

AT A MEETING
- of the -
**ALDRIDGE SOUTH AND STREETLY
LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**
held at the Goodsell Hall, Aldridge School, Tynings Lane, Aldridge,
on **Tuesday 13 July 2004**
at 6.10 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Ansell
Councillor Clarke
Mr. P. Griffin
Mr. A. Harrison
Councillor O'Hare
Ms. B. Phillips
Inspector Storr

In attendance:

Mr. A. Burns
Mr. S. Lewis
Mr. P. Smith
Mr. J. Walsh

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

Resolved

That Councillor Ansell be appointed Chairman for this meeting of the Aldridge South and Streetly LNP.

APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Rochelle. An apology was submitted on behalf of Mr. Griffin, who was unable to be present at the start of the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ARTICLE 10 – LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS
- EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF
- WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

Councillor Ansell explained that it had not been expected that members of the public would attend the meeting this evening as the meeting had not been advertised. Although this was a formal meeting of the LNP, it was not fully constituted as all of the members had not yet been appointed.

Councillor Ansell said that the main purpose of the meeting was to consider the appointment of local partners. He added that the meetings of the LNP needed to be robustly advertised in future to promote the LNP amongst the local community and encourage people to attend.

Resolved

That Article 10 from the constitution of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council be noted.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS
- GUIDELINES ON SELECTION PROCESSES FOR
- LOCALLY APPOINTED PARTNERS

A report to be considered at Cabinet on 14 July 2004, was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members were informed that the report would be considered at Cabinet on 14 July 2004.

Resolved

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That the proposed approach to the selection of locally appointed partners be endorsed.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND CONSULTATION

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Ansell explained that the community plan needed to be drafted by the September meeting of the LNP. He said that there would be dedicated officers from the neighbourhood management unit to help members with the drafting of the plan but that the content would come from a range of sources.

In response to a question from Ms. Phillips, Mr. Burns said that the members of the LNP had the overall responsibility to produce the neighbourhood plan. Mr. Walsh added that it was also important to ensure that the plan was locally based and it was clear that the LNP members had an important role to play in this.

Councillor Ansell said that local councillors were aware of many of the issues affecting the LNP area but it was important for members of the community to also raise their issues of concern.

Councillor O'Hare said that he was concerned about the timescales for producing the Local Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor O'Hare said that it would be difficult to complete the work on the plan if the LNP held only 4 meetings during the year. He was also concerned that all the work on the draft plan would have to be carried out before all the partners had been appointed, which meant that they could not be involved in the initially drafting. He said the whole point of the LNP was to involve people from the local community but the current timescales would not allow this to happen.

Mr. Harrison suggested that developing a Local Neighbourhood Plan would be similar in process to producing a school improvement plan. He felt that in a short timescale if it was possible for a group to agree the common themes for the plan. He said that if the LNP members could agree the common themes before the September meeting it would then be possible to consult at the meeting in September with all the partners. He added that in many ways the plan would never be "a finished document." He said that as a working document the Local Neighbourhood Plan would be constantly updated and amended as issues arose.

Councillor O'Hare said that the plan should be a living and developing document but he remained concerned that the very people who should be involved from the very beginning had not yet been appointed or made aware of the existence of the LNP. He felt that the planned timescales were back to front and was concerned that it would not be a very neighbourhood friendly process if the main themes of the plan were agreed before all the partners had been appointed.

Councillor Ansell agreed with Mr. Harrison that some guidelines and themes should be established to enable the LNP to produce a draft working document for consultation later.

Ms. Phillips asked whether it would be possible to use the drafting of the plan as a tool over the summer to ask the Neighbourhood Management Unit to approach local groups on behalf of the LNP and perhaps to set up workshops to encourage people to become aware of the LNP, to get involved, and to put forward their views on the draft Local Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr. Burns agreed that the Neighbourhood Management would expect to be involved but would need guidance from the LNP on the content of the plan.

Councillor O'Hare said that Ms. Phillips comments were very helpful and suggested that this approach might be the best way forward. He said that work on the plan needed to be started as soon as possible so that by the September meeting there was at least a draft document to discuss. However, he added that although the LNP could ask the Neighbourhood Management Unit to take on this work members would not know the results until the September meeting and he raised the question of who does the work between meetings. Councillor O'Hare remained concerned about the deadline for producing the Local Neighbourhood Plan by the December meeting.

Councillor Ansell pointed out that even after December the plan could be added to and altered as issues arose. He suggested that themed groups could be established to undertake work on particular issues.

Councillor O'Hare said that he wished to be clear whether the LNP was agreeing this evening to the template and asking officers to prepare a draft plan for members to discuss at the September meeting. Councillor Ansell suggested that the LNP could identify themes and then in September, in consultation with partners and members of the community, these themes could be prioritised.

Ms. Phillips said that the tPCT had in the past found that the process of debate and discussion that went into the producing the plan was in some ways as important than the actual plan. She said that she was disappointed that the priority here seemed to be given to the end result and felt that it would be better to spend longer working on the development of the plan than in rushing to produce the final document. She wondered whether the LNP had any discretion over the timescales.

Mr. Harrison said that he supported the thrust of Ms. Phillips comments. He drew members attention to Section 2 and 3 of the report and said that what the LNP was actually expected to achieve by September was not as ambitious as members first thought. He said that in September the focus was on the dialogue to produce the first draft of the plan. He said that much of what was identified in the report had already been started.

Mr. Walsh said that one of the key issues for all LNP's was how to use the existing networks to make it all happen. Councillor Ansell agreed and said that unfortunately in Aldridge there were not many voluntary or similar organisations from which partners could be identified. Councillor Clarke said that the situation was different in Streetly and that there were many people who were keen and interested in being included in the LNP.

Councillor Ansell said that he would not be worried if members decided if more time was needed to produce the Local Neighbourhood Plan as he felt it was more important to get the plan right than to meet the timescales and he could see no reason why the timescales should not be extended if necessary. He added that it would be helpful if members could promote the LNP locally and encourage people and organisations to make nominations for locally appointed partners.

Resolved

- 1) That the proposed approach to consultation and producing the first Local Neighbourhood Plan, as outlined in the report now submitted, be adopted;
- 2) That the timescales for producing , approving and subsequently reviewing the first plan be noted;
- 3) That the standard template for producing the Local Neighbourhood Plan be noted;
- 4) That members be asked to promote the LNP and encourage people and organisations to make nominations for the locally appointed partners.

SUMMER CLEAN UP

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members were advised that all of the LNP's were being asked to nominate one area within the LNP area to be a flagship project for the summer clean up and said that this was all about helping the LNP to be an effective force and encourage other people to become involved.

Councillor Ansell suggested that Aldridge town centre would be a high profile location for the summer clean up blitz and this would provide an opportunity to publicise the LNP and to hand out literature. Councillor Ansell added that he was sure that the Walsall Observer would be happy to do a feature on this.

Councillor Clarke suggested Boundary Road in Streetly as an alternative area for the one off blitz.

Councillor O'Hare said that he supported the suggestion of Aldridge town centre for the summer clean up as he felt that this would attract most attention. However, he said there was a concern that a one off clean up campaign could produce a negative reaction from the public in that it may be seen as something that happens once and is never done again.

Mr. Harrison said that he was sure that all of the members could identify a local place which would benefit from a clean up campaign. He suggested that the sort of area that could benefit most from the one off blitz was one with a long standing residual litter problem. He said that this would make a bigger impact than a one off clean up of a town centre.

Councillor O'Hare agreed in principle with this comment and suggested that the garage site at Redhouse as a possible location, but he said the difficulty with this type of site was that as soon as the area was cleared the rubbish was dumped again.

In response to a question from Inspector Storr, Mr. Lewis confirmed that the intention was for a one off clean up in a particular location within the LNP area. He said that this was seen as a short term way of introducing the LNP to the community and to promote the concept of the LNP. Inspector Storr said that, for a one off campaign, he would support the suggestion of Aldridge town centre on a Saturday when plenty of people would be about and there would be ample opportunity to promote the LNP and to show what the LNP could achieve. Councillor Ansell agreed that it would be an excellent opportunity to encourage people to join the LNP and to bring their issues to the meetings.

Resolved

That Aldridge town centre on a Saturday morning be identified as the area to benefit from the summer clean up.

TIME AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved

- 1) That future meetings of the Aldridge South and Streetly LNP be alternated between Aldridge School, Tynings Lane, Aldridge and the Streetly Association, Foley Road East, Streetly;
- 2) That future meetings of the Aldridge South and Streetly LNP commence at 7.00 pm.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.20 pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....