

PALFREY AND PLECK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 5th January, 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

**at Joseph Leckie Community Technology College, Walstead Road
West, Walsall**

Present

Councillor Mohammad Yasin (Chairman)
Councillor Dennis Anson
Councillor Aqeel Aslam
Councillor Joan Beilby
Mr. Allah Ditta
Mr. Gary Fulford
Inspector Andy Gilbert
Mr. Manzoor Hussain
Mr. Kirpal Kaliroy
Mr. Ali Mohammed
Councillor Mohammad Munir
Mr. Mark Pulford
Mr. George Rowley
Councillor Harbans Sarohi
Mr. Keith Whittlestone

Officers

Mr. Narinder Singh Chumber
Mr. Robert Flinter
Mr. John Greensill
Mr. Jon Lord
Mrs. Kathy McAteer
Mr. Frazer Powell
Ms. Imke Trum

22/05

Tsunami Disaster

The Members of the Partnership stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for the victims of the recent Asian Tsunami.

23/05

Introductions

For the benefit of the members of the public, Members of the Partnership and officers introduced themselves.

24/05 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Mr. Michael Bentley, Mrs. Eileen Edwards and Mr. Matloob Hussain.

25/05 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 4th October, 2004, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the comments of Mr. Allah Ditta regarding his concern at the condition of the Arena play area in Camden Street/Rutter Street, Palfrey and that he had written to the Council's Cabinet Portfolio Holder on this matter but had not received a reply, be included in the minutes.

26/05 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mohammad Yasin and Mr. George Rowley declared personal non-prejudicial interests in respect of a letter handed in by Mr. Allah Ditta regarding a request for access rights across the Walsall Housing Group car park in Watery Lane. Councillor Yasin and Mr. Rowley confirmed that they were both Members of the Walsall Housing Group.

27/05 **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted.

Mr. Allah Ditta handed in a letter from Mr. Sher Zaman regarding a request for access across the Walsall Housing Group car park in Watery Lane. The content of the letter was read out to Members of the Partnership. It was noted that the letter from Mr. Zaman requested access rights so that cars could be driven to the rear of his property in Rutter Street and that this required access rights across the Walsall Housing Group car park in Watery Lane.

Resolved

- (1) That the request for access rights across the Walsall Housing Group car park, as detailed in the letter of Mr. Sher Zaman, be investigated by Mr. Gary Fulford of the Walsall Housing Group and that Mr. Zaman be advised accordingly;
- (2) That Mr. Allah Ditta be copied into the correspondence relating to Mr. Zaman's request for access rights across the Watery Lane car park.

28/05

Public Forum

Mr. Greenfield, of 35 Blackthorne Road, Delves, addressed the Partnership. He said that the room for this meeting was large and accordingly, the acoustics were not particularly good and requested that in future, meetings should have a sound system in order that all members of the public can properly hear the debate.

29/05

Youth Facilities

Mr. Peter Anderson, of 3 Bell Lane, Delves, addressed the meeting. Mr. Anderson said that the Delves area had no facilities for young people and this was one of the highest priorities which needed addressing in the LNP area.

Mr. Keith Whittlestone concurred with the remarks of Mr. Anderson and said, in his opinion, youth provision in Delves had been overlooked. He said that youth activities could take place at the Joseph Leckie College but appropriate funding was required. Mr. Whittlestone said it was important that people continued to lobby the Council for the provision of effective youth provision in the Delves area.

Mr. Greenfield, of 35 Blackthorne Road, Delves, said that the Delves Tenants Management Organisation was continuing to work for the provision of youth facilities in the Delves area.

Mr. Allah Ditta said it was important that youth provision was provided for the Abu Bakr Group.

Mr. George Rowley commented that it was important that a crime audit was undertaken in the whole of the LNP area to establish the causes of crime and possible solutions. He said that problems had been experienced with gangs from outside the area coming into the area to undertake criminal activity.

Mrs. S.J. Spencer, of 47 - 49 Dale Street advised the Partnership that she welcomed the provision of youth facilities in Palfrey Park, which were being used by the local community.

30/05

Physical Access Audits

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Chairman advised the Partnership that this report was for information and that if additional details were required, the Council's Access Officer, Miss Sue Fox, could forward the appropriate information.

Councillor Aqeel Aslam asked a series of questions concerning the Physical Access Audit Report, particularly what criteria was used to identify the sites in the report.

Resolved

That the Council's Access Officer be requested to reply in writing to Councillor Aqeel Aslam concerning his questions relating to the Physical Access Audit Report and that a copy of the letter be provided to each Member of the Partnership for their information.

31/05

Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Plan

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer (Mr. Narinder Singh Chumber) introduced the report.

Mr. Keith Whittlestone requested that it be recorded that Joseph Leckie was a Community Technology College and not a School as mentioned in the report.

Resolved

- (1) That the Partnership Plan for the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership be approved and that acceptance of the Plan be recommended to Council following submission to Cabinet;
- (2) That the details of the workshops held to date be used as part of the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership First Partnership Plan;
- (3) That the Neighbourhood Partnership establish the following Task Groups:-
 - Young people
 - Listening and image
 - Environment, housing and crime
 - Health, education and services
- (4) That officers be requested to write to each Member of the Partnership requesting that they indicate which of the above four Task Groups they wish to be a Member of.

32/05

Discussion Paper - Training and Development Plan

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership note that there are key awareness/training and development issues required for its area and that these should be aligned to the Local Neighbourhood Partnership Plan;
- (2) That training and development be included as a standing item on LNP agendas on a six monthly basis.

33/05

Crime and Disorder Strategy

A presentation was given by Mr. Keith Newell (representing Crime Concern). Mr. Newell advised the Partnership that the purpose of the Crime and Disorder Strategy was to investigate mechanisms to reduce crime and improve community safety. Members were informed that a report on the Crime and Disorder Strategy would go to a future meeting of the LNP and that the draft strategic priorities identified so far were:-

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

During the course of the discussion on the Crime and Disorder Strategy, the following comments were made:-

- It was important that crime was tackled across the whole of the Partnership area rather than moving it from one area to another
- Concerns were expressed about prostitution in the LNP area and information requested on what action was being taken by the Police to combat this problem
- It was important that the Police took action against both prostitutes and their clients
- It was important that more beat police were provided in the LNP area

- Information was requested on what action the Police could take against prostitutes who were the subject of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders but who continued to work as prostitutes from their homes
- Concern was expressed about begging outside one of the mosques in the LNP area

Inspector Gwyn Bevan (Local Authority's Police Liaison Officer) said that the issues raised at this meeting would be considered and included in the Crime and Disorder Strategy. He confirmed that closed circuit television did play a major part in helping to reduce crime but that the equipment needed to be used properly and monitored effectively.

Inspector Andy Gilbert said that significant progress had been made in reducing prostitution in Walsall generally but that further work remained to be done.

Resolved

That the presentation given on the Crime and Disorder Strategy be noted.

34/05

Gating in New Mills Street, Palfrey

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership request that the New Mills Street properties remain on the list of possible sites for gating and note that a further report will indicate the result of the request as to whether or not a gate is to be installed;
- (2) That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership continue to submit requests for crime reduction work as this is a valuable means by which community concerns can be identified.

35/05

Place Check

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Jon Lord, the Sustainable Communities Officer, Environmental Regeneration, introduced the report and gave a presentation to the Partnership on the “Place check” Community Engagement Technique and its potential for use by the Partnership to engage the wider community in the LNP process. Mr. Lord advised the Partnership that Place check was a nationally recognised method of assessing the qualities of a place, showing what improvements were needed and focussing people on working together to achieve them.

Mr. Lord said it was envisaged that Place check would be used following the Ward Walks and this would create an opportunity for LNPs to identify neighbourhood “grot spots” where action was required and would help to address issues such as poor environment quality and anti-social behaviour.

Resolved

- (1) That the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership note the contents of the presentation on “Place check”;
- (2) That the Palfrey and Pleck LNP support the implementation of the Place check technique to engage the wider community in the Local Neighbourhood Partnership process;
- (3) That the Partnership, at its next meeting, receive a report on funding proposals for Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.

Chairman

Date