

**BLAKENALL AND BLOXWICH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 17 July 2006 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at Goscote Resource Centre, 22-24 Middle Crescent, Goscote**

**Present**

Councillor Rob Robinson (Chairman)  
Caroline Crolley  
Councillor Louise Harrison  
Councillor Kath Phillips  
Councillor Desmond Pitt  
Councillor Melvin Pitt  
Councillor Ian Robertson  
Trish Skitt  
Councillor Bill Tweddle  
Mr. Fred Westley  
Mr. Kenneth Worley  
Councillor Patricia Young

**Implementation Team**

Sue Byard  
David Hancock  
Julie Ball

**104/06 Election of Chairman**

In view of the fact that it was the first meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) in the 2006/07 Municipal Year, the first item of business for the LNP was to elect a Chairman and nominees were sought for this position.

Councillor Robinson was the only nominee identified for this position.

**Resolved**

That Councillor Rob Robinson be elected as Chairman of the Blakenall and Bloxwich LNP for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

**105/06 Election of Vice-Chairmen**

In relation to minute no. 104/06, two Vice-Chairmen were sought as well. One was sought from amongst the Locally Appointed Partners (LAPs) and one from amongst the WBSP Nominated Partners.

However, the meeting was informed that the term of office for LAPs had been extended to run on until October 2006. In this regard, it was felt that the appointment of the LAP Vice-Chairmen should be deferred until the October round of LNP meetings.

Furthermore, it was reported that a representative from Walsall Housing Group (WHG) to sit on the LNP was still awaited. As with the LAP Vice-Chairman situation, the LNP felt that it would be sensible to defer this appointment until the October round of the LNP meetings at which point a WHG representative should be identified.

### **Resolved**

That the appointment of both Vice-Chairmen be deferred to the meeting scheduled to be held on 23 October 2006.

#### **106/06 Introductions**

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

#### **107/06 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Leslie Beeley, Mrs. Gail Gregory, Florence Smith and Mr. Alan Venables.

#### **108/06 Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2006, a copy having been previously circulated to each Member of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership be approved as a correct record.

#### **109/06 Matters Arising**

Arising from the discussions and further to minute no. 100/05, Ken Worley reported that he had not seen any press releases in relation to parking restrictions at Bloxwich Cemetery. Other members of the LNP reported that they had seen such press releases. Ken Worley requested that signage be improved at the cemetery detailing the parking restrictions in place.

110/06 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

111/06 **Petitions**

There were no petitions received at this meeting.

112/06 **Terms of Reference**

A report and supplementary report were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Julie Ball of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership Team presented the report and explained to the LNP how its new terms of reference would operate.

Members commented that there was no specific reference made in the terms of reference in relation to involving or including young people in the LNP process. Julie Ball assured the LNP that, although it was not specifically mentioned in the terms of reference, there was no longer a minimum age requirement to become a LNP member as there had been in previous years, in view of the fact that LNPs were no longer a part of the Council.

Councillor Melvin Pitt stated that he would like to see Officers enter into consultation with all schools and youth forums/groups in the LNP area with a view to encouraging young people to become members of the LNP or being more involved in the work of the LNP.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the revised terms of reference as approved by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership as tabled be noted;
- (2) The LNP adopts and signs up to the revised terms of reference.

113/06 **Locally Appointed Partners – Reselection Process**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Julie Ball reported that, as the Partnership already had four vacancies for LAPs, there would be no need to ask anyone to stand down during 2006. However, the LNP still needed to decide upon a mechanism to determine which LAPs should be asked to stand down in future years.

The LNP concluded that the following criteria should be used:-

- (1) In the first instance, the LNP should use the “attendance rate” mechanism to decide which LAPs should be reselected;
- (2) If the first mechanism draws some identical results and there are only limited spaces available, then the LNP should use the “draw names out of a hat” mechanism to give final determination for the reselection process.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That changes in the selection process be noted;
- (2) The LAP reselection process follow the criteria identified above;
- (3) The findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment on the LNP Membership be noted.

## **114/06 Community Action Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Julie Ball reported that each LNP would establish two Community Action Groups (CAGs) which would replace the old Task Groups. One CAG would focus on Safer and Stronger Communities whilst the other would focus on People and Health. Julie highlighted that the report also sought the LNPs approval for dates of CAG meetings during 2006/07.

Caroline Crolley wished to extend her thanks to the Local Neighbourhood Partnership Team for the workshop which they had set up to explain the changeover from Task Groups to CAGs.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the move from Task Groups to CAGs be noted;
- (2) That the terms of reference of the CAGs be noted;
- (3) That the dates set out for the CAGs for the 2006/07 Municipal Year as detailed in the report be agreed;

- (4) That Trish Skitt be appointed as chair for the CAG for People and Health;
- (5) That Ken Worley be appointed as Chairman for the CAG for Safer and Stronger Communities.

## 115/06 **Local Neighbourhood Agreements**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Julie Ball introduced the report and drew Members' attention to the final pledges which had agreed at a previous meeting of the LNP.

Councillor Kath Phillips requested that a report be brought to a future meeting of the LNP on grass verges which was one of the identified pledges as she felt that there had been no, or little progress on this pledge.

Steve Chapman from Street Pride was in attendance at the meeting and explained that the Council had limited powers in dealing with parking infringes on grass verges. The powers for this lay within the powers of the police. It was reported that there was a fine line between where the Council's powers stopped and the powers of the police took over. Steve advised the LNP that a report on grass verges to the Assistant Director – Built Environment had been produced.

The LNP felt that it would be useful if that very report was submitted to a future meeting of the LNP for it to consider.

A representative from the police reported that the police did have powers to deal with parking on grass verges. However, the resources only allowed for the police to target "hot spots". The police officer urged those present to advise her of any hot spots in the LNP area which they were aware of.

On another note, Councillor Robinson sought the LNPs support with regard to seeking the Cabinet's stance on its support for LNPs. Councillor Robinson reported that one of the pledges identified by the LNP was to "promote and increase the level of the recycling". He went on to explain that funding had twice been identified to roll out the brown bin scheme across the LNP area. However, Cabinet had never endorsed the roll out of the scheme. He felt that, in view of the fact that recycling is one of the LNPs pledges, the LNP cannot deliver its pledges without the proper backing from Cabinet, as there had been a large demand from local people within the LNP area for the provision of brown bins.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the current developments around the neighbourhood agreement be noted;
- (2) That the finalised pledges be noted;
- (3) That the report which had been submitted to Keith Stone on grass verges be submitted to a future meeting of the LNP;
- (4) That a letter be sent to the Cabinet seeking their stance on support for LNPs.

### **116/06 LNP Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members of the LNP expressed their disappointment that there were no updates or reports back on the final issues which had been identified at a previous meeting of the LNP:-

- Time to Talk;
- Christmas lights for the LNP area;
- Road show by young people to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the progress on funding priorities for 2005/06 be noted;
- (2) That the current spend be noted;
- (3) That the criteria for the allocation of funding for 2006/07 be noted;
- (4) That updates on the issues identified above be reported to the next meeting.

### **117/06 Removal of Public Call Boxes**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the Cabinet’s decision about the role it wishes to see the LNP take in the local consultation about the removal of public call boxes in the LNP area be noted.

**118/06 Sponsorship of Traffic Islands**

Steve Chapman of Street Pride delivered a presentation on the sponsorship of traffic islands:-

(see annexed)

The LNP agreed the names for the following islands identified below:-

Location of Island	Name
Walker Road/Harden Road/Chestnut Road	Harden Island
Goscote Lane/Harden Road/Ross Road	Goscote Island
Buxton Road/Bamford Road	Splinter Island

**Resolved**

That the presentation be noted.

**119/06 Public Forum**

The LNP received the following questions during its public forum:-

**Question from Mr. Dennis Latham**

There should be more recognition of the Local Community Church Groups (and the work that they do) on the LNPs – What can be done?

**Question from Connie Jennings**

How are places and referrals made to activities such as Ready Steady Summer. Can we have as part of the evaluation a break down of which neighbourhoods young people were drawn from?

**Question from Nicole Bellingham**

What can be done to have more creative use for local facilities for car parking restrictions/allowances on street to protect the grass verges, i.e. double yellow lines on one side of the road and also a one-way road system etc?

**Question from Fred Westley**

Can our local Councillors assure us that they will push for all residents and local groups to be fully consulted before any decision is taken over the Mossley Social Services site?

**Resolved**

That the above questions be referred to the relevant Council Officers/ Service Areas for them to investigate and respond direct to the questioners.

**Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....