

Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 14th November 2006

LNP Funding

1. Purpose of the Report

This report seeks to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of the funding criteria for the 2006-2007 LNP funding and to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of progress to date with regards to the funding priorities 2005-2006.

2. Recommendations

The LNP is asked to:

- (a) Note the progress and current spend on funding priorities 2005-2006
- (b) Note new project proposals and recommendations
- (c) Note the deadline for spend of 2006-2007 funding is 31st March 2007

3. Progress funding priorities 2005-2006

Project Description	Allocated	Spent
Darlaston Town Centre and District Activities Committee	£5,000	£1,250
Victoria Park Benches and Plaques	£3,000	£3,000
Archaeological Study of former Bentley Hall	£4,531	£4,531
Mapping of Young Peoples activities and facilities	£2,000 - £5,000	earmarked

Total Funding spent to date	£ 7,531
Total allocated but not yet spent	£ 5,000 (not incl. mapping project)
Total Remaining	£ 9,469

Table 1 below gives a further update on these projects

4. Progress of funding Priorities 2006/07

To date £1,920 funding has been allocated from the 2006/07 funding. Total 2006/07 funding available is £8,080

5. New Project Proposals

5.1 Promotional material - £1,000

Environmental Regeneration have previously in areas like Caldmore, purchased merchandise which promotes keeping the Darlaston LNP clean. Examples of merchandise are mugs, bookmarks etc

5.2 Bus Tour Projects - £10,000

At a previous CAG, the Darlaston Bus Tour was discussed. A list of 26 projects were determined and have been grouped together as follows:-

- Bull Lane Road Safety Project; improve parking at Dorothy Purcell School; develop a school travel plan, road safety awareness, physical measures
- Bradley Locks Restoration Project
- Moorcroft Wood Enhancement Projects; physical improvements, friends group and activities with local groups
- Bentley Linear Walkway Project- access & perimeter improvements
- Poplar Close Enhancements- car parking, security interventions, fencing
- Poplar Ave to Rowlands Avenue alleyway closure feasibility project
- Lime Close alleyway closure feasibility project
- Banfield Rd alleyway closure feasibility project
- Bills Street Parking Improvements- feasibility study/ options appraisal
- Rough Hay School- as Dorothy Purcell School above
- Darlaston Recreation Grounds- management arrangements and enhancement plan

The LNP are asked to recommend the allocation of £10,000 to the Community Action Group, with a mandate to apportion the money to suggested projects and report back to a future LNP meeting.

Funding Priority	Service Area	Feedback from Service Area	What Happens Next?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre - Events - Re-orientate market stalls 	Physical Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNP recommended allocating £5,000 to the events committee. • Earlier in the year consideration was given to the possibility of replacing the market stalls with a more modern design and two options were investigated and erected on site. One was considered too flimsy for the winter conditions in King Street. The other, cheaper, option appeared to be stronger, but would not be suitable for leaving overnight, so there would be additional management costs. It is estimated that the cost of acquiring ten of these stalls would be £5,000. <p>Since these options were considered, a trial period of placing the stalls across King Street, facing each other, rather than along King Street, has proved successful and it is proposed to continue with this. It is working well for traders and it is hoped that this may lead to more trader interest. This extends into the paved area owned by Asda, and this has been informally agreed with the store manager, in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNP to decide how they wish to take forward the Market stall project.

Funding Priority	Service Area	Feedback from Service Area	What Happens Next?
		<p>return for the Council's operatives clearing litter from the tree grids, which is to the benefit of the street environment.</p> <p>A further option for the stalls is to repair, refurbish, and paint the existing stalls and provide new canopy sheets. It is estimated that this would cost in the order of £3,000. As previously advised, the markets budget is currently under pressure, and there is therefore no funding available to meet this cost.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Park - Bench and plaques 	Environmental Regeneration Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,000 allocated by the LNP towards this project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benches have been installed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological study of the site of the former Bentley Hall 	Walsall Countryside Services	<p>➤ Project 1: Funded by LNP – total £4,531. Environmental Regeneration have match funded £4,000 project enabling Project 2 to continue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete –see press release attached - (appendix 2)

Funding Priority	Service Area	Feedback from Service Area	What Happens Next?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping Exercise 	LNP Young Peoples Task Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports and Leisure have confirmed that they will be carrying out a similar mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback will be given at LNP meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Girl theatre group 	Street Pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LNP recommended funding of £1,920 towards this project at the last meeting. Performances will take place in the following schools:- King Charles Primary St Josephs Catholic Primary Rough Hay Primary Moorcroft Wood Primary Pinfold Street JMI Salisbury Primary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The performances have been booked and the dates are Monday 19th March, Tuesday 20th March and Wednesday 21st March 2007. There will be a performance at 10.15am and 2pm each day Further information to follow

6. Criteria LNP funding 2006-2007

The Darlaston LNP has been allocated a further £10,000. Note this money must be spent by **31st March 2007**.

The focus of the 2006-2007 allocation of funding will have to be on developing safer and stronger communities, in particular:

- One of the council pledges for 2006-2007 is the delivery of 3 environmental projects in each LNP area. Therefore an emphasis should be placed on delivering the 3 environmental projects in the St Matthews Birchills Leamore LNP area. The LNP should aim to fund initiatives that will have the greatest environmental impact across their area.
- There needs to be a focus on hotspots/areas of greatest need, as identified by community intelligence and local stats. Therefore funding should not be split by ward but by areas of greatest need.
- The activities/actions need to have a direct impact on Local Area Agreement indicators.
- The funding will need to link in to the Pledges developed by the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

See Appendix 1 – Funding Criteria and Process

To support the LNP in distributing their funding within the criteria a menu/basket of measures is being developed through Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, Environmental Regeneration and Street Pride which the LNP would be able to “purchase” from their £10,000 allocation to assist in developing safer and stronger communities. The menu drawn up by these services will bear in mind the Local Neighbourhood Partnership pledges as well as the Local Area Agreement Indicators.

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Appendix 1 – Funding Criteria and Process

Local Neighbourhood Partnerships Funding

Each of the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships have been allocated £5,000 per ward to help them support initiatives in their local community.

Please see below a guide to:

- Funding criteria 2006-2007- what the funding may be used for
- Funding process – the process that needs to be adhered to, to release the funding

Funding criteria

To be eligible for funding, initiatives will have to link in with the following criteria:

Strategic linkage:

- They need to be actions which fall within one of the pledges identified by the LNP in their Neighbourhood Agreement
- The action will need to link into the priorities for Vision 2008. In particular to “Ensure a clean and green borough”
- Prioritisation should be given by the LNP to the delivery of 3 environmental projects in their LNP area, which is a Council pledge for 2007/08. The LNP should aim to fund initiatives that will have the greatest environmental impact across their area, not necessarily on a ward by ward basis.
- The activities/actions need to have a direct impact on Local Area Agreement indicators.

Sustainability:

- The actions need to be ‘sustainable’- therefore they should not need further funding or maintenance in the future, unless further funding or a maintenance agreement has been identified elsewhere. Actions eligible under this criteria are:
 - ‘one-off actions’, which need no further maintenance/ funding, for example: an event
 - Actions which kick start a bigger initiative- for example: to fund a pilot project which can be rolled out through other funding (already identified) if proved to be successful
 - Actions which support a ‘capital’ investment where maintenance or further funding is agreed. For example: the funding of a bin, after having agreed with Street Pride that they will empty this bin regularly.
 - Actions which ‘add value’. For example: funding of equipment to support the expansion of a service/community based project.
- A menu/basket of measures is available to assist LNPs in identifying and prioritising actions and activities that they wish to fund. This has been compiled from Streetpride, Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and Environmental Regeneration.

- Actions that **can not** be funded include: Core funding for a community or other project- as this is not sustainable unless the funding is to bridge a gap between already identified funds.

Applicants:

- Actions need to be carried out by the council or by its partners (tPCT, Police, Community Organisations, etc). If the project is carried out by a partner this should be through a grant agreement (for more information on grant agreements- see 'funding process'.)

Geographic criteria:

- Actions need to have a positive impact on the whole partnership area. The LNP will need to ensure the whole partnership area benefits from the funding. Preferably by funding projects that benefit the whole partnership area, rather than a specific area/ ward. Cross boundary projects, working with other LNP's, are also encouraged.
- There needs to be a focus on hotspots/areas of greatest need, as identified by community intelligence and local data. Therefore funding should not necessarily be split by ward but by areas of greatest need.

Please contact the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team if you want advice on whether your project proposal links into the criteria or need any advice on filling out the project proposal form.

Funding Process

The funding process has been amended slightly in August 2007 to ensure a quicker turn around of projects.

Please see below a step by step guide to the new process. Please bear in mind that the timescales involved are individual to each project and are dependent on a number of factors. The LNP team aim to keep the LNP informed of progress through the designated LNP member and at LNP meetings.

Please see the table on the next pages for the funding process.

Funding Process

1. Priority needs are identified through the Neighbourhood Agreement pledges.

2. The LNP identifies an action that supports the pledge.
This may happen by the LNP, for example in a Community Action Group, or individual LNP members may initiate this.

3. A designated LNP member will be identified to follow through the action.
This LNP member will be kept informed on progress. If the action is initiated by an individual and it has not been shared with the LNP yet, they will be the designated contact.

4. A service area/ partner organisation (including Community organisations) (from now on referred to as the 'delivery agent') which can deliver the action will be identified.
The delivery agent may be identified by the LNP, but this may also be initiated by an individual. The LNP may ask the Neighbourhood Partnership Officer for support in identifying a suitable 'delivery agent' from within the Council or from the WBSP Nominated Partners. – Please be aware the identification of a suitable delivery agent may take some time. The designated LNP Member will be kept informed of any barriers.

5. The delivery agent will need to identify a nominated contact within their organisation who will work on the project. The Neighbourhood Partnerships Team will need to be informed of the details of the contact person.

6. The nominated contact will be sent the project proposal form with the request to complete it.

7. The Project Proposal form will need to be returned to the LNP team. Upon receipt the project team will check it for eligibility

8. If eligible, the project will be taken to the LNP meeting for the LNP for consideration.

8.If not eligible, the LNP team will contact all relevant people to explain why the project is not eligible. They are entitled to resubmit their application with amendments.

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9. If, at the LNP meeting, the LNP agree to fund the project, based on the information on the project proposal form, the Chair will sign and date the form.

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10. The form will be returned to the Neighbourhood Partnerships team and the delivery agent will be sent a memo in which they are told they may commence the project.

10A. If the delivery agent is a Council department, they will also be sent a claim for reimbursement form which needs to be completed and returned with evidence of spend and of completion. This will be required for monitoring purposes and to enable monies to be released after completion of the project

10B. If the delivery agent is outside the council they will be sent a grant agreement which they need to sign and return. They will also be sent a claim for reimbursement form for monitoring purposes, but will receive the funding upon return of the grant agreement, rather than after the completion of the project.

Appendix 2

Bentley's hidden history revealed

One of the most exciting archaeological studies in the Black Country in recent years has just taken place in Bentley, near Willenhall. Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of Bentley Hall, whose origins date back to medieval times, around 600 years ago.

Back in May, Birmingham Archaeology part of the University of Birmingham carried out a geophysical survey of the land surrounding Bentley Cairn. The stone marks the site of the last Bentley Hall, an 18th century building demolished in 1929. The survey, funded by Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership, used scientific techniques to identify points of interest below ground without having to disturb the soil. The data was then used to position three excavation trenches.

"The geophysical survey was important in establishing that features did survive below ground and had not been destroyed by 20th century coal mining. It also targeted areas for us to investigate further by opening up trenches," commented council archaeologist Mike Shaw.

All three trenches revealed something of interest. In two the archaeologists found remains of farm buildings dating back to the 18th century. In the third trench, sited next to the cairn, they unearthed walls and flooring believed to be part of a terrace from the last hall.

"We were delighted to find the later remains," said Mike, "but even more exciting was the discovery of earlier features, one of which contained a large piece of 16th century pottery. This takes us back to the time of the second Bentley Hall, a Jacobean building of the early 17th century or even earlier to the first hall, a 15th century manor house, built when Bentley was part of the Cannock forest. We are hoping these finds will enable us to carry out more work in the future."

Bentley's other great escape

The archaeological evidence unearthed in Bentley is remarkable in the fact that it has survived in an area that has seen major development over the past 200 years. This has included mining, quarrying, the building of the Bentley housing estate and Bentley Emmanuel Church, and the M6. In terms of an 'escape story' it's almost as dramatic as the one that preceded it over 350 years earlier.

On the night of September 10th 1651, King Charles II took shelter at the second hall – the Jacobean building. The English Civil War had just ended with Charles's defeat at the Battle of Worcester and he was now fleeing for his life from Oliver Cromwell's victorious troops.

The King was helped by the then owner Colonel John Lane and his sister Jane Lane. The next day Jane took Charles, disguised as her servant, to Bristol. From there he continued what became over a 600-mile escape route to France.

Thanks to funding from the Local Heritage Initiative – a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency – this story and details of the archaeological study will now be made available to everyone.

Heather Lomas, chair of the Bentley Cairn Restoration Group which has received the grant of £24,528, outlined what the money will be used for. "This will pay for a range of items including a teachers' pack enabling schools to make use of the site, a leaflet, on-site panels and dramatic computer-generated images of Bentley Hall. Local residents and visitors will be able to find out more about Bentley's great escapes."

For further details about the project contact Jeff McBride at Walsall Council on 0121 360 9464 or e-mail mcbridej@walsall.gov.uk