

PHEASEY AND PADDOCK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday, 17th October, 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

at St. Martins Church Hall, Daffodil Road, Walsall

Present

Councillor Chris Towe (Chairman)
Mr. Fred Bell
Councillor Mike Bird
Inspector Gerry Byrne
Ms. Sharon Froggatt
Mrs. Barbara Manison
Mr. John Punch
Councillor Barry Sanders
Ms. Yvette Sheward

71/05 Introductions

Members of the Partnership and officers introduced themselves.

72/05 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Adrian Andrew, Mr. Gary Brookes, Mr. Frank Foster, Mr. Stuart Holtam, Councillor Rose Martin, Ms. Jeet Sohal and Councillor Zahid Ali.

73/05 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July, 2005, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Fred Bell on the list of Members present.

74/05 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

75/05

Petitions

A petition containing approximately 336 signatures was submitted objecting to the proposed mobile phone station on Sutton Road near the Longhorn pub.

The LNP received the petition.

76/05

Framework plan for the town centre

Mr. Peter Cromer, the Chief Executive of the Urban Regeneration Company, attended and gave a presentation to the Partnership on the multi-million pound regeneration proposals for Walsall. Mr. Cromer then responded to questions from the Partnership, particularly in respect of plans for the market area, a car parking strategy and the need to address the skills shortage by re-skilling. In this respect, Mr. Cromer said that they would be working closely with the College, Housing Group and major employers. The Partnership were keen to ensure that young people and local businesses were engaged in the process.

The Partnership thanked Peter Cromer for the presentation.

77/05

Public Forum

Local bus travel

Mr. Patrick Kelly addressed the Partnership. He expressed his concern that from next Sunday, there would be no evening or Sunday bus services along the Sutton Road. Centro had informed him that low passenger usage of the 377 meant that that service would be withdrawn. Mr. Kelly referred to the fact that improving transport for the elderly was a priority for the Partnership.

The Partnership noted Mr. Kelly's concerns.

Provision of traffic calming measures - Wimperis Way, Pheasey

Mr. G. Sadler, a local resident, addressed the Partnership on behalf of residents of Wimperis Way. He explained that there had been a proposal to introduce traffic calming measures along Wimperis Way but residents had now been told that the proposal had been put on the 'back burner'. He also said a speed check had been carried out by the Police which had showed car speeds of up to 68.8 mph and this had been undertaken near to the primary school. Mr. Sadler concluded by saying that the residents had serious safety concerns, which were supported by the Police and the school, and asked the Partnership for their support.

The Chairman mentioned that he and Councillor Andrew had previously submitted a petition when residents had raised concerns before.

A short discussion took place, following which it was,

Resolved

- (1) That the matter be referred to the relevant service area and that Ward Councillors be kept informed;
- (2) That regular reports be received by this LNP on highways matters, including priority lists of proposed works, and information relating to proposed road works.

Post box - Sutton Road

Mr. Stan Sims addressed the Partnership and expressed the concern of local residents that the post box on the Sutton Road had been removed during the works to site a new pedestrian crossing. Royal Mail had indicated that it would not be replaced. Mr. Sims said that Post Watch felt that this was unacceptable and he was, therefore, calling for the re-siting of the post box on the Sutton Road by Greaves Avenue.

The Partnership noted Mr. Sims' concerns.

Proposed mobile phone station, Sutton Road near Longhorn Public House

Esther Bennett attended and indicated that she wished to express concerns in respect of the proposed mobile phone station.

At this point in the meeting, the time being 6.55 p.m., Councillor Bird, being a Member of the Development Control Committee, withdrew from the room during consideration of this matter.

The Chairman explained the reason for Councillor Bird withdrawing from the room and that, consequently, the meeting was inquorate. However, the Chairman, using his discretion in accordance with Article 10 of the Council's Constitution, said that the Partnership would hear Miss Bennett's representations informally.

Miss Bennett addressed the Partnership and said that she had agreed to address the Partnership on behalf of residents who were concerned at the health risks of a proposal to place a mast on the grass verge outside the Longhorn Pub. Residents pointed out that radiation stickers were being placed on the masts, which seemed to indicate a risk here.

A short period of discussion ensued, during which time, concerns were also expressed in respect of the possible obstruction to the view of drivers along the Sutton Road, the fear of health problems, the possible devaluation of houses nearby and the possible escalation of the number of masts in the area if this was approved.

Councillor Towe thanked members of the public for their attendance and indicated that their comments would be forwarded to Planning Services.

At this point in the meeting, the time being 7.05 p.m., Councillor Bird returned to the room and the Chairman, with meeting now being quorate, continued the formal business.

78/05

External funding

Andrew Rainsford, the External Funding Manager, attended and gave a presentation which outlined the personnel within the External Funding Team and the range of funding available to the LNP and component parts. Mr. Rainsford stressed the complimentary nature of the WMBC External Funding Unit with similar teams in partner organisations and accordingly asked that he be invited to attend any funding group meetings for this LNP to ensure the connection of funding opportunities. Mr. Rainsford then responded to questions and comments from the Partnership, during which time, he agreed to assist with projects at the Collingwood Centre and he also offered the services of the team to act as a critical friend for applications for funding by community groups and Charities. Councillor Bird referred to the extent of waterways within the LNP area and asked whether any thought had been given to central funding to tackle anti-social acts and promote the use of canals and towpaths for local people. Mr. Rainsford acknowledged that canals could have a major impact on tourism and mentioned that the Black Country strategic study on canals could be the key to unlocking a large amount of funding. British Waterways were currently working on this.

79/05

Children's centres

Michael Hiscox, from Education Walsall, attended and made a presentation explaining children's centres and extended schools. He pointed out that a children's centre was planned at Pheasey Park Farm School and that a centre in Paddock would be looked at in the next round. Mr. Hiscox then responded to questions and points of clarification from Members of the Partnership, during which time, he confirmed that in terms of the children's centre at Pheasey Park Farm, it was anticipated that this would be available, building work permitting, from September next year. He responded to a question from Yvette Sheward who asked how it would impact on current child assessment centres by explaining how the projects would compliment and work with existing community services rather than replacing them, to provide continuity of care.

The Partnership commented that Community Associations, not just schools, needed developing, following which, Councillor Bird referred to an indication that the project would support schools in the area if they wanted to provide extended activities, including both encouraging the setting up of play schemes and helping to maximise existing use. He mentioned that in the LNP area, there were already very successful holiday schemes and wrap around clubs and asked whether funding, normally given to new schemes, could be allocated to improve existing schemes. Mr. Hiscox confirmed that this would be possible.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hiscox for his presentation.

80/05

Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership - Borough Resource Allocation Group

A report explaining the purpose of the Group was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The LNP Co-ordinator for the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, Lindsey Smith, explained the report and asked the Partnership to highlight priority themes for consideration by the Group.

A period of discussion took place, during which time, the following areas were identified:-

Anti-social behaviour:-

- Alleyways in Pheasey Park Farm, in particular, Tynedale Crescent, Moreton Avenue, Hillingford Avenue, Collingwood Island, Pheasey
- Youths at Park Hall shops, Treyamon Road, Park Hall
- Chuckery Green - youths
- Arboretum toilets
- Entrance to Doe Bank Park, Pheasey
- Highway land at Bell Road, Park Hall

Traffic related issues at:-

- Wimperis Way, Pheasey - excessive traffic speeds

Dangerous car parking at:-

- Road junction at Brookhouse Road
- Outside Mayfields School, Sutton Road
- Around Park Hall School, Park Hall Road

Street lighting:-

- Lack of street lighting in areas by off-licences, attracting groups of youths
- Dog fouling - the LNP area, in particular, Park Hall shops to Woodend Park

Resolved

That the areas identified be put forward for consideration by the Borough Resource Allocation Group.

81/05

Partnership plan and feedback from Task Groups

A report informing the LNP of progress of its various Task Groups was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer presented the report and introduced Kirsty Mohan and Daniel Hodgkiss of Youth Opinions Unite who were in attendance to advise the Partnership of the current position with regard to youth engagement. They explained that between now and the next LNP meeting, they would be moving within the LNP area gathering information from youth organisations and identifying priorities which would be fed back to the Partnership at its next meeting.

The Chairman thanked Kirsty and Daniel for their information and looked forward to seeing them at the next meeting.

A discussion then took place on the feedback from the Liveability Workshop in respect of the provision of a mobile screening unit at the Collingwood Centre, during which time, it was agreed that in respect of that provision, Sharon Froggatt would work with Yvette Sheward and Andrew Rainsford to progress this. Yvette would look at including the initiative within the health needs assessment at Collingwood Centre.

Mr. Randhawa then gave feedback from the workshop held on 10th October, 2005 and a discussion took place, particularly in respect of the sustainability of a shopping buses project in Pheasey and also establishing a new project in Paddock. It was agreed that John Elliott, Chief Officer, Community Transport, together with the External Funding Manager, would discuss a report to be submitted to the next meeting.

Resolved

That the actions identified in the report and during the discussion be noted and that a workshop take place to undergo a Partnership Plan review take place on 10th November, 2005 as indicated in the report.

82/05

Funding priorities for action

A report informing the Partnership of the progress of the projects which the Partnership has agreed was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer, Parpinder Randhawa, introduced the report.

Councillor Towe expressed his concern that the Collingwood Centre had still not received the funding allocation. Mr. Randhawa explained the process.

The Partnership also noted other projects which had been supported at the previous meeting in July as “quick hits” had not received their allocation and the Partnership were concerned that it was sending out the wrong message.

Resolved

That the Chief Executive be notified of this LNP’s extreme concern and frustration that given LNPs are the flagship of Walsall Council, the decisions and money allocated are “not happening” because of bureaucracy.

83/05

Three Crowns School site - possible future use

A report indicating the current position on the future of the site was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted and that this LNP be involved in any future proposal.

At this point in the meeting, the time being 9.00 p.m., it was agreed to waive Council procedure rule 9(a) to extend the meeting past 9.00 p.m.

84/05 **Transforming Your Space**

A report detailing forthcoming Transforming Your Space schemes in the LNP area was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That information in respect of the scheme at Doe Bank Park be provided to all Members.

85/05 **Request for Medical Centre in Paddock**

A report was submitted indicating the current position with regard to identifying a site for a new medical centre in Paddock:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.

Chairman

Date