

WILLENHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday 8 November 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

**At Willenhall Community and Youth Foundation, 19 Gomer Street,
Willenhall**

Present

Councillor Ian Shires (Chairman)
Councillor Arthur Bentley
Councillor John Cook
Charlotte Corden - Walsall Community Empowerment Partnership Board
Councillor Sean Coughlan
Councillor Carl Creaney
Wendy Evans
Rupy Pandaal
Councillor Doreen Shires
Mr. Stanley Taylor
Councillor Angela Underhill
Councillor Val Woodruff

In Attendance

Julie Ball
Nigel Patterson

127/06 Issues to be raised by members of the public

There were no issues to be raised by members of the public.

128/06 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. E.E. Pitt, Mrs. Wendy Powell, Mrs. Vicky Till and Mrs. Vera Birch.

The Chairman referred to the need for all Partners to attend meetings as they all had an important part to play. He referred to regeneration in the area, the investment that this would attract and the important opportunities for young people.

Julie Ball undertook to take up the matter with Education Walsall and the Chairman would raise it with other Partners.

129/06 **Introductions**

Members, Officers and members of the public present introduced themselves at the meeting.

130/06 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2006, be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

Minute no. 112/06 (3):

Delete: "New Invention"
Insert: "Short Heath"

131/06 **Update on items from the last meeting**

The update report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

With regard to the Community Forum progress, Nigel Patterson of the Youth Service reported that the Beacon Site was the subject of redevelopment and it was expected that the youth club building would be part of the scheme. There was a number of facilities for young people within Willenhall, although there were difficulties within New Invention as the community room at the centre might not be sustainable and it would be impractical to transport young people to other centres. Youth workers had distributed forms to young people outlining attractions and events, but none of the forms had been returned. There were a number of detached youth workers working in the area. Reference was made to dispersal orders at Coppice Farm and a number of hot spots in the area had been identified.

Reference was made to activities at Sneyd Community School and Allens Rough School, but Allens Rough School had closed and Sneyd had taken up the provision. Julie Ball undertook to discuss this matter with the Head Teacher of Sneyd community School and feedback to the Community Action Group.

Reference was made to the lack of consultation on various schemes within the area and the need for a neighbourhood focus on service delivery.

Julie Ball undertook to look into the issues raised.

132/06 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

133/06 **Petitions**

Councillor Coughlan presented a petition relating to Cathedrals Estate.

Resolved

That the petition be received and referred to the appropriate Executive Director.

134/06 **Funding Report**

The report of the Senior Neighbourhood Partnership's Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members of the public had expressed support for the Willenhall War Memorial, project. There was a proposal to open up the Boar War plaque and comments would be taken up at the design stage prior to the project going out to tender.

The condition of the gates and pathways at the Lane Head/Short Heath War Memorial, would need to be looked into. Reference was made to a Second World War gravestone behind the main Memorial and the British Legion would be looking into the possibility of raising the profile of the plaque. It was suggested that the path should be extended to the rear of the memorial to assist with that. Officers undertook to investigate whether the spotlight at the Memorial could become a permanent feature.

With regard to Christmas lights, the question of maintenance costs was raised and it was felt that sponsorship or permanent funding should be found, Funding Officers should be invited to a future Community Action Group meeting to investigate funding sources.

Resolved

- (1) That progress on the project be noted;
- (2) That project champions feed-back progress at the next LNP meeting;
- (3) That the Partnership endorse the plans outlined under "Project Details for 2006-07" section and progress following Community Action Groups;
- (4) That the "Proposed Projects" as set out in the annexed report be approved, including the spend for the Green at Forest Gate.

135/06 Community Action Groups Update

The report of the Senior Neighbourhood Partnership's Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That LNP Members continue in attendance at the Community Action Group meetings;
- (2) That the progress of the Community Action Groups as set out in the attached report be noted;
- (3) That Community Action Group Chairs feedback on progress at the next Local Neighbour Partnership meeting.

136/06 Feedback on issues raised following presentation by Walsall Housing Group

Resolved

That this item stand deferred to the next meeting.

137/06 Forest Gate and Willenhall Libraries

The report on the library modernisation plan was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

138/06 LNP Funding

The report of the Chair of Willenhall Local Neighbourhood Partnership was submitted:-

(see annexed)

and Councillor Shires expanded on the content of the report.

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet return the level of LNP funding to at least the 2005/06 level which was £250,000, accumulating to £11,000 per ward with the remaining £30,000 for cross LNP project funding;
- (2) That Cabinet give assurances that they will continue to fully fund the LNP and the support staff when the current funding ceased;
- (3) To move towards funding the LNPs through the Revenue Account;
- (4) That the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and Scrutiny Panel be informed of the LNPs concerns.

139/06 Strategic Regeneration Framework – Project Reference Group

The report of the Regeneration Manager (Strategy) was submitted:-

(see annexed)

and Mr. Tranter enlarged upon the content of the report and confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Funding Bid for £980,000 for improvement to buildings in the Town Centre had got passed the first phase. This would provide funding from 2008 for Willenhall Town Centre.

With regard to consultation, the Chairman referred to the possibility of this project being included on the Website in order that local people could have an input.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) That the LNP support the establishment of a Project Reference Group to oversee the Central Willenhall Masterplan and Regeneration Project;
- (3) That the following Members of the LNP be nominated to join the Project Reference Group as follows:-
 - Willenhall South Ward:
Councillors Underhill, Coughlan and Creaney
 - Willenhall North Ward:
Councillor I. Shires
 - Short Heath Ward:
Councillor Mrs. E.E. Pitt

together with the following representatives from the organisations listed:-

- Traders:
Mr. S. Taylor
- Business:
Mr. T. Webster
- School:
Head Teacher Fibbersley Park
- Community Forum:
To be advised
- Resident:
To be advised

- (4) That regular reports from the Reference Group on progress of the Regeneration Project be received.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 740 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: