



Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 27th September 2005

Funding Priorities for Action

Portfolio:	Local Partnerships
Service Area:	Neighbourhood Services
Wards:	Bentley & Darlaston North Ward Darlaston South Ward

Summary of report

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership of progress to date with the funding priorities.

Recommendations

- (1) For LNP members to note the progress to date
- (2) For the LNP to review progress at the next meeting
- (3) To note each project will be formally assessed by the LNP Project Team to ensure they meet all of the agreed criteria.
- (4) To note each project will be passed to the relevant council officer who will liaise with project champion when required

Progress

1. The former Moxley Urban Farm / Citadel site:-
Feedback will be given at the LNP meeting
2. Town Centre development/ market layout/ Events on market days:-
 - HSBC Building/ LEGI:- The Council is preparing a bid for funding in 2006/07 from the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI). At this stage it is too early to know what the bid will comprise and whether the acquisition of the former HSBC Bank building would fit with the objectives and priorities of the bid. It is a competitive process and the bid may not succeed this year.

The LNP Budget is not sufficient to acquire the property and at this stage it would be unwise to carry out a feasibility study, until there is clearer knowledge of the intentions of HSBC and a willingness to be guided by the outcome of a study.

- **Market Layout:-** At the present time, the repositioning of the market is not practicable. In part, this is because the paved area beyond the original King Street highway line is owned by Asda. Additionally, the existing market traders feel that its linear nature is more conducive to good trade. Given there are only currently four traders, it would be better not to take risks with trading conditions. The immediate issue is more the appearance of the market stalls, and consideration is being given to introducing a more modern stall. This would have a beneficial impact on the street scene and may be more attractive to Asda customers who are not currently drawn into King Street. There are signs of increasing stall-holder interest, and investment in new stalls may help to stimulate this. There would ultimately be potential, with more stall-holders, then to consider the configuration. The cost of the new stalls is in the region of £8,000-£10,000. The LNP could consider making a financial contribution from its budget, which may assist in securing the balance of funding from elsewhere. A trial erection of two stall designs is under consideration.
- **Events on market days:-** Events would be encouraged. The Life Long and Community Directorate would be prepared to assist to stage new local events through provision of advice and assistance. A recommendation from the chair of the Events Committee, Councillor Bill Madeley to the LNP is to allocate between £2,000-£5,000 to have events across the LNP area.

3. Victoria Park or War memorial:- A Report will be tabled at the LNP meeting

Contact officer

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