

PHEASEY AND PADDOCK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 22 February 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

at St. Martin's Church Hall, Daffodil Road, off Sutton Road, Walsall

Present

Councillor Barry Sanders (Chairman)
Ms. Yvette Sheward (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Fred Bell
Councillor Mike Bird
Mr. John Punch
Councillor Zahid Ali

153/07

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Ms. Jeet Sohal, Ms. Sharon Froggatt, Mr. Stuart Holtham and Councillor Rose Martin.

154/07

Introductions

Members of the Partnership introduced themselves.

155/07

Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

156/07

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

157/07

Petitions

There were no petitions received.

Public Forum**(1) Bell Road**

Residents of Bell Road, Park Hall attended in respect of alleged nuisance from youths playing ball games on a nearby grassed area. Debbie Brogan from the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Rob Mitchell from Street Pride also attended and explained the background to this long standing issue which led to complaints by residents. Debbie said that officers from the Council's Highways and Street Pride Services had been involved in discussions on suggestions to address the problem and went on to say that following the discussions, the most feasible proposal would be to let the grass grow long in parts of the verge to discourage the playing of ball games.

The LNP thanked the officers and discussed options and the proposal during which time residents indicated their support of the suggestion for a trial period.

Resolved

That, in order to deter the playing of all games, the LNP recommends that the grass be allowed to grow long on parts of the verge on the green space in Bell Road, Park Hall, for a trial period and that a further report be submitted to the LNP in November.

(2) Arboretum User Group

The Chairman of the user group, Barry Jenkins, attended and thanked the LNP for their support in allocating funding for their projects, the second part of which had now been received. However, Mr. Jenkins expressed his concern at the perceived lack of support from Council officers for friends groups. The LNP was unable to establish the nature of the problem and accordingly it was:

Resolved

That a meeting be arranged between Mr. Jenkins, the Chairman, Councillor Towe, Councillor Harrison (the Council's Cabinet portfolio holder for leisure and culture) and relevant officers to establish the issues in relation to Council support for friends groups.

(3) Planning consent - Sutton Road development

A resident attended and expressed concern in respect of the requirement for planning consent for an extension to a property on the Sutton Road. Councillor Bird, Chairman of the Council's Development Control Committee, assured the resident that planning consent was not required.

Resolved

That planning officers be asked to clarify the position with the resident.

Update on items from the last meeting**(1) Barry Road traffic calming**

A number of residents attended the meeting and raised concerns that the scheme did not appear to be a priority for the Council. Residents of Barry Road and Springvale Avenue said they had previously submitted a petition and had corresponded with the Council raising their concerns that the roads were used for "rat-running" which was exacerbated by the "school run".

Residents were advised that the West Midlands Local Transport Plan would be reported to the Council's Cabinet meeting on 21 March which would rank schemes based on a scoring mechanism. This scheme was not currently shown as a priority. Councillor Zahid Ali, a Cabinet member, agreed to raise this issue at the Cabinet meeting.

Residents and the LNP were also advised, however, that a small programme of work was being set up for 2008/9 which would work with LNPs to deliver schemes which were priorities in their areas. Reports in respect of this would be submitted to LNPs later this year.

Resolved

That a letter be sent to the Executive Director and Assistant Director requesting that the Barry Road traffic calming scheme be identified as a priority for the LNP.

(2) Sutton Road pavement

A resident of Sutton Road attended and reiterated the concerns in respect of the continued blockage of the drainage channels from No. 201 to the Arboretum. He said that residents had sent letters to the Council, but no response had been received.

The Senior Support Officer, Judith Sunley informed the LNP that the problem was a design issue which was being looked at. The LNP members asked for a further investigation into the reasons for the design fault and what consultation had been carried out prior to the design being agreed.

Resolved

That the LNP and residents be advised of the position with regard to actions being taken to address the drainage and design problems.

(3) Drainage and flooding in bad weather

In response to a question raised at the last meeting, the LNP was informed that the gulley cleansing service was currently twice a year.

(4) **Garages to the rear of Schofields public house**

Fred Bell confirmed that the garages, which had been a focal point for nuisance, had now been demolished as requested.

(5) **Pheasey community bus**

John Elliot, a representative from the Community Transport Service, attended and responded to questions of members at the last meeting in respect of the provision of the service. He explained the frequency and membership of the service, which had increased by 55% which, with help from a grant from the LNP, enabled the service to be sustained beyond its first year. A leafleting exercise had taken place and an additional extra stop had taken place. An additional stop near the junction of Beacon Road/Queslett Road was being added to the route improve access to local businesses.

It was suggested that a route map could also be displayed in the Collingwood Centre.

Councillor Sanders thanked Mr. Elliot for this attendance.

160/07

Presentations

(a) **Manor Hospital Trust - foundation trust status**

The Manor Hospital Finance Director, Bernard Chalke and Communications Officer, Trish Curtis attended and gave a presentation which explained the proposed change in governance arrangements at the Manor Hospital which would move accountability from London to the local community.

Mr. Chalke responded to questions and points of clarification from members and the public during which time he explained the proposals for car parking arrangements and also the situation with regard to the control of hospital infections.

Dr. Sam Ramiah, the Director of Public Health who was in attendance at the meeting for another issue, and Mr. Chalke responded to questions from the LNP in respect of the role of the tPCT in the way service was provided.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Chalke and Miss Curtis for their presentation.

(b) **Barr Beacon green bridges project**

This item was postponed to the next meeting for a more comprehensive presentation on the regeneration of Barr Beacon following the establishment of the Barr Beacon Trust Management Committee.

(c) **Arboretum restoration project**

Louise Hughes and Sam Mills from the Council's Greenspaces team attended and gave a presentation showing proposals for the restoration of the Victorian part of the Arboretum as part of the Heritage Lottery fund "Parks for people" submission.

The submission could bring £5m of external funding matching £1.7m of local authority funding. The proposals include the re-opening of the boating lake, improvements to paths and restoration of some historic garden areas, improvements to the Sons of Rest accommodation, the bandstand and the building of a new visitor centre.

The LNP commented on the proposals, particularly in respect of:

- The possibility of providing a wedding venue in the Arboretum.
- The provision of sufficient toilets both in the part of the Arboretum, subject to the bid, and also in the children's play area.
- The importance of the visible presence of park rangers and possible patrols by Police Community Safety Officers.
- The avoidance, if possible, of the use of resin bonded gravel.
- The possible reintroduction of wildlife to the streams.
- The reintroduction of public boating/rowing boats on the lakes.
- The provision of an exit strategy and the need, if necessary, to include this in the core budget of the Council.

Miss Hughes concluded by explaining the timescales for the proposals, the final stage being a decision in February 2009 and pointed out that information on progress would be available on the internet.

161/07

Medical Centre

A report was submitted which explained the current position with regard to the suggestion to provide a medical centre in the Park Hall area:

(see annexed)

Dr. Sam Ramiah, Director of Public Health attended and presented the findings of the health needs assessment for Park Hall. He said that the report showed that the current service provision was sufficient and that a new centre could not be substantiated. However, Dr. Ramiah pointed out that the assessment had identified some local issues which would be the subject of a focused awareness campaign by the tPCT.

At this point in the meeting, a number of members having left the room, the Chairman declared the meeting inquorate. He used his discretion within the LNP terms of reference to continue the meeting for discussion purposes.

The LNP members were disappointed at the outcome of the assessment, however, it was suggested that further discussion on the issues raised by the exercise be discussed at the next Community Action Group meeting in conjunction with the review of pledges for the ensuing year.

Councillor Sanders thanked Dr. Ramiah for attending.

Councillor Sanders also asked for a copy of the health needs assessment to be sent to members of the LNP.

162/07 **LNP pledges review**

A report explaining the process for a review of the LNP pledges was submitted:

(see annexed)

The report was discussed during which time Mr. Roy Smith, a district youth worker was invited to address LNP members. He explained the role of a youth worker and gave an update on plans to appoint a detached youth worker for Pheasey. Mr. Smith also informed members that there were proposals to relocate the youth club from Central Hall to a more suitable location in the Chuckery and further provision would develop as funding allowed. Councillor Sanders thanked Mr. Smith and commented on the current lack of community facilities for young people in the Park Hall and Chuckery area. He suggested looking at converting an empty house and said that he would be seeking advice from the Walsall Housing Group accordingly.

With regard to the review of the current pledges, the LNP members suggested that the Chairman should identify those which were incomplete and that they be discussed further at the next Community Action Group meeting.

163/07 **LNP funding**

The LNP received and noted a report setting out the current position with regard to the funding allocation:

(see annexed)

164/07 **Update from Community Action Groups**

The LNP received and noted a report informing of the outcome of the CAG meetings.

165/07

Notice board

Copies of publicity items were submitted and noted.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.55 p.m.

Chairman

Date