

PELSALL AND RUSHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Held at Rushall Community Centre, Springfields, Rushall, Walsall

13 February 2007

Item	Decision	Action	Progress
1. Introductions	Received and noted		
2. Apologies	Mr R Hughes, Ms R Humphreys, Councillor R Walker (for late arrival).		
3. Minutes: 18 December 2006	Approved as a correct record		
4. (a) Update on Items from last meeting (b) Selection Panel Update	Received and noted Received and noted		
5. Declarations of Interest	Councillor Perry – Agenda Item No. 8 – Walsall Hospitals Foundation Trust (personal and pecuniary)		

	<p>Councillors Micklewright and Ault advised the meeting that they would leave the room if any matters relating to planning issues were discussed as they were Member of the Development Control Committee.</p>		
<p>6. Petitions</p>	<p>Councillor Perry presented the following Petitions:-</p> <p><u>Residents of Oak Road, Pelsall</u></p> <p>Residents are requesting designated grass verges in front of their homes be changed into parking spaces for their cars, thus making the roads much safer and helping to prevent further vandalism to their cars.</p> <p>(Councillor Perry informed the Partnership that the properties were under the ownership of WHG)</p>	<p>Mr Robert Hughes (WHG)</p>	<p>Mr. Rob Hughes of WHG has responded as follows:-</p> <p>I have noted that 12 of the 24 signatories on the petition are either home owners or tenants in houses. It appears to me that our customers in flatted accommodation have less parking option and, therefore, could be considered to be a greater need.</p> <p>As a trust, we are currently working to upgrade sites on out estates through an</p>

	<p><u>Residents of Highfield Road North, Pelsall</u></p> <p>Residents are requesting off-road parking for residents of Highfield Road North, in particular, the frontages of numbers 5 to 19, due to</p>	<p>Jamie Morris (Executive Director/Neville Owen (LNP Team))</p>	<p>Environmental budget. We have consulted with customers through Tenant and Resident Associations and our Customer Panel where priorities for spend were agreed. Our customers asked us to prioritise security, in particular, for the more vulnerable residents and consider lighting, fencing and door entry systems. This has meant that parking issues such as the Oak Road problem, will have to be considered at a later date for future schemes.</p> <p>We have a list of requested parking projects and will, therefore, add on Oak Road.</p>
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	unwarranted vandalism to residents' cars.		
7. Public Forum	<p><u>Canal Access Tract, Pelsall</u></p> <p>Mr. Ramsell of Canal Cottages, Pelsall, said that the access track by the canal bridge leading to the cottages was in a very bad state of repair and full of potholes. He asked whether action could be taken to rectify this problem.</p> <p><u>Health Community Consultation Groups</u></p> <p>Mr S Yates of Greenfield Road, Shelfield referred to the former Health Action Zone Groups which he believed had been very effective in the local community. The Government had now replaced these with Health Community Consultation Groups which he considered to be a retrograde step. He asked whether there</p>	<p>Keith Rimmer/Neville Owen (LNP Team)</p> <p>Rachel Humphreys (tPCT)/ Parveen Sangha/Aliyaah Baines (Neighbourhood Partnership)</p>	<p>The Play Areas Manager has responded that he understands the access track is under the ownership of British Waterways. The Council is, therefore, under no obligation to carry out any remedial works. Enquiries made through British Waterways reveal that they intend to undertake remedial work within the next month.</p>

	<p>was any way the work of the HAZ Groups could be continued.</p> <p>Councillor Perry advised the Partnership that he understood that some HAZ Groups were continuing and were funded as charities. He suggested that these issues be discussed further at the next Health and People CAG Meeting on 27 February 2007.</p> <p><u>Parking Problems in Church Road, Pelsall</u></p> <p>Mr Dave Wood of Church Road, Pelsall said that there were still problems with inconsiderate parking by car owners using Pelsall Labour Club, blocking the highway, in Church Road and opposite the Club on Pelsall Common. He was concerned about the potential hazard for emergency vehicles trying to access Church Road.</p>	<p>Neville Owen/Keith Rimmer (LNP Team)</p>	<p>A meeting at Pelsall Youth Club of the Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Officers and residents was arranged by Councillor Perry on 6 March 2007. Among the matters to be raised was parking issues relating to Pelsall Labour Club.</p> <p>Councillor Perry will be reporting verbally on this to the LNP meeting.</p>
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	<p><u>Parking On Pelsall Common</u></p> <p>Mrs Maureen Payton of the Friends of Pelsall Common said that when similar problems had occurred last summer, the licensee of the Labour Club has been very helpful in discouraging parking on the Common by putting up signs in the Club. This had worked for a while. She enquired whether as part of the extensive bollard programme currently being undertaken in Pelsall village the LNP would like the Friends to Investigate the possibility of installing attractive physical barriers on this part of the Common.</p> <p><u>Pelsall Festive Lights</u></p> <p>Mr Bob Parker of Heath End Residents Association enquired who had paid for the festive lights in Pelsall over the Christmas period. He referred to newspaper reports that suggested that Amey PLC had met these costs.</p>	<p>Neville Owen/Keith Rimmer (LNP Team)</p> <p>Dave Roberts (Street Pride) (LNP Team) (for information)</p>	
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Councillor Perry responded that Pelsall Pride, of which he was Chairman, had launched an 'Adopt a Light' appeal to raise funds for this purpose. The cost of the lights had been met through a combination of funds raised at special events, sponsorship, donations from Pelsall people and village traders. Invoices could be provided for any interested parties. As an act of goodwill, Amey PLC had agreed to install the lights free of charge but this had been their sole contribution.

Problems with Ragwort

Mr Bob Parker of Heath End Residents Association enquired about the Council's policy for the treatment of ragwort which was a big problem in many parts of the LNP area.

As a point of information, Mr Parker was advised that the Council has no enforcement powers and can only request

Lorraine Boothman (LNP Team)/Ken Rhodes (Environmental Services)/Andrew Cooper (Green Space Horticultural Officer) – for information

	<p>owners of private land to remove ragwort. Powers to remove ragwort are now the responsibility of DEFRA.</p> <p>The Chairman commented that the Green Space Horticultural Officer had been very helpful in arranging for ragwort to be removed from Pelsall Common.</p> <p><u>Tame Drive/Trent Road – Traffic Problems</u></p> <p>Mr Bob Parker of Heath End Residents Association spoke of the concerns of residents of Tame Drive/Trent Road, Pelsall relating to commercial vehicles parking on the junction of the two roads. This was causing problems to vehicles turning out of Tame Drive and also to local residents as children and youths were congregating in the shadow of the vehicles and causing damage to brickwork and boarding of old person's homes.</p>	<p>Neville Owen (LNP Team)/Robert Hughes (WHG)/Councillor Perry</p>	
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	<p>Councillor Perry advised that a site meeting of residents of Avon Crescent and the surrounding area was scheduled for 16 February and these concerns would be picked up at that meeting.</p> <p><u>Canal Towpath in Rushall Area</u></p> <p>Mr D Myatt of Westminster Road, Rushall asked whether the LNP could bring any pressure on British Waterways to repair damage to the canal towpaths in the Rushall area.</p> <p>The Play Areas Manager has responded that British Waterways have confirmed that they carry out inspections every four weeks to ensure the towpath is not dangerous and that remedial works are carried out accordingly.</p>	<p>Keith Rimmer (LNP Team)</p>	<p>Councillor Perry will report verbally on the 16 February 2007 site meeting to the LNP meeting</p> <p>The Play Areas Manager has responded that British Waterways have confirmed that they carry out inspections every four weeks to ensure the towpath is not dangerous and that remedial works are carried out accordingly.</p> <p>British Waterways have suggested that if Mr. Myatt, or any other local residents, have any specific locations they are concerned about, they should call their Customer Services Department on 01827 252000.</p>
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Construction of Footpath in Mayou Court , Pelsall

Mr Roger Mahon of Norbury Avenue enquired whether anything could be done to improve the footpath between Norbury Avenue and the High Street (Mayou Court). He said that when Mayou Court was built, block paving was constructed that covered over the drains and this caused flooding problems for local residents when it rained. Local residents were concerned whether planning regulations had been properly observed when this work was undertaken.

Norman Hickson (LNP Team)
Kate Goodall (Executive Officer Neighbourhoods) (for information)

	<p><u>Anti-Social behaviour in Cartbridge Lane South, Rushall</u></p> <p>Mr J Bird of Cartbridge Lane, Rushall said that local residents were still experiencing nuisance from people riding mini-motorbikes and also from fly tipping in Cartbridge Lane South.</p> <p>The Chairman said that reference was made to these matters at agenda item 10 – Community Action Groups – Update report and would be discussed at this point in the meeting.</p> <p><u>Use of Green Belt Land in Cartbridge Lane, Rushall as Caravan Site</u></p> <p>Mr J Bird of Cartbridge Lane, Rushall voiced his concerns relating to the use of Green Belt land in Cartbridge Lane as a caravan site. This matter had been raised at a previous LNP by local residents.</p>	<p>Dave Roberts (LNP Team)/Inspector Greg Bates/Sgt. K. Rowlands (West Midlands Police)/Parveen Sangha/Aliyaah Baines (Neighbourhood Partnership Officers)</p> <p>Norman Hickson (LNP Team)/Councillor Griffiths</p>	<p>Progress on this issue appears in the report at agenda item 10 – Community Action Groups Update</p>
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	<p>As a point of information, Councillor Griffiths said that he understood that a report on this issue would be submitted to Development Control Committee for consideration shortly.</p> <p><u>Former Birds Timber Yard, Rushall</u></p> <p>Mr D Myatt of Westminster Road, Rushall enquired why demolition work at the former Birds timber yard in Rushall had ceased.</p> <p>Councillor Griffiths said that he would be able to provide Mr Myatt with information on this following the meeting.</p> <p>The LNP requested that all these matters be investigated by the relevant Council Officers and other Partnership representatives and that the results be reported back to the LNP.</p>	Councillor Griffiths	
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<p>8. Foundation Trust</p>	<p>A presentation on Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust move to Foundation Trust status was given by Mr Gareth Robinson, Director, Women's and Children's Services and Mrs Linda Pascall, Divisional Director of Planned Care. Following the presentation, Mr Robinson and Mrs Pascall answered questions from LNP Members and the general public.</p> <p>The LNP thanked them for their attendance and presentation.</p>	<p>Rachel Humphreys (tPCT)</p>	
<p>9. LNP Funding Update</p>	<p>The LNP agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To note the progress on projects outlined in the report. (2) To approve the following three allocations for siting dog fouling bins in the LNP area:- 	<p>Parveen Sangha/Aliyaah Bains (Neighbourhood Partnership Officers)</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rowley Place (near Daw End School entrance) • Ryders Hayes Lane • Highfield Road North 		
10. Community Action Groups Update	<p>Mr John Ree and Councillor Perry, Chairmen of the Health and People and Safer and Stronger CAGs reported on progress of the respective CAGs to date.</p> <p>Councillor Perry referred to the Goscote Valley Regeneration Scheme Exhibition/Workshop at Pelsall Cricket Club on 19 February to which all affected residents were invited. The LNP noted that there had been further discussions on anti-social behaviour issues in Cartbridge Lane, Rushall and that it was planned to install CCTV cameras there shortly to discourage fly-tipping.</p>	Parveen Sangha/Aliyaah Baines (Neighbourhood Partnership Officers)/Lorraine Boothman (LNP Team)	

	<p>The LNP agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) To continue in attendance at the Community Action Group meetings(2) To note the progress of the Community Action Groups as outlined in the report.		
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<p>11. Extended Schools</p>	<p>A presentation on the development of Extended Schools was made by Mr Anthony Orlik, Head Teacher of St Michael's CE Primary School, Pelsall. Following the presentation, Mr Orlik answered questions from LNP Members and the general public.</p> <p>The LNP thanked Mr Orlik for his attendance and his presentation.</p>	<p>Mr. A. Orlik</p>	
<p>12. Post Office Network</p>	<p>A briefing on the future of the Post Office Network was given by Councillor Garry Perry. The LNP agreed to respond to the Government's consultation on the future of the Post Office Network as follows:-</p> <p>That the Pelsall and Rushall LNP (including the communities of High Heath and Shelfield) make the following comments:-</p>	<p>Councillor Garry Perry</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We would oppose any closure of the existing Post Offices within our area namely, Pelsall Post Office, Rushall Post Office, Spring Lane, Barns Lane and Lichfield Road Post Offices.• Post Office Services are vital in providing an accessible service to the most vulnerable in our communities namely the elderly and young families/parents.• We have deprived areas that fall just outside of the 10% of super output areas but within the 20%, we would like consideration of this to be given.• At least one post office within our LNP area should become a 'Crown Post Office' and therefore a Flagship for community access.		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support measures to enhance the products on offer at Post Offices particularly financial products. • Post Offices should be given the freedom to compete with other financial and banking services in offering similar products such as mortgages. • We welcome investigation into the input of Local Authorities in the future delivery of Post Office Services. 		
<p>13. Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for Pelsall</p>	<p>The LNP agreed to note the contents of the report.</p>	<p>Simon Tranter (Regeneration)</p>	

<p>14. Pelsall Village Centre – Parking Problems</p>	<p>The LNP agreed:-</p> <p>(1) To take into account the consultations already undertaken with local businesses but to request Council Officers to carry out further consultations with residents living close to High Street with a view to implementing a two hour parking restriction in High Street, Pelsall;</p> <p>(2) That in noting that a scheme was previously considered, to request officers to further investigate the possibility of constructing a road on the land at the back of the shops in High Street, Pelsall, thus connecting Ash Tree Road with Chapel Street with a view to easing parking problems in High Street, Pelsall.</p>	<p>Neville Owen/Norman Hickson (LNP Team) Steve Thomas (Planning and Transportation)</p>	
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<p>15. Late Item: Spray-on Anti-Dog Fouling Signs</p>	<p>The LNP agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To accept a stencil for use on public pavements and authorise its use in accordance with guidance from officers regarding location and safety; (2) To Councillor Rachel Walker becoming an LNP Area Street Champion (3) To suggestions for sites to use the stencil and spray to be forwarded through the Local Neighbourhood Partnership Team. 	<p>Lorraine Boothman (LNP Team)/ Councillor R Walker/Mr K Rhodes (Environmental Services) (for information) Parveen Sangha/Aliyaah Baines (Neighbourhood Partnership Officers)</p>	
<p>16. Concerns about Recycling</p>	<p>The LNP agreed:-</p> <p>To request a report to the LNP on the Council's recycling policy in view of concerns that during busy periods, staff at the Council's two recycling sites are not separating waste but dumping all of it in the landfill skips.</p>	<p>Dave Roberts (LNP Team)</p>	

17. Termination of Meeting	The meeting terminated at 9.20 p.m.		
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Item	Action	Progress
<p data-bbox="147 268 539 339"><u>Petition to 30 October 2007 meeting</u></p> <p data-bbox="147 379 629 451">Alcohol Free Designated Zone on Pelsall Common</p>	<p data-bbox="663 268 1205 339">Legal Services/Safer Walsall Borough Partnership/West Midlands Police</p>	<p data-bbox="1357 268 1883 858">Requests for establishing designated alcohol free designated zones have to come from the Police making a recommendation to the Council's Licensing Committee. Following enquiries through SWBP and Legal Services, Inspector Bates, who covers the Pelsall area, is of the opinion that an alcohol ban had been looked at but the level of evidence available to the police did not warrant action at the present time. The police will continue to monitor the situation and, if appropriate, will put together a file of evidence for the Council to consider.</p>