

BLAKENALL AND BLOXWICH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 23 October 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

at Bloxwich JMI Primary School, Bloxwich

Present

Councillor Rob Robinson (Chairman)
Caroline Crolley
Councillor Louise Harrison
Councillor Desmond Pitt
Councillor Melvin Pitt
Councillor Ian Robertson
Trisk Skitt
Sergeant Smith
Councillor Bill Tweddle
Mr. Alan Venables
Mr. Fred Westley
Mr. Kenneth Worley
Councillor Patricia Young

Implementation Team

Julie Ball
Sue Byard
Neil Picken

132/06 Introductions

Members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) introduced themselves to the meeting.

133/06 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Inspector Greg Bates, Peter Brown, Flo Smith, Councillor Kath Phillips and Martin Blunt.

134/06 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2006, a copy having been previously circulated to each Member of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:-

Minute 124/06: To include "and Mossley Community Association

Minute 127/06: Resolved Unanimously

To include "and Dudley Fields"
after Chepstow

135/06 **Matters arising from the minutes**

Further to minute no. 123/06, Caroline Crolley reported that the issue regarding Detached Youth Workers on the Lower Farm Estate had not been addressed. She felt that the concern was that Youth Workers may have received payment to which they were not entitled. Councillor Robinson advised that this was not a matter for discussion at the LNP meeting as it fell outside the LNPs remit. Caroline was, therefore, advised to take up this issue direct with the relevant Manager within the Youth Service.

Further to minute 123/06, it was asked whether a report had been produced regarding parking on grass verges. Officers reported that a report had been produced and that it would be circulated to all Members. Sue Byard conveyed the main points of the report to the LNP.

136/05 **Election of Vice-Chairmen**

Resolved

- (1) That Trish Skitt be appointed Vice-Chairman representing WSBP nominated partners for the remainder of the 2006/07 Municipal Year;
- (2) That Fred Westley be appointed Vice-Chairman representing Locally Appointed Partners for the remainder of the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

137/06 **Declarations of Interest**

Fred Westley, Chair of Mossley Resident's Association and Chair of Mossley Community Association.

138/06 **Petitions**

A petition was submitted by Mr. Ray Garbett calling for a development plan on community facilities for Mossley, Chepstow and Dudley Fields to take account of present and future facilities for children, youths and over 50's.

Resolved

That the petition be forwarded to the relevant Council Officer for them to consider and respond direct to Mr. Garbett.

139/06 **Increasing Life Expectancy by Reducing Inequalities Projects**

The LNP noted a presentation presented by Trish Skitt from the PCT on increasing life expectancy by reducing inequalities projects.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted and the main points raised be discussed at the Community Action Group for People and Health.

140/06 **Bloxwich Cemetery**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexe

Steve Billings was in attendance and presented his report to the LNP and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The Chairman invited Andrew Moulton to provide a further presentation to the LNP during which he drew attention to various alterations that could help to resolve the issues being experienced by users of the cemetery.

In depth discussion followed on the proposed barriers to the site, authority to use the barriers, such as blue badge holders, difficulties with the blue badge system and timescales for improvement works to be carried out.

After plentiful deliberations and following a response from Steve Billings, the LNP:-

Resolved

- (1) That funding be approved to the sum of £4,750 to install a rising arm barrier in place of the existing manual barrier situated adjacent to the Chapel;

- (2) That funding be approved in the sum of £800, if required, to ensure that staff are on duty at the cemetery on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day;
- (3) That the timescales for works be reported to Members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

141/06 **Mossley Resource Centre – Community Facilities**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Chas Stallard was in attendance and presented his report to the LNP and highlighted the salient points contained therein .

Members of the LNP raised the concern that a short-term approach was being adopted and stressed the importance and need for a community facility in Mossley. They outlined the usage of the existing centre and its value to the residents of the area. Concern was expressed that the resource centre would be demolished to be replaced by housing.

Members of the public also spoke on this issue and enforced the view that the centre was important within the community.

Reverend Hawksworth clarified the situation regarding rooms at the church as he felt that it has been misreported in the press. He stated that the proposed extensions to the church were merely visions and no building plans had been produced.

Resolved

That a Project Development Group be established with local residents and groups to take forward the long-term planning of the area.

142/06 **Feedback from CAG Meetings**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That LNP Members continue in attendance at the Community Action Group meetings;
- (2) That the LNP notes the progress of the Community Action Groups;

- (3) That trade waste be considered at the next relevant Community Action Group meeting.

143/06 **LNP Funding Report**

A report and supplementary report were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Julie Ball introduced the report.

Regarding Detached Youth Workers, Julie reported that Youth Workers had open dialogue with young people and worked in the field on Friday 15th and Monday, 18th September 2006. The Youth Workers would continue to do so every Monday and Friday unless they were attending a training course. Details of the training course were outlined and it was stated that workers would be required to attend levels 2 and 3 training in youth development.

Regarding landscape improvements at North Walsall School, it was reported that 2 x 25 litres of used needles had been collected by the Council in the week ending 20th October 2006. A further visit had been scheduled with a view to completing the project by mid-November 2006.

Regarding domestic violence, it was reported that, further to the pro-forma circulated at the previous meeting of the LNP, the issue would be discussed at the Chairs Forum. If agreed, funding would be allocated from cross LNP funding as the project was Borough-wide.

An update was provided on Time to Talk. It was noted that Martin Blunt no longer led the project, but it was reported that they were liaising with Serco to establish who had responsibility for delivering the project.

A Selection Panel would be set up in December to address nominations received from people wishing to become Locally Appointed Partners.

Resolved

- (1) That Julie Ball contact the Drug Action Team regarding landscaping improvements along the alleyway at North Walsall School and the issue of discarded needles;
- (2) That progress made on funding be noted;
- (3) Agreed to pilot community cash scheme;
- (4) That £5,200 be allocated towards the project;

- (5) That Caroline Crolley and Councillor Young be appointed to represent the LNP on the Projects Selection Panel;
- (6) That the Selection Panel recommendations be submitted to the next LNP.

144/06 **Master Plan for the Regeneration at the Goscote Lane Corridor**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The LNP noted the report presented by Chas Stallard on the Master Plan for the Regeneration of the Goscote Lane Corridor.

145/06 **Public Forum**

No questions were raised.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 9.00 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: