

AGENDA ITEM 8

Aldridge South and Streetly LNP – 9th March 2005 Training and Development for LNP and Task Group Members

1. Brief Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the LNP of the progress in the Training and Development Plan.

2. Work to date

- Currently identifying training courses
- Place Check briefing session has been held on 10th February 2005
- Analysing information on nomination forms to identify key skills and knowledge of LNP members and areas for further development.
- Identified funding as an area for development
 - Circulated information in regards to a funding seminar and will continue to do so in the future.
 - Developing links with external funding unit

3. Recommendations

- To note the actions for implementation in the Place Check report
- For the task groups to move forward the actions recommended in the Place Check report

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ALDRIDGE SOUTH AND STREETLY LNP PLACECHECK 10th February 2005

Overview of the session

LNP members whilst in favour of using Placecheck, were keen to question how much funding would be available to implement improvement works and what action had been taken as a result of the Ward Walk.

Discussions were led predominantly by Councillors who focussed on their specific geographic areas; locally appointed partners added to the debate, speaking on behalf of their own interest groups.

There was much debate around issues that are perhaps outside the remit of Placecheck, however they are worth noting for future reference.

1. It is felt that people living locally know very little about the LNP and what are its aims. Whilst it was accepted that Placecheck could assist in raising the profile of the LNP, members were keen to gain credibility quickly via quick wins and discuss "events" in the area. Examples of this type of debate are:

Quick wins:

tidying of alleyways:

Whetstone Lane/Twyford Close
B'ham Road/Sevenacres
Cemetery/School/Cricket Club
School/Golf Club
Branton Hill Lane/Ridgeway

Tidying of gullies in Streetly
(Chester Road/Thorny Road)

Raising the profile:

Landscaping the traffic islands in the area. It was said that discussions had been held with Groundwork Black Country regarding using the islands as "Gateways" into Walsall

Hosting a "Victorian Fayre" in late summer (venues could be alternated year on year between Aldridge & Streetly) again it was felt this could assist in making people aware of what the LNP could do.

Other issues:

The proposed building around Aldridge Airport and the effect on current users of the field etc

The following is a summation/suggestion of how Placecheck could be implemented in the area. This brings together previous comments made in the Ward Walk and includes resources such as TYS and Equal. This could be issued as a separate Report and submitted to the Environment Sub Group of the LNP itself for discussion/agreement

Using Placecheck

Placecheck is perhaps most effective where it is used as a way to engage the community when improving a wider area. For example, certain places which were mentioned several times, fall within a wider area. The following brings together points of discussion from the Placecheck meeting held on 10th February 2005. It is no particular order; it is for the LNP to prioritise action.

Aldridge: The Redhouse Estate

(NB: these notes have been added to by discussion with Pauline Heydon of the Redhouse Estate)

Several distinct places/issues were mentioned as being in need of attention within the Estate. These are:

1. Myatt Way - in terms of flytipping and its use as a dumping ground for furniture etc
2. The use of "space" – e.g. better utilisation of service roads/grassed areas could ease problems of parking, one way streets also add to parking difficulties.
3. House burglaries and vandalism around the shops (noted as part of the Ward Walk). Also litter is an issue around the shops.
4. The lack of facilities for young people is a concern; the opportunity to have a marked football pitch on Redhouse play area should be explored, possibly via TYS.
5. Residents, in terms of "flat" occupiers, who do not cut grass properly are an issue.

Who should be involved in Placecheck (whose comments/views should we obtain)

(The same groups are noted under each issue)

Local people generally
2 over 55's club
Local Councillors/MP

Shopkeepers/Pub Landlords

Neighbourhood Watch Representatives

Young People (including Girl
Guides/Boy Scouts)
(Youth Worker Kathy Nelson plus
support from teachers at Aldridge
School)
Community/Residents Associations

Schools

What Equipment will we need to carry out Placecheck?

1. May be useful to devise a masterplan of the area and seek peoples' views. Use Placecheck questions to seek comments on a specific place (Myatt Way/parking) or issue – vandalism
2. Consider doing a roadshow on the Estate to advertise the LNP and use Placecheck to seek views
3. Ask local schools to do a survey (could use the Headteacher LNP representative to consider building it in as part of the Citizenship element of the Curriculum)
4. Cameras

Note: Aldridge Residents Association would be willing to advertise any Placecheck type meeting/event to ensure the wider public are aware of what is happening

What resources might be available to support the implementation of Placecheck?

The Estate has secured European funding – Equal.

Transforming Your Space will improve the existing Redhouse Play area

The types of questions we need to ask

See separate sheet relating to each issue

Steps to implementing Placecheck on the Redhouse Estate

When and How Implement

1. Vital to get “quick wins” underway to gain the trust of local people.
2. Advertise widely a public meeting, the aim of which is to decide the future of the Estate
3. Ask people to prioritise their top 5 issues for the Estate. LNP members prepared to interact/ask appropriate questions etc
4. Take Placecheck out to specific locations based on people's top issues
5. Collate views/comments on the above; devise masterplan based on the comments of all stakeholders
6. Hold a public meeting to provide feedback to local residents about what action will be taken and when

Note: It was said it was important to make a start as soon as possible – young people may be available during the Easter holidays

Aldridge: Aldridge Town Centre

The Town Centre itself was noted as in need of a “gold standard clean up” on the Ward Walk. It was also said there was a need to take action on anti social behaviour in the town

Other places mentioned are:

Avion Bingo Hall – tidy up

Rookery Lane car park (poor lighting which leads to car crime)

Portland Road the need for a pedestrian refuge

Who should be involved in Placecheck (whose comments/views should we obtain)

(The same groups are noted under each issue)

Local people generally

Young People (including Girl Guides/Boy Scouts)

Shopkeepers/Pub Landlords

Community/Residents Associations

Neighbourhood Watch

Schools

What Equipment will we need to carry out Placecheck?

1. Seek permission to hold a roadshow/exhibition at an appropriate point in the town (e.g. outside a supermarket)
2. Devise a tick sheet with a range of issues for people to prioritise – this was felt the best way to gauge opinion quickly (it was felt being approached on a Saturday morning is off putting, people have little time for discussion)
3. LNP members to canvass opinion from passers by/shoppers etc – e.g. have big placards to attract attention and ask people to complete the questionnaire.

Note: Aldridge Residents Association would be willing to advertise any Placecheck type meeting/event to ensure the wider public are aware of what is happening

What resources might be available to support the implementation of Placecheck?

Transforming Your Space will improve Anchor Meadow

The types of questions we need to ask

See separate sheet relating to each issue

Steps to implementing Placecheck in Aldridge Town Centre

When and How Implement

1. Marketing/Advertising in local press to inform people of what will happen on a certain date
2. Seek permission to canvass opinion from shop owners/appropriate authorities
3. Organise exhibition boards/roadshow
4. Agree 10 issues for ticksheet
5. Gain opinions on the day, collate these into priority issues for the town centre
6. Take Placecheck out to specific locations based on people's top issues if appropriate (would have to find specific interest groups to comment, given it is not a settled community area)
7. Use local press/media of action to be taken, when and by who

Streetly:

Note: discussions in the Streetly area focussed on specific areas/issues as follows

Boundary Road (shops noted as part of Ward Walk)

Community Association facilities and playing fields

Blackwood Park

Anti Social Behaviour – generally in Streetly

LNP members wish to break these various places into distinct locations and treat separately.

It was felt a useful way to start, to gain the opinions of residents etc, would be to use the local shops at Boundary Road as a place where people meet. This is similar to the Aldridge Town centre approach.

Blackwood Park may well need a different approach, perhaps similar to the Redhouse Estate where people come together to discuss options for the Park.

Who should be involved in Placecheck (whose comments/views should we obtain)

(The same groups are noted under each issue)

Local people generally

Young People (including Girl Guides/Boy Scouts)

Shopkeepers/Pub Landlords

Community/Residents Associations

Neighbourhood Watch

Schools

What Equipment will we need to carry out Placecheck?

Same as Aldridge Town centre approach

1. Seek permission to hold a roadshow/exhibition at an appropriate point in the town (e.g. outside a supermarket)
2. Devise a tick sheet with a range of issues for people to prioritise – this was felt the best way to gauge opinion quickly (it was felt being approached on a Saturday morning is off putting, people have little time for discussion)
3. LNP members to canvas opinion from passers by/shoppers etc – e.g. have big placards to attract attention and ask people to complete the questionnaire.
4. Ask local schools to do a survey (could use the Headteacher LNP representative to consider building it in as part of the Citizenship element of the Curriculum)

Note: Advertising in the SCAN magazine would be a good way to reach people. It was felt that the magazine could include a questionnaire that could be torn off and returned. This may stimulate interest amongst local people. It was suggested that most shopkeepers would also be prepared to have questionnaires on their counters.

What resources might be available to support the implementation of Placecheck?

Transforming Your Space will improve Goodwood Drive and parts of Blackwood Park

The types of questions we need to ask

See separate sheet relating to each issue

Steps to implementing Placecheck in the Streetly area

When and How Implement

1. Vital to get “quick wins” underway to gain the trust of local people.
2. Marketing/Advertising in local press to inform people of what will happen on a certain date
3. Seek permission to canvas opinion from shop owners/appropriate authorities
4. Organise exhibition boards/roadshow
5. Agree 10/15 issues (including Blackwood Park/Community Association premises) for ticksheet
6. Collate views/comments on the above, include children/young people survey; prioritise the issues based on comments of all stakeholders
7. Hold a public meeting to provide feedback to local residents about what action will be taken and when
6. Take Placecheck out to specific locations based on people's top issues if appropriate (may include different interest groups, given it is a wide area with different issues under discussion)
7. Use local press/media of action to be taken, when and by who

What Equipment/Resources

1. Big placards – to ask people to prioritise 5 main issues the LNP think are important
2. Advertise in “SCAN” – quarterly magazine – next deadline 18th April
3. Involve school kids through surveys as part of their curriculum (eg Citizenship)
4. Displays for “roadshows”
5. Big sheets of diagrams of area – a masterplan

When and How Implement

1. Is a big need to raise the profile of the LNP – need to advertise more and raise people's awareness. It was felt quick wins would help raise profile of LNP. Then get people involved in taking part as they will have seen that an impact can be made.
2. Have big bright placards with two members of LNP giving passers by the chance to prioritise five actions they want to see happen. eg at Safeways
3. School Children to do surveys
4. Victorian Fayre in August/September
5. Use Lions Club show in July
6. Hold a public meeting, once have raised awareness of LNP and proved it has undertaken actions eg quick wins