

ST. MATTHEWS AND BIRCHILLS/LEAMORE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 8th September, 2004 at 6.00 p.m.

at the Croft Community Association, Croft Street, Walsall

Present

Councillor Arif
Councillor Barton
Mr. M. Cain
Mrs. J. Evans
Councillor Khan
Councillor Mrs. McCracken
Sergeant M. Minton
Mrs. E. Perrins
Councillor Rose

Appointment of Chairman

1 Resolved

That Councillor Mrs. McCracken be appointed Chairman of the Partnership for this meeting only.

Councillor Mrs. McCracken in the chair

Apologies

2 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Oliver and Mrs. P. Pilkington (Support Team).

Declarations of Interest

3 There were no declarations of interest.

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council Constitution: Article 10

4 A copy of Article 10 from the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council Constitution was submitted:-

(see annexed)

5 Resolved

That the document be noted.

Selection Process: Locally Appointed Partners

6 A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Arif introduced the report and gave a brief summary of the process of appointing Locally Appointed Partners to the Partnership.

Members were reminded that their availability to attend a meeting to consider the nomination of LAPs for the Local Neighbourhood Partnership had been sought and it had been established that the following were available to attend a Selection Panel meeting on Friday, 10th September, 2004:-

Councillor Oliver
Councillor Mrs. McCracken
Mrs. J. Evans (PCT)
Mr. A. Moulton (CEN)

7 Resolved

That a Selection Panel meeting comprising the above be held in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall on Friday, 10th September, 2004 commencing at 4.00 p.m.

Local Neighbourhood Plan and Consultation

8 The report of the Head of Neighbourhood Management was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Rose introduced the report and gave a brief presentation on the proposed approach to consultation and producing the first Plan, the timescales for producing, approving and subsequently reviewing the first Plan and the standard template for producing the Plan. She made reference to the possible use of focus groups, possibly for each individual Ward and a Task Group.

Reference was made to the need to work as one area and it was suggested that people who are not on the LNP should be involved in the preparation of the Plan. It was suggested also that there was a need to look at the demographics and at the perceived problems rather than the areas. The point was made that the Plan was an evolving Plan and that a number of consultation events had been arranged for each area which would highlight that LNPs are operating and what issues there were in each of those areas. Councillor Rose asked whether there was any funding to support the Plan, particularly in relation to events and consultation. Members were advised when there was a small amount of funding available.

The question was raised as to how focus groups would work and it was suggested that focus groups could meet but would feed into the Local Neighbourhood Partnership. The point was made that focus groups and Working Groups would need to do work outside the LNP but there would be no formal remit for these groups and it would be up to Ward Councillors to ascertain the views of the groups.

The Chairman expressed an interest in access for the disabled and indicated that she would like to bring people together who faced these issues. Members were advised that the Plan would include issues from the community and one such issue for the Local Neighbourhood Partnership would be to decide how effective the Partnership had been in addressing or listening to those issues. Mrs. Perrins indicated that one such issue were the crime levels in the Birchills/Leamore area. Mrs. Evans expressed the need to focus on Vision 2008 and make sure that the Plan fits into that vision.

9 Resolved

- (1) That the proposed approach to consultation and producing the first 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 attached as an Appendix to the report now submitted, for producing the Plan, be noted.

Summer Clean Up

10 The report of the Executive Director was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Oliver was to have introduced the report. In his absence, Robert Blower (Support Team) introduced the report and outlined the proposals for organising a Summer Clean Up of one area of poor quality within the neighbourhood covered by the Local Neighbourhood Partnership. He made reference to the officer support for the event, including brief training in the use of the equipment provided and support with the provision of publicity.

Mr. Blower advised Members of the need to identify a chosen site, seek the owner's permission (if necessary) and basically make it a fun event. He suggested that it could be arranged on a regular basis. Various suggestions were made with regard to possible sites, including an area at the back of Hatherton Lane school within the Birchills/Leamore Ward and also an alleyway from Lewis Street, although the land owner was not known.

From the St. Matthews point of view, Councillor Arif suggested somewhere in the Caldmore area or the Town Centre area and indicated that the important thing was getting the message across to the public and seeking publicity for the event.

Councillor Rose referred to the fact that Environmental Health had nominated certain areas on the Gateway to Walsall as areas of concern and these were part of a massive clean-up campaign. She indicated that money had been made available to clean up the area at the back of Hatherton Lane school and suggested, therefore, that the Summer Clean Up take place in a different area within the Partnership.

Councillor Arif suggested Caldmore Green and indicated that local schools should be involved in the clean up. He advised Members that there would be bins installed there within the next few weeks and suggested that it might be possible to link the Summer Clean Up with the installation of the bins.

11 Resolved

- (1) That Caldmore Green be identified as the area within the Local Neighbourhood Partnership;
- (2) That Councillor Arif be requested to lead on this event in conjunction with other Members and support officers;
- (3) That the event be held sometime between 12th and 22nd October, 2004 and that schools in that locality be invited to be involved in the event.

Time and venue for future meetings

12 A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

13 Resolved

That, subject to confirmation of the availability of the venues, the meetings of the LNP for the remainder of the Municipal Year be held at the following venues, commencing at 7.00 p.m.:-

12th October, 2004
18th January, 2005
14th April, 2005

Blue Coat Secondary School
Beechdale Centre
Central Methodist Hall

Future item

14 In accordance with Article 10 of the Council's Constitution, Mrs. Perrins gave notice that she would be producing a report for submission to a future meeting of the Partnership in relation to Law and Order.

Ward walk

15 Members were advised that a Ward Walk had been arranged to take place within the area covered by the St. Matthews and Birchills/Leamore LNP on Thursday, 30th September, 2004. The purpose of the Ward Walks was for Members to explain key areas and identify areas of concerns to officers which will help to decide what to put in the Local Plan. A short briefing meeting would be held in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall at 4.00 p.m. prior to the Ward Walk. Members would be supplied with a map and statistics for the area covered by the LNP and transport would be provided.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.08 p.m.

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