcohol illegally from neighbouring shops and asked that the Police take action to reduce the problem of anti-social behaviour in this part of Streetly.

Inspector Dave Storr confirmed that a number of complaints had been received and that the Police had taken action to confiscate alcoholic drinks from youths and a number of arrests had been made. He confirmed that the Police were undertaking operations in order to deter anti social behaviour in the area and that action was being taken in conjunction with the Council to check whether the local stores were selling alcoholic drinks to underage youths.

Mr. Keith Henney advised the Partnership that residents in the Foley Road East area had experienced problems of public disorder, he said that youths were drinking alcohol on the steps of the Streetly Association and that the Police although attending seemed to be having little effect in dealing with the problem. He said the problem was so serious that a number of organisations were considering not using the facilities at the association in future.

Mr. Henney requested that the Council and Police take action to enforce a local bylaw and the recently introduced drinking ban in the area.

Mrs Jenny Henney said that there was a problem of under age drinking by youths using the Streetly Association Centre site as a meeting area and requested that urgent action be taken to deal with this problem, as it was impacting adversely on many residents in the local area.

23/05. **Education issues, Aldridge**

Mr. Pemberton of 11 Gretton Road, Aldridge asked what action was being taken to deal with children who were excluded from school as many children on the estate where he lived were not at school during school hours.

Councillor Eddie Hughes said that education in Walsall had improved over the last few years and that a number of initiatives were taking place to support improvement. He said that Ofsted had indicated that Walsall had made progress on a number of issues including :-

- (i) truancy had been reduced, but progress still needed to be made;
- (ii) the establishment of exclusion units so that excluded pupils could be educated at particular sites.

Councillor Hughes said it was important to engender social responsibility in both children and parents.

The Chairman on behalf of the Partnership thanked the members of the public for their comments.

24/05. **Physical access audits**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the content of the report on physical access audits be noted.

25/05. **Aldridge South and Streetly LNP: Producing the first partnership plan**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership plan for Aldridge South and Streetly be approved and that acceptance of the plan be recommended to Council following its submission to Cabinet;
- (2) That details of the workshops held to date be used as part of the first neighbourhood plan;
- (3) That the Aldridge South and Streetly LNP establish the following task groups to help in the preparation of the first neighbourhood plan:-

Crime and environment:

Membership:

- Councillor Eddie Hughes (to lead), Mrs Jenny Henney, Mr. Ron Perks, Mr. Peter Roberts;
- Any members of the public from the LNP area who expressed an interest in becoming involved of the work of the task group.

Access to services – transport

Membership:

- Councillor Gary Clarke (to lead), Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul, Councillor John Rochelle, Mr. Peter Roberts;
- Any members of the public from the LNP area who expressed an interest in becoming involved in the work of the task group.

- (4) That consideration of the establishment of the young people and health task group be deferred for consideration at the March 2005 meeting of the LNP so that consideration can be given to the forthcoming youth Ofsted inspection report.

26/05. **Training and development plan**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the LNP note that there are key awareness/training and development issues and that these should be aligned to the local neighbourhood plan;
- (2) That training and development issues be included on the first agendas for the crime and environment and access to services – transport task groups.

27/05.

Crime and disorder strategy

A presentation was given to the LNP by Mr. Keith Newell, from Crime Concern on the draft crime and disorder reduction strategy. The Partnership was advised that following an audit, collection of data and consultation with a number of agencies, a draft crime and disorder reduction strategy had been prepared. Mr. Newell informed the Partnership that the following strategic issues had been identified:-

- Acquisitive crime – domestic burglary and robbery;
- Anti-social behaviour – violent crime, criminal damage, street disorder and prostitution;
- Youth crime – reducing offending levels;
- Fear of crime and vulnerability – young people as victims of violence and race and hate crimes;
- Drugs and alcohol;
- Road safety

The LNP was advised that the Government had set a target of 15% crime reduction over a three year period but high crime rate areas such as Walsall had been set a 20% reduction target in the same period. Mr. Newell confirmed that the draft framework would be taken to a meeting of the Strategic Board on 25 January 2005, for discussion, it would then go out for public consultation and following the receipt of comments the strategy would be introduced on 1 April 2005.

Resolved

That the presentation on the draft crime disorder reduction strategy be noted.

27/05.

Place check

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The LNP received a presentation from Mr. Jon Lord, Sustainable Community Officer, Environmental Regeneration.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman, Councillor Tom Ansell, left the room at 8.15 pm. The Partnership **resolved** to appoint Councillor John Rochelle as chairman in the absence of Councillor Tom Ansell.

Councillor John Rochelle in the Chair

There then followed a discussion on the use of the place check technique to identify grott spots in the LNP area. Comments were made that a map of grott spots in the LNP area could be provided at each meeting to check on what progress had been made.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Tom Ansell resumed his chairmanship for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Tom Ansell in the Chair

Resolved

That the Aldridge South and Streetly LNP note the contents of the presentation and report and agrees to the implementation of the “place check” technique to engage the wider community in the LNP process.

28/05. Redhouse estate project

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Aldridge South and Streetly LNP:-

- (1) Note the aims of the Redhouse Estate project in delivering tangible benefits for the residents of the estate;
- (2) Note progress made to date in establishing a robust partnership, to develop, deliver and manage the project.

29/05. Aldridge South and Streetly LNP vacancies

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Partnership was advised that at present there were four vacancies for locally appointed partners on the LNP and that it was important that the partnership recruited people with particular skills that were relevant to its work. The Partnership noted that it was particularly important to involve and have contributions from youths and young people in the LNP area.

Resolved

That the contents of the report on locally appointed partnership vacancies be noted.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.55 pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....