

ALDRIDGE SOUTH AND STREETLY LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 6 February 2007 at 7.00pm

at Streetly Association, Foley Road East, Streetly.

Present

Councillor John Rochelle (Chairman)
Ms Johanne Newens (Vice-Chairman)
Peter Roberts (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Tom Ansell
Councillor Garry Clarke
Andrew Dickson – West Midlands Fire Service
Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul
Mr Robert Gilham
Mr Tony Harrison
Mrs Jenny Henney
Mrs Pauline Heydon
Mr Ron Perks
Ms Sarah Witheridge
Mr Colin Boswell – CEN
Sergeant Andy Hill (West Midlands Police)

In attendance

Karen Adderley
Paul Wilde

184/07 Apologies

There were no apologies submitted.

185/07 Introductions

Each member of the partnership and the officers present introduced themselves and explained in brief the organisation they represented.

186/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

187/07 **Minutes**

Councillor Rochelle referred to minute number 182/06 regarding Aldridge Manor House and updated the meeting concerning the present position. He reported that the Community Association had ceased to be and the youth service had taken over the running of the property. Elderly groups can still use the premises at a cost of £10 per hour which was a considerable saving for them. He added that the youth group intended to open up an internet café there.

Councillor Clarke referred to minute number 174/06 regarding the Welcome to Streetly Sign. He stated that local residents had asked him when the sign at the church would be removed as the new sign had now been located in the preferred location outside the Pacific Nurseries.

Officers undertook to investigate the present position regarding the removal of the redundant sign and informed Councillor Clarke accordingly.

Councillor Clarke referred to the Lindrosa Road hot spot and to the fact that £5000 had been allocated to provide a gate almost two years ago but still the scheme was nowhere near completion. He submitted a petition from residents from Lindrosa Road, requesting that bollards be provided as a matter of urgency, to prevent vehicles using the access way. He was concerned that if the money was not spent by 31 March 2007 then it would be lost.

Ron Perks (Locally Appointed Partner) reported that this matter had been discussed at a heated meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities - CAG on 22 January 2007 when a compromise had been reached regarding the positioning of the bollards. If they were now to be repositioned again, then residents views were being totally ignored.

Councillor Rochelle stated that it was his understanding that the bollards were to be erected where the former gate had hung. He added that the funding for this project had been agreed and would not be lost after the 31 March 2007.

Etelka Kollar reported that if the bollards were not positioned correctly then cars would be able to bypass them making them redundant and a waste of money. She stated that she felt bullied at the CAG meeting and other residents had been intimidated by third parties. She agreed that the bollards should be erected at the site of the former gate.

Councillor Ansell reiterated the fact that funding had been allocated in 2005 but had still not been spent. He felt that the work should have been done unless there were legal reasons to prevent it happening. He requested a report to the next meeting clarifying the matter.

A gentleman from the public requested that the bollards be sited near Lindrosa Road to prevent vehicles entering the area know as 'the patch'.

Tony Harrison (Locally Appointed Partner) concurred with Councillor Ansell that a report was needed clarifying the legal position, land ownerships and proposed positions for the bollards in order that a final decision could be made.

Resolved

That a report on this matter be brought to the next meeting of the partnership to clarify the legal position, land ownerships and the proposed position for the bollards.

Ron Perks referred to minute number 178/06 relating to Boundary Court. He stated that one of the empty flats had had its windows broken and a fridge had been thrown out onto the balcony.

Councillor Clarke indicated that Councillor Hughes was preparing an update report for the next meeting of the Partnership.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on the 11 December 2006, a copy having been previously circulated to each member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

188/07 **Update On Items From Last Meeting**

A report was handed to members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

189/07 **Petitions**

Councillor Clarke submitted a Petition from residents of Lindrosa Road, regarding the Lindrosa Road hot spot.

Resolved

That the petition had be received.

190/07 **Public Forum**

Sarah Witheridge (Locally Appointed Partner) referred to the improvements to the car park at Aldridge Airport which had required the removal of bollards surrounding the site. As a result motorists could now gain access to the grassed areas and cars were driving over them and damaging the surface. She asked if the bollards could be replaced as quickly as possible. She also referred to the fact that horses were now being ridden across the airfield despite the fact they were prohibited from using it. As a result pathways were being churned up. She asked if Officers could investigate these matters and take appropriate steps to prevent further damage.

Resolved

That officers investigate the removal of the bollards from the car park and the riding horses on the airfield and take appropriate action.

191/07 **Blackwood Road Surgery**

Marion Charlton, a Streetly resident, reported that two new doctors were working from Blackwood Surgery. They wished to extend the surgery but there was already a parking problem in the area so planning permission had been refused. She asked whether the grass verge in front of the surgery could be made into a car park to ease congestion in that area.

Resolved.

That officers investigate whether the grass verge in front of the surgery in Blackwood Road could be converted into a car park.

192/07 **Appointment of Representatives to Foundation Trust Stakeholder Reference Group**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Ansell indicated that he was happy to support Christopher Blunt and Johanne Newens as the Partnership's representatives on the Foundation Trust Stakeholder Reference Group and it was.

Resolved

That the Partnership notes the decision made by the chairman to appoint Christopher Blunt and Johanne Newmens to the Foundation Trust Stakeholder Reference Group.

193/07 **Presentation Re: Foundation Trust**

Bridget Stacey, Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust, made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the public consultation surrounding the Foundation Trust. She reported that if Walsall became a Foundation Trust then power to make decisions on its future would move from Whitehall to Walsall. Over the next five years it was hoped to improve efficiency and productivity. She added that the Trust wanted ordinary people to become members of the Trust and hopefully become governors to assist in its running. To be a member you needed to be over 16 and live locally or be a patient at the hospital.

Members asked a number of questions which were replied to and it was.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted.

Councillor Rochelle thanked Bridget Stacey for her presentation.

194/07 **Green Bridge Project, Barr Beacon Visitors Centre**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Cherry Shine (Principal Regeneration Officer) gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Black Country Urban Park. She reported that the Black Country and the Urban Park bid was made up of the three flagship projects:-

- 'A green bridge' linking Walsall town centre via the Arboretum to West Bromwich town centre and Dartmouth Park:-
- Dudley's Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve and Seven Sisters Mines;
- Wolverhampton's Canals and Waterways.

If the bid was successful then the big lottery fund would award up to £50 million to carry out the scheme. She added that of the three hundred original applications made, six had been selected by the big lottery fund and £500,000 had been provided to work up the scheme. Part of the bid would see the Barr Beacon monument restored and a visitor centre provided in one of the five locations within the borough. She added that architects had been appointed to consider the suitability of each of the sites for the visitors centre and a consultation event, which was open to the public would be held at Walsall's New Art Gallery on Saturday 10 February 2007 between 10.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

Resolved

That the presentation and report be noted.

195/07 **Plaque to Commemorate Charles Bonner – VC**

Councillor Rochelle referred to the fact that Charles Bonner was Aldridge's only armed forces member to be awarded the Victoria Cross but little was made of it. He felt that as the war memorial was being restored this would be a good opportunity to remember Charles Bonner in some way. His name could not be included on the war memorial itself as he had not died on active service, but it had been suggested that a plaque should be provided within the enclosed area.

Cherry Shine (regeneration) reported that following consultation on the restoration of the Aldridge war memorial, the old benches, which would be replaced, would be relocated to Aldridge Cricket Club; the grass cross would remain in a raised position and the plaque to Charles Bonner would be provided on top of one of the dwarf walls surrounding the war memorial itself. She added that the rest of the restoration work would commence at the end of February and asked if the wording on the plaque could be agreed with the chairman.

Resolved

That a plaque to Charles Bonner VC be included in the restoration scheme for the Aldridge war memorial and the chairman of the Authority to agree the wording on the plaque.

195/07 **LNP Funding**

A report was submitted

(See annexed)

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) Notes progress on projects;
- (2) Notes the new projects for approval.

196/07 **Community Action Group - Update**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Johanne Newens reported on the Health and People Community Action Group held on 4 December 2006 and Ron Perks reported on the Safer and Stronger Community Action Group held on 22 January 2007. He referred to the fact that green and brown bins were not being returned to the curtilage of properties correctly and as a result a blind resident and her dog had become confused and disorientated. He asked if refuse operatives could be requested to replace bins in a tidy manner. He also drew attention to a spate of burglaries in the area and indicated that police had been taking prompt action and increasing patrols in response.

Resolved

- (1) That Local Neighbourhood Partnership members continue to attend the Community Action Group meetings;
- (2) That the progress of the Community Action Group be noted.

197/07 **Blackwood Road – Parking and Speeding Motorists**

Councillor Douglas-Maul referred to the problems arising in Blackwood Road from inconsiderate parking by parents delivering and collecting children from school. He added that this had been exacerbated by the speed of motorists using Blackwood Road.

Sergeant Hill (West Midlands Police) reported that police community support officers had been issuing standard charge tickets in the area.

Jenny Henney (Locally Appointed Partner) asked whether a pedestrian zone could be introduced in Blackwood Road as there were two schools there.

Councillor Rochelle indicated that he would take up these matters with the Council's Road Safety Officers.

Parking of Cars on Footpaths.

A Streetly resident referred to the increasing incidence of cars being parked entirely on the footpath to the detriment of mothers with pushchairs and the elderly and infirm.

Sergeant Hill reported that police officers recorded the registration numbers of the offending vehicles and if the owners parked in an inconsiderate way again, they were given a standard charge ticket. If they continued to park incorrectly after that then they could return to find that their vehicles had been moved to the police pound.

Resolved

That the comments be noted.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Aldridge Local Neighbourhood Partnership would be held on Monday 2 April 2007 at Aldridge School – A Science College, Tynings Lane, Aldridge, commencing at 7 pm.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 9.05 pm.

Chairman:

Date: