

AGENDA ITEM 11

Willenhall Neighbourhood Partnership 18th April 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 of the Training and Development Plan.

2. **Work to date**

- Currently identifying training courses
- Place Check briefing session held on 2nd March 2005. The consequent report following this session is enclosed.
- 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 progress made and for the LNP to regularly review the training and development plan.
- For the task groups to move forward the actions recommended in the Place Check report
- To note the actions for implementation in the Place Check report

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Placecheck Meeting

2nd March 2005 Willenhall LNP

There were 10 attendees, as follows:

LNP Members: Alan Porter, Ian Shires, Rudy Pandaal, Angela Underhill, S Coughlan, S Taylor, H Withnal.

WMBC Officers: Jon Lord, Parpinder Singh, Mike Smith

Overview of the Session:

Following the presentation, there was initially some resistance to the idea of using Placecheck: in essence, there was a feeling that it would be covering the same old issues, about which nothing had been done in the past and it would raise expectations only for them to be crushed (Again!). Additionally, there was mention of a meeting the previous evening held by the CEN at which the same sort of issues were discussed – they too were trying to include various community groups, and there was concern voiced by the LNP members that there was a risk of duplication and wasted effort.

Following this it was agreed to utilise the evening to best effect and link the work from the recently formed sub groups into the Placecheck process.

Issues Raised:

Two main issues were raised,

1. Corridors through Willenhall Town Centre – there were three identified:

- ❖ The main route from Walsall into Willenhall;
- ❖ The North South route running from Essington into the Town Centre; and
- ❖ The East West route running from Wednesfield to Bilston

These also add the angle of gateways into the area

2. Various “grot spots” in the area – these were not identified during the discussions, it was agreed that there needed to be a mapping exercise to identify all the grot spots.

Groups to involve:

A wide ranging number of groups were identified as needing to be drawn into the process.

These included:

- ❖ Willenhall Local Committee
- ❖ New Invention Local Committee
- ❖ Residents' associations
- ❖ Neighbourhood Watch groups (and other resident's groups)
- ❖ Community Safety Wardens
- ❖ Willenhall Housing Trust
- ❖ Police and Fire services
- ❖ Friends of the Park
- ❖ Traders Association
- ❖ Rotary Club
- ❖ Schools

- ❖ Youth Clubs
- ❖ People's Centre
- ❖ United Churches of Willenhall
- ❖ Community Association
- ❖ Willenhall Business Parks
- ❖ Community Empowerment Network
- ❖ Victory Club
- ❖ Allotment Groups
- ❖ Youth Opinions Unite
- ❖ Probation Service
- ❖ NACRO
- ❖ Learning & Skills Council
- ❖ Larger Businesses (Asprays, CORUS, Nightfreight, Robert Wiseman Dairy, Poundland, Hooties, Marron's, Co-Op)
- ❖ Smaller traders (not linked to Traders Association)

It was felt that most of these groups could be contacted through connections within the LNP, but it was also important to reach those groups that were not included above, that members were not aware of.

In terms of Probation and NACRO, this related to potentially looking at ways of making use of Community Service requirements and training for young offenders (this was why the LSC was included as a potential source of funding for training young offenders etc). Another link for this element of the suggestion was to contact Elaine at Goscote Resource Centre, as she has a lot of involvement with young offenders.

When and How to Implement Placecheck

1. Initially it was seen to be important to carry out a mapping exercise, this would need to be done through the medium of a questionnaire which could be issued to all residents in the area. The suggestion was made, and agreed, that the best way to deal with this would be to potentially involve one of the schools – a small sub-group from the LNP could liaise with sixth formers at the Sports College to develop and issue a questionnaire. Ideally, would need to have a SAE to ensure a reasonable response was achieved. The Schools reps were not present, but it was suggested that Vicky Tills would be the most appropriate person to lead from the schools side of things.

(In terms of distribution, this would need a budget to enable it to happen – difficulties with local papers as not every household gets the free papers, and there are different editions of the Express and Star. There was discussion about the possibility of using the Council post and including it with some other circular – probably not possible for various reasons)

2. In addition to the above, it was proposed to carry out a planning for real exercise based on the corridors and grot spots. This could again link in with the young people, in terms of Pool Hayes School having a very good arts department and a responsive teacher – it was hoped that they could produce the “layout”. This could then be shown at various locations in the Town Centre or at local points and encourage the public to contribute to the debate that way.

3. A third approach was for LNP members to be out and about in the Centres (possibly as part of the Planning for Real) by having a stall or exhibition and engaging local people in the debate – this could be on a market day or at varying times during the week to catch different groups of people – Angela Underhill, Shaun Coughlan and Ian Shires offered to become involved in this – also to link to the schools in their part of the process.
4. Awareness raising was highlighted as very important, given the concensus was that people in general don't know what the LNP is and what it is meant to be doing. Ideally as part of the process of carrying out the above tasks, the opportunity to maximise publicity and awareness raising should not be lost.
5. There is a need to develop a contact database/directory of all the groups and interested parties in the area.

Resources Needed

- ❖ Printing of questionnaires and someone to deliver them (probably at a cost) plus SAEs for returns
- ❖ Cost of someone to analyse responses
- ❖ Posters to be put up in local centres and pubs/clubs/shops, etc
- ❖ Display equipment
- ❖ Mobile facilities (eg Council Bus, or old Neighbourhood shops)
- ❖ A human resource to source and develop a directory of groups

Timescales

It was considered important by those present that things should get moving as quickly as possible. This included talking to the schools before Easter with a view developing a questionnaire and Planning for Real board early in the new summer term. This should enable the questionnaires to be distributed and returned to inform the process by June. The other activities to be carried out in conjunction with the issue of questionnaires.

Other Comments

Suggested a policy of “naming and shaming” those who do not maintain their property adequately and thus contribute to the general disrepair of an area.

Wanted the council to look at the possibility of utilising section 215's with new developments. (??)

LNP should look at the new Unitary Development Plan (UDP) to consider what they can and can't do – look at potential land use, etc.