

DARLASTON LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 4 January, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

Old Hall People's Partnership, Wing Close, Bentley, Walsall

Present

Councillor Bill Madeley (Chairman)
Denise Birkett
Ms. Sandra Borland
Ms. Sue Machin
Mr. Keith Middleton
Mrs. Sally Milne
Mr. David Owen
Ismail Patel
Mr. Rashid Varachhia
Councillor Graham Wilkes
Sgt. Hinsley

83/06 Meeting Inquorate

Councillor Madeley explained the reason the meeting was inquorate. However, using his discretion in accordance with Article 10 of the Council's Constitution, he said that the Partnership meeting would continue.

84/06 Introductions

Members, Council Appointed Partners, Locally Appointed Partners and Support Team Members introduced themselves to each other and members of the public present at the meeting.

85/06 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Burley, Chambers and Johnson, together with Cath Boneman, Peter Burton, Andy Clarke, Wendy Pearce, Tony Steadman and Inspector Michael Williams.

86/06 **Status of Meeting**

Councillor Wilkes expressed concern that the meeting was going ahead although inquorate. He was concerned that no decisions could be taken at this meeting.

Councillor Madeley advised that the Chief Executive had instructed that the meeting date could not be changed and he added that any decisions proposed could be ratified at the next meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

87/06 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2005, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the no. 24 for 34 in minute no 76/05.

88/06 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

89/06 **Petitions**

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

90/06 **Public Forum**

Mr. J. Cownley, 81 Pinfold Street, Darlaston

Mr. Cownley referred to the lack of parking in Pinfold Street. He referred to the parking areas which had previously existed in Pinfold Street between no. 24 and Black Horse Way and asked if they could be re-instated. He expressed concern that a Traffic Engineer was not present at the meeting to answer his concerns.

Councillor Madeley commented that he would be pleased to see the parking spaces re-instated to allow waiting for one hour in Pinfold Street and requested Traffic Management to consider this proposal. The matter could then be referred to Ward Councillors for approval.

Mr. Small, 33 Banfield Road, Wednesbury

Mr. Small advised the meeting that his wife, who is disabled, had fallen down because the street light had been moved from outside his home and relocated further along Banfield Road. He also stated that he wished to purchase an area of land to the side of his property to extend at the side of his home to assist his wife. He had applied for a facilities grant for this purpose. The cost of purchasing the land in question had risen from £1,500 in 2004/05 to £5,300 in 2005/06.

Councillor Madeley suggested that the matter be referred to Social Services for consideration and that the External Funding Team be requested to ascertain whether Mr. Small could be assisted with funding for the project.

Mr. Small also referred to the fact that properties in Rowley View and Heath Hayes had not received brown bins for garden waste or green bins for recyclable materials. It was suggested that Street Pride be advised of this problem.

Youth Inclusion Programme – Presentation by NACRO

Mark Anslow and Vikki Williams made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Youth Inclusion Programme.

A handout was handed to those present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

In response to questions from those present, Vicky Williams reported that NACRO worked with youngsters who would not normally attend formally structured activities such as youth clubs.

Councillor Madeley thanked Mark Anslow and Vicky Williams for their presentation.

91/06 External Funding

Suresh Pala of the External Funding Team made a presentation.

Suresh explained how the External Funding Team could assist organisations, or individuals, to access funding for projects. He added that the Team would also assist with the completion of applications for funding. Information on funding was provided through a weekly bulletin which could be accessed via e-mail.

Suresh then explained the structure of the unit advising that Mike Gaffney was responsible for lottery funding, Andrew Rainsford managed the whole team and he himself dealt with accessing ERDF and private funding.

Following questions from the Partnership, the presentation was noted.

92/06 Response to previous matters raised

Paul Wilde enlarged verbally on various matters which had been raised at previous meetings of the Partnership. The verbal report was noted.

93/06 Walsall Beacon Gateways

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Glen Buglass informed the meeting that the Community Arts Team was trying to create a corporate look for Walsall with signs at all the major entrances to the Borough. He informed the meeting that the gateway signs were being built at present and would be erected on site during June/July 2006. He asked for comments from the Partnership on the photographs which would represent Darlaston and its surroundings.

Concern was expressed that the couple in the top left hand photograph should be replaced with young people or the health centre on the welcome to Darlaston site. It was also suggested that a welcome to Bentley in Darlaston sign should be provided at a suitable location within the Bentley area. The Darlaston Town Centre sign, the welcome to Moxley sign and the welcome to Darlaston sign were all felt to be acceptable. The wording on the Mosque photograph should be removed and the Darlaston Town Centre sign with its description of Darlaston and a brief history of the Town should be sited in King Street near to the library.

Bruno Edwards explained how the signs were to be constructed and confirmed that they would be vandal resistant. He added that the process used to cover the signs would ensure that they did not fade or "weather" in sunlight.

Glen added that, because the signs were of a high quality and local people had been involved in their design, it was hoped they would be treated with respect.

94/06 Local Area Agreement

Ross Bell of the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership made a PowerPoint presentation regarding Local Area Agreements.

Ross Bell responded to questions from the Partnership and the presentation was noted.

95/06 Partnership plan and feedback from Task Groups

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The recommendations contained in the report were endorsed.

96/06 Funding priorities for action

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

A supplementary report was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

The Partnership endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

97/06 Improving security in neighbourhoods: Programme

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Lindsey Smith (Safer Walsall Borough Partnership) reported that, of the 19 schemes put forward, 5 would be completed by the end of March 2006. She added that unsuccessful sites could be put forward for consideration in future programmes.

Steve Lewis advised that the original 19 schemes had arisen from the bus tours of the Darlaston area. He added that, if the Partnership wished to see certain schemes carried out, then they could use their own funding if it was felt to be appropriate.

The Partnership endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

98/06 Rough Hay Road, Darlaston – Parking Problems

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Partnership noted the report.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting the terminated at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: