

ST. MATTHEWS AND BIRCHILLS/LEAMORE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday, 31st July, 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

At the St. Mary the Mount Pastoral Centre, Glebe Street, Walsall

Present

Councillor Mohammed Arif
Councillor Joan Barton
Mr. Malcolm Barton
Mr. Hilson Carter
Mr. Terry Edis
Inspector Andy Gilbert
Mr. Christopher Jones
Councillor Haqnawaz Khan
Mr. Andrew Moulton
Mr. Aftab Nawaz
Councillor Tim Oliver
Councillor Jonathan Phillips
Mr. John Kempson, West Midlands Fire Service

113/06 **Election of Chairman**

Resolved

That Councillor Tim Oliver be elected Chairman of the LNP for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

114/06 **Election of Vice-Chairmen**

Resolved

That the election of Vice-Chairmen of the Partnership be deferred to the next meeting.

115/06 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. Barbara McCracken, Jane Evans (tPCT) and Martin Cain.

116/06 **Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared an interest in the items shown and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon:-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor Arif | - | Governor of Blue Coat School |
| Mr. Aftab Nawaz | - | Owner of restaurant in Caldmore area |

117/06 **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted.

118/06 **Minutes**

Resolved

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

119/06 **LNP Terms of Reference**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That the revised Terms of Reference, as approved by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership, appended to the report, be noted;
- (b) That the LNP adopt and sign up to the Terms of Reference.

120/06 **Public Forum**

With the approval of the Partnership, the following person addressed the meeting on the issue indicated:-

Mrs. Maureen Woodcock

Mrs. Woodcock asked how long a person was given to complete a development when planning permission was granted.

In reply, the Chairman advised that applicants were required to commence development within five years of the date of consent.

With the approval of all Members, Items 13 and 14 on the agenda were considered next by the LNP.

121/06

Walsall's Strategic Corridors and Gateways Initiative - A454 and A461 Urban Design Framework

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

A presentation was given by Joel Maybury from the Regeneration Unit.

Members expressed their concern that the Council had ignored tenants and residents and that there had been no community engagement, particularly in relation to Littleton Street, the Arboretum Island and Birchills Playing Fields.

Members were concerned that the Consultants had drawn up the proposals without consulting the community.

At this juncture, Members considered Item 14 on the agenda relating to Birchills Playing Fields which was linked to and had been referred to in the presentation on the previous issue.

122/06

Birchills Playing Fields

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. S. Hussain, of Birchills Mosque, addressed the meeting on this issue. He gave a brief history of his involvement in this issue and the various meetings and discussions with the Council and other parties, all of which had come to nothing, despite a report from the youth of the area identifying their requirements. Another resident of the area, Mr. Aslam, also addressed the LNP and indicated that he had two letters asking what the land was to be used for and an indication from the Council that there was no intention of using the land for residential purposes. Proposed projects had not been supported by the Council on the grounds that the land would require Government permission to revert from school playing field use but the land was now being used as a storage compound. There was further discussion regarding the lack of consultation with the community and the lack of facilities for the youth of the area.

Following a further period of discussion, it was **agreed**:-

- (a) That the reports and presentation be noted;
- (b) That the views of the LNP be passed to the appropriate quarters;
- (c) That a public workshop be arranged to give more detail on the proposals.

123/06 **Caldmore Green**

Resolved

That approval in principle be given to the establishment of a Working Group to discuss the various issues that affect the image of the area. The Working Group to comprise the representatives from the area and other interested persons.

124/06 **Blue Coat CE Performing Arts College - Traffic Calming Measures in Birmingham Street**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mrs. Maureen Woodcock advised the LNP that the school had done its own survey, which differed to the Council survey. A copy of the survey was circulated. She suggested that the Council would need to review the situation in the light of this information. The point was made that Steve Griffiths, from the Council's Traffic Management Section, was working on a full survey.

Resolved

That the report be noted and that officers be asked to liaise with Mrs. Woodcock on this issue.

125/06 **Youth Conference**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The point was made that the information requested on the ethnic mix at the Conference and also details on the venue for the Conference were still not available.

The Chairman indicated that he had the necessary information which would be passed to officers for circulation to LNP Members.

126/06

Drugs Issues in Birchills

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Concern was expressed regarding the drugs issues in Burrowes Street and St. Matthews Close areas which were not being dealt with.

It was suggested that a presentation be given to the next meeting of the Partnership regarding Birchills area and that the Police be requested to prepare a report regarding the situation generally within the area covered by the LNP.

Resolved

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That arrangements be made for a presentation to the next meeting of the Partnership on 21st September regarding drugs issues in the Birchills area and that a report from the Police regarding the situation generally within the area covered by the LNP be submitted to that meeting.

127/06

Sponsorship of Traffic Islands

A presentation was given by Steve Chapman from Street Pride in which he referred to traffic islands within the area covered by the LNP and sought suggested names for those islands.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted and the names of the islands identified be suggested as follows:-

<u>Location</u>	<u>Name</u>
Reedswood Way/ Sainsbury's/Six Towers Road	Bayou Island
Stephenson Way/ Reedswood Way	Stephenson Island
Lichfield Road/Mellish Road/Lichfield Street	Mellish Road Island
Bloxwich Lane/ Reedswood Way/Bentley Lane	Pouk Hill Island

Reedswood Way

No name suggested

Somerfield Road/
Green Lane/Leamore Lane

Four Crosses Island

128/06 **Local Neighbourhood Agreements**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That the current developments around the Neighbourhood Agreements be noted;
- (b) That the pledges identified in the report be noted.

129/06 **LNP Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of progress on alley gating due to the Council not having sufficient capacity to undertake the work. The Chairman questioned whether the work could be commissioned to be done by other agencies.

Concern was also expressed by Andrew Moulton that following a meeting with the WBSP, it had emerged that the Government had now got a strategy to starve the voluntary sector. The question was raised as to how the Community Forums would engage with the voluntary sector if they were not being resourced.

Resolved

- (a) That the progress on funding priorities for 2005/2006 be noted;
- (b) That the current spend be noted;
- (c) That the criteria for the allocated funding for 2006/07 be noted;
- (d) That a report clarifying the issue of funding for Community Forums be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

130/06

Community Action Groups

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That the move from Task Groups to Community Action Groups be noted;
- (b) That the Terms of Reference for the Community Action Groups be noted;
- (c) That the dates set for the Community Action Groups for 2006/07 Municipal Year be agreed.

131/06

Re-selection of Locally Appointed Partners

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That the changes in the selection process be noted;
- (b) That three Locally Appointed Partners be re-selected in 2006, three in 2007 and four in 2008;
- (c) That the issue of attendance at LNP meetings be used as the criteria for identifying which Locally Appointed Partners are to be re-selected each year;
- (d) That the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment on LNP Membership be noted;
- (e) That the information given in relation to attendance of Locally Appointed Partners at LNP meetings be re-examined.

132/06

Removal of Public Call Boxes

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Cabinet’s decision about the role they would like to see LNPs take in the local consultation about the removal of the last public call box in an area/local neighbourhood be noted.

133/06

Time and Venues for Future Meetings

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That the LNP continue to alternate meetings between venues in the St. Matthews and Birchills/Leamore Wards;
- (b) That subject to confirmation of the availability of the venues, the meetings of the LNP for the remainder of the Municipal Year be held as follows:-

Date	Venue
Thursday, 21 st September, 2006	Croft Street Community Association
Thursday, 16 th November, 2006	Central Methodist Hall, Ablewell Street
Monday, 8 th January, 2007	Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre, Stephenson Avenue
Tuesday, 6 th March, 2007	Conference Centre, Gorway Road
Wednesday, 25 th April, 2007	Burrowes Street Community Room

- (c) That all meetings commence at 6.00 p.m.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.02 p.m.

Chairman

Date