

PALFREY AND PLECK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 29th June, 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

at Palfrey Community Association, Milton Street, Palfrey, Walsall

Present

Councillor Dennis Anson
Councillor Joan Beilby
Mr. Michael Bentley
Mr. Allah Ditta
Mrs. Eileen Edwards
Mr. Gary Fulford
Inspector Andy Gilbert
Mrs. Mandy Holcroft
Mr. Manzoor Hussain
Mr. Matloob Hussain
Mr. Kirpal Kaliroy
Councillor Mohammad Munir
Mr. Mark Pulford
Mr. George Rowley
Councillor Harbans Sarohi
Councillor Mohammad Yasin

Councillor Gary Perry - Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Leisure and Culture

Officers

Mr. Narinder Singh Chumber
Mr. Rob Flinter
Mr. Tim Challans
Mrs. Kathy McAteer
Mr. Frazer Powell

50/05

Appointment of Chairman for the Municipal Year 2005/2006 and use of president

The following nominations were received for the appointment of Chairman for the Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) for the Municipal Year 2005/2006:-

Councillor Mohammad Yasin
Councillor Dennis Anson

The voting in respect of the two nominations was recorded as follows:-

Councillor Mohammad Yasin - 4 votes

Councillor Dennis Anson - 8 votes

Resolved

That Councillor Dennis Anson be appointed Chairman of the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership for the Municipal Year 2005/2006.

Councillor Dennis Anson in the Chair

51/05 **Introductions**

For the benefit of the members of the public present at the meeting, Members of the Partnership and officers introduced themselves and the organisations they represented.

52/05 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Aqeel Aslam and Mr. Keith Whittlestone.

53/05 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 31st March, 2005, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54/05 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mohammad Yasin and Mr. George Rowley declared personal non-prejudicial interests in respect of any item on the agenda relating to the Walsall Housing Group as they were both Members of the Walsall Housing Group.

Mr. Allah Ditta declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in respect of the report relating to the parking and turning of vehicles in Arundel Street, Walsall.

55/05

Petitions

A petition was submitted by Mrs. T. Elsworthy of 71 Countess Street, Palfrey on behalf of residents of Countess Street requesting the provision of gates to alleyways in that street in order to improve the security of properties.

Resolved

That the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership be requested to investigate the request detailed in the petition and advise whether finance is available to support the gating of alleyways in Countess Street, Palfrey and that a report on the matter be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership on 4th October, 2005.

56/05

Parking and turning of vehicles, Arundel Street, Walsall

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members were advised that the purpose of the report was to update the LNP on progress made on various issues in Arundel Street, Walsall which had been raised by way of petition presented by Mr. Allah Ditta to the meeting of the Partnership on 31st March, 2005.

Resolved

That officers be requested to seek the views of residents as to whether the action taken to date, as detailed in the report now submitted, relating to the problems caused by the parking and turning of vehicles in Arundel Street, Walsall has been effective and that a report on these findings be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership on 4th October, 2005.

57/05

Parking problems, Gower Street, Walsall

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Partnership was advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the initial investigations undertaken following the submission of a petition by Mr. George Rowley on behalf of residents of Gower Street regarding their concerns over parking problems in the area, particularly the residents of 76 - 90 Gower Street, requesting that the Council give consideration to the provision of a properly constructed vehicular access to their properties.

The Partnership was advised that both the Council's Street Pride and Urban Regeneration Team were carrying out initial investigations into a broad reaching improvement scheme for Gower Street and that potential funding streams and option appraisals would be investigated.

Resolved

That a report on possible funding options for a broad reaching scheme for environmental improvements for the whole of Gower Street, Walsall be submitted to the next meeting of the LNP in October, 2005.

58/05

Leisure provision in Palfrey Park, Pleck Park and the Camden Street Sports Arena

The Partnership received a presentation from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, Councillor Gary Perry, on leisure provision in the Palfrey Park, Pleck Park and Camden Street Sports Arena.

Councillor Perry advised the Partnership that a number of parks throughout the Borough had suffered from a legacy of poor investment in the past, but additional resources were now being provided and that it was intended to employ more full time staff in parks.

59/05

Palfrey Park

Councillor Perry gave a detailed presentation on the Palfrey Park Restoration and Regeneration Programme, which contained the following elements:-

- 3 year programme (2002-2005) to restore and regenerate the park based on a community owned master plan
- Restoration and regeneration programme aims
- To sensitively restore the Victorian infra-structure of the park whilst ensuring it is regenerated to meet the future needs of the local community
- £1.2 million improvements to the park which have been endorsed through community consultation
- Programme commenced in 2002 following a successful grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and SRB5
- Programme has been delivered in partnership with Palfrey Park Friends and Users Association, local residents and various community organisations in and around the park

60/05

Pleck Park

Councillor Perry gave a presentation to the Partnership and members of the public present on the Pleck Park Improvement Programme which included the works detailed below:-

- Provision of new and improved benches, litter bins and dog waste bins
- Comprehensive programme of soft landscaping improvements
- Improvements to the parks three entrances to improve access and make the park more welcoming
- Tree works to improve sightlines within the park
- Installation of a new park notice board
- Comprehensive programme of footpath improvements, including the provision of two new pathways which has created a circular route within the park
- Refurbishment of one of the park tennis courts to provide an informal “kick about area”
- Replacement of an old brick shelter with a new youth shelter
- Improvements to the park pavilion to enhance its appearance and allow increased community use of the building

Councillor Perry confirmed that funding would be sought in conjunction with the Friends of Pleck Park to implement projects detailed in the Pleck Park long term Development Plan.

61/05

Camden Street Sports Arena and Play Area

Councillor Perry advised that an inconclusive consultation exercise had been undertaken in 2001 relating to the use of the Camden Street site. He confirmed that a further consultation exercise in respect of the use of the Camden Street sports arena and play area would be undertaken with all users and residents and that a final decision on the proposals would be made following the production of the Walsall's Green Space Strategy.

There then followed a detailed discussion on the presentation and members of the public had the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

Mrs. Shirley Spencer, of 47-49 Dale Street, Palfrey, expressed concern that the CCTV camera in Palfrey Park had been destroyed and that, as a result, there had been a number of incidents of criminal damage involving damage to trees and benches which were not recorded on video. Mrs. Spencer said that fencing should be provided around the park perimeter and that the condition of the park path required further improvements.

Mrs. Spencer advised that the sports pitches in the Park were often water logged due to poor drainage which resulted in youths and adults congregating on the bowling green site.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, thanked Councillor Perry and Mr. Tim Challans for the presentation.

Resolved

That consideration of leisure provision in the Palfrey Park, Pleck Park, the Camden Street sports arena and the Alumwell Park be referred to the appropriate LNP Task Group for further consideration.

62/05

Public forum

Condition of roads and pavements within the LNP area

Mrs. McAtominey, of 12 Collins Street, said that she considered many of the roads and pavements in the LNP area were in poor condition, particularly the following locations:-

- Tame Street
- Collins Street
- Love Lane
- Redhouse Street

Mrs. McAtominey circulated a series of photographs to members showing the condition of various roads in the LNP area.

Resolved

That the concerns expressed by Mrs. McAtominey relating to the condition of Tame Street, Collins Street, Love Lane and Redhouse Street, Walsall be investigated by the Council's Street Pride service and that Mrs. McAtominey receive a written reply in respect of this issue.

63/05 **Construction works/tree removal - West Bromwich Road, Walsall**

Mr. Appleby, of 17 Sarah Gardens, Walsall expressed his concern at the lack of consultation with residents regarding the removal of trees in West Bromwich Road, Walsall, together with the works undertaken in that road and requested that he be provided with further information on this matter.

Resolved

That the concerns expressed by Mr. Appleby regarding the removal of trees in West Bromwich Road, Walsall, together with the works undertaken in that road be investigated by officers and that a written response be provided to him on this matter.

64/05 **Alley gating, Countess Street, Palfrey**

Mrs. Tina Elsworthy, of 71 Countess Street, Palfrey referred to the petition which had been submitted earlier in the meeting regarding a request for alleygating in Countess Street, Palfrey. She said that a number of residents had experienced criminal damage and theft from their properties. Mrs. Elsworthy confirmed that Walsall Police, the local Member of Parliament and the local Councillor had been advised of resident's concerns.

The Chairman confirmed that the issue would be referred to the Council's Safer Walsall Borough Partnership who would investigate the matter and report back to the LNP at its next meeting.

65/05 **Tower Blocks - Pleck, Walsall**

Mr. Peter Ruston of 68 Taylor House, Pleck, advised the Partnership that he was a Chairman of the Pleck Residents Association and that he was concerned at the proposals by the Walsall Housing Group to demolish six of the tower blocks in the Pleck area. Mr. Ruston said he considered there had been a lack of consultation with the residents of the tower blocks regarding the proposals and considered that the demolition proposals could breach the original transfer agreement between Walsall Council and the Walsall Housing Group.

66/05 **Youth facilities in the Delves**

Mr. P. Anderson of 3 Bell Lane, Delves, Walsall said he was worried by the lack of youth facilities provided in the Delves and Alumwell areas of the LNP and that this issue should be investigated by the Partnership.

Resolved

That the provision of youth facilities in both the Delves and Alumwell areas be considered at the relevant LNP Task Group meeting.

67/05

Condition of Scarborough Road, Alumwell

Mrs. D. Govan, of 3 Scarborough Close, said that the condition of the road and footways in Scarborough Road was very poor and asked that the matter be investigated and action taken.

Resolved

That the comments of Mrs. Govan regarding the poor condition of Scarborough Road be referred to the Council's Street Pride service area and that they be requested to investigate the matter and reply in writing accordingly.

68/05

Community Wardens

Mr. Kallam advised the Partnership that the Community Wardens were part of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership. Members were advised that the issue of anti-social behaviour throughout the Borough was a major concern to many people. Mr. Kallam confirmed that Wardens had no legal powers but would forward information onto the Police and that Wardens worked with a number of agencies to provide an active network throughout the local community which helped provide a safer environment.

Following a number of questions from Members, the Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, thanked Mr. Kallam for the presentation.

Resolved

That the work of the Community Wardens Service be referred to the appropriate LNP Task Group for further consideration and that an officer from the service be requested to attend the meeting.

69/05

Partnership Plan, including feedback from Task Group meetings

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the LNP endorse the changes and additions to the Partnership Plan;

- (2) That the LNP agree to the alteration of the “neighbourhoods” within the Key Area Statistics chart, detailed on page 8 of the Partnership Plan;
- (3) That LNP Members continue to attend workshop meetings;
- (4) That individual LNP Members encourage wider participation from members of the public at Task Group meetings.

70/05 **Funding Priorities for Action**

A report, together with a supplementary report, were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the LNP:-

- (1) Note that each project will be formally assessed by the LNP Project Team to ensure they meet all of the agreed criteria;
- (2) Note that each project will be passed to the relevant Council officer who will liaise with the Project Champion when required;
- (3) Receive a feedback report to its October, 2005 meeting from the Project Champions on progress made.

71/05 **Involving Young People**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the work carried out to date be noted;
- (2) That Mr. Mark Pulford be nominated by the LNP to undertake the role of “Young People’s Champion”;
- (3) That young people be requested to observe the LNP meetings in October, 2005 and January, 2006;
- (4) That the LNP continue to consider other ways of involving young people in its work.

72/05

Gateways Project

The LNP received a presentation from Mr. Bruno Edwards of the Community Arts Section of Leisure Services. Members were advised that the Gateway Project was part of Walsall's Strategic Corridors and Gateways Regeneration Initiative. The Gateways Project aims to:-

- Improve the visual quality of the main gateway entry points to the Borough of Walsall
- Development of a distinctive "brand" for Walsall which promotes the Borough's major assets
- Creation of quality environments in key locations that support existing business and residential communities and attract people into the Borough of Walsall
- Development of local district themes, which help to strengthen local identity and have strong local support

The Partnership and members of the public present at the meeting were advised that the themes for gateways would be developed with local communities on which they would impact and would be reflective of Walsall's strengths and would echo community aspirations for the Borough's future. It was confirmed that the public would have the opportunity to contribute to the Gateways Project.

The members of the public indicated that they would wish to see some form of signage in commemoration of the work of Sister Dora and a way of using the white horse image for the Palfrey area.

Resolved

That the presentation on the Gateways Project be noted.

73/05

Dates, times and venues for future LNP meetings

Resolved

- (1) That the meetings of the Palfrey and Pleck Local Neighbourhood Partnership alternate between the venues stated below:-

Tuesday, 4 th October, 2005	Alumwell Business and Enterprise College, Primley Avenue, Walsall
Thursday, 5 th January, 2006	Joseph Leckie Community Technology College, Walstead Road West, Walsall

Wednesday, 29th March, 2006

Alumwell Business and
Enterprise College,
Primley Avenue, Walsall

- (2) That the start time for the LNP meetings detailed at (1) above be 6.30 p.m. for each meeting.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 9.40 p.m.

Chairman

Date