

BLAKENALL AND BLOXWICH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 20 June 2005 at 6.00 pm.

**at Goscote Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Middle Crescent,
Goscote**

Present

Councillor Rob Robinson (Chairman)
Inspector Greg Bates
Councillor Lesley Beeley
Mr. Martin Blunt
Mr. Peter Brown
Caroline Crolley
Councillor Louise Harrison
Councillor Kath Phillips
Councillor Desmond Pitt
Councillor Melvin Pitt
Councillor Ian Robertson
Trish Skitt
Florence L. Smith
Councillor Bill Tweddle
Councillor Patricia Young
Michael Hiscox
Glen Buglass

Also present

Inspector Bevan
Bryan Pell

Implementation Team

David Blacker
Sue Byard
Ishbel Murray
Parveen Sangha
Paul Wilde

54/05 Appointment of Chairman

It was **moved** and **seconded** that:-

Councillor Robinson be appointed Chairman of the Blakenall and Bloxwich Local Neighbourhood Partnership for the current Municipal Year.

Resolved

That Councillor Robinson be appointed the Chairman of the Blakenall and Bloxwich Local Neighbourhood Partnership for the current Municipal year.

55/05 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. David Chell, Mrs. Gail Gregory, Mr. Charlie Robertson, Mr. Alan Venables and Mr. Kenneth Worley.

56/05 Minutes

Referring to the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2005, Caroline Crolley reported that Jo Newgent had been invited to attend this meeting, but there was no reference to it in the minutes.

Councillor Robinson concurred that the Partnership had determined to invite Jo Newgent at the last meeting.

Councillor Young expressed concern that there was no report concerning Bloxwich Cemetery.

Councillor Robinson requested that the report on Bloxwich Cemetery be forwarded to Partners as soon as it was available.

Councillor Robertson referred to minute no. 43/05 and reported that the heading should read "Dolphin Close" not "Dalton Close" and the first speaker was Ms. Ann Hendie not Mindie.

Councillor Young referred to the fourth paragraph of minute no. 43/05, and stated that she had said that Walsall Housing Group had a contract with Walsall Council for the cleaning of the whole of Dolphin Close, not just the garage court.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2005, a copy having been previously circulated to each Member of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership be approved as a correct record, subject to the amendments referred to above.

57/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest identified at this meeting.

58/05 **Petitions**

The Local Neighbourhood Partnership received the following petitions:-

- Road safety at the junction of Ryle Street and Valley Road, Bloxwich - Submitted by Councillor Kath Phillips.
- Objection to the closure of the alleyway between Holden Crescent and Wareham Close, Bloxwich - Submitted by Councillor Young.
- Provision of wardens to combat vandalism and anti-social behaviour on Mossley, Dudley Fields and Chepstow Estates - Submitted by Mr. Fred Westley.
- Removal of brick built flower planters and use of the space created to construct extra car parking spaces in Tapton Close, Lower Farm Bloxwich – Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. A. Askey.
- Removal of vehicles illegally parking on the grassed area in Grenfell Road, Little Bloxwich, and replacement of part of the green area with parking bays in Grenfell Road.

Resolved

That the petitions be submitted to appropriate officers for consideration.

59/05 **Gateway Project**

Glen Buglass (Community Arts Team) made a presentation using Power Point to show the existing “Welcome to Walsall” gateway road signs which appeared throughout the Borough. He reported that it was proposed to replace some of the older, dated signage with signs that referred to the original variations of the various districts and centres which made up the Borough of Walsall.

Following discussions, it was suggested that Bloxwich Parish Church, modern industry, the A34 gateway to the Staffs/Walsall border, St. George’s Park, Bloxwich High Street / young people, Pat Collins and regeneration should be incorporated into the road signs for the Bloxwich area. Glen agreed to mock-up an example of the road sign and bring it back to a future meeting of the Partnership for further consultation and feed-back.

60/05 **Public Forum**

Miss Muriel Chappell of 20 Masefield Road, Bloxwich, addressed the Partnership regarding the Community House – no. 115 Walker Road. She stated that Harden was not in the New Deal area so it received very little additional funding. She referred to the fact that Harden had lost a number of community facilities, including the sub-post office in Harden Road recently.

Peter Brown, Chief Executive of Bloxwich Housing Group, reported that no. 115 Walker Road was owned by Walsall Housing Group and the licence for the Community House expired in September 2005. He indicated that consideration was currently being given to the house being used once more as a family home. He referred to the fact that the new Blakenall Village Centre was only some 200 metres from this property and suggested that a community facility should be included there. Members referred to the vital role in the community played by 115 Walker Road and requested that it be retained as a community facility.

Resolved

That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership requests Bloxwich Housing Group to retain 115 Walker Road as a community facility.

61/05 **Funding priorities for action**

The report of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

The Partnership welcomed Parveen Sangha who advised the meeting of the contents of the report. She explained the priorities which had been selected by the funding Task Group at their recent meeting.

After a detailed discussion of the proposals put forward, it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That it be noted that each project will be formally assessed by the LNP Project Team to ensure that they meet all of the agreed criteria;
- (2) That it be noted that each project will be passed to the relevant Council Officer who will liaise with project champions when required;
- (3) That feed-back from the project champions on progress of the schemes will be submitted to the next Local Neighbourhood Partnership meeting.

62/05 **Partnership Plan and Feedback from Task Groups**

The report of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha advised the Partnership of the background to the report.

Councillor Robinson suggested that assistance to neighbourhood resource centres and community associations should be included in the Partnership Plan.

Caroline Crolley (Local Appointed Partner) circulated a survey of youth activities in the LNP area and a youth survey for completion by people in the area to help improve the service. Copies of both documents were handed to persons present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership endorse the changes and additions to the Partnership Plan, including the inclusion of neighbourhood resources centres and community associations;
- (2) That LNP Members continue to attend workshop meetings;
- (3) That individual LNP Members continue to encourage wider participation from community members within the Task Group;
- (4) That the work carried out by Caroline Crolley in producing the youth survey and the schedule of youth activities in the Blakenall and Bloxwich areas be endorsed.

63/05 **Involving Young People**

The report of the Neighbourhood Partnership Team was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha advised the Committee of the background to the report.

Caroline Crolley stated that wider consultation with young people was essential.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the work on involving young people carried out to date;
- (2) nominates Caroline Crolley to undertake the role of young people's representative;
- (3) agrees that young people should be invited to observe the Local Neighbourhood Partnership meeting in September or December 2005;
- (4) agrees to consider other ways of involving young people at future meetings.

64/05 Community Safety Update and Bulletin

The crime figures and rates for 2002/05 for Blakenall and Bloxwich were submitted:-

(see annexed)

A copy of the Bi-Annual Community Safety bulletin was handed to those present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Gwyn Bevan (Safer Walsall Borough Partnership) explained the background to the report and indicated that the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership was now almost at full strength. He referred to the initiatives being carried out by the Drug Action Team and the Drug Intervention Programme and reported that 40% of offenders had tested positive for Class A drugs. He added that overall there had been a 70% reduction in crime in Walsall over the last three years.

Referring to youth crime, Inspector Bevan indicated that only 7% of crime was caused by young people, but 24% of young people were the victims of crime.

After further detailed discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the crime figures and rates 2002/05 and the Bi-Annual Community Safety Bulletin – June 2005 be noted.

65/05 **Childrens Centres and Extended Schools**

Michael Hiscox , Education Walsall, informed the Partnership that the provision of childrens centres was a national strategy aimed at tackling disadvantage. Funding was being provided by Government to get centres operational by March 2006 with long-term funding ensured. He added that existing Sure Start locations would become childrens centres.

Referring to the extended schools initiative, Mr. Hiscox stated that schools would provide services to the community widening involvement in learning. He indicated that it was an extension of the community school concept which Walsall had been successful with in the past and would provide improvement in the future.

Councillor Des Pitt asked how the location for childrens centres had been chosen. Mr. Hiscox replied that sites had been determined by Cabinet.

Resolved

That the presentation on childrens centres and extended schools be noted.

66/05 **Statement of Community Involvement**

The report of the Head of Environmental Regeneration was handed to persons present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Bryan Pell, Head of Physical Regeneration, explained the background to the report for the benefit of Partners.

Councillor Phillips asked if the matter would be referred to the wider community. Bryan Pell replied that it would be referred to community groups with copies available in libraries and local newspapers.

It was suggested that new and modern churches should be included in the consultation process. Mr. Pell undertook to ensure that they were included in the consultation process.

Resolved

That the presentation introducing the statement of community involvement be noted.

67/05 **Gateway Projects**

This matter had been considered earlier in the meeting.

68/05 **Dates, Time and Venues for Future Meetings**

The report of the Head of Democratic Services was submitted:-

(see annexed)

After discussion it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the next meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership be held on Monday, 19 September 2005, at Bloxwich CE JMI School, High Street, Bloxwich, Walsall, commencing at 6.00 p.m.;
- (2) That the remaining meetings of the Partnership during 2005/06 be held on Monday, 19 December 2005, and Monday, 20 March, 2006, at locations to be determined by the Chairman in conjunction with Constitutional Services.

69/05 **Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: