

DARLASTON LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, 27 September, 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

at Moxley People's Centre, Queen Street, Moxley

Present

Councillor Keith Chambers
Councillor Ayshea Johnson
Ms. Sue Machin
Mr. Keith Middleton
Mrs. Sally Milne
Ismail Patel
Mr. Rashid Varachhia
Councillor Graham Wilkes
Sgt. Benbow
Mr. Steve Vincent – West Midlands Fire Service

69/05 Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting

Mr. Wilde reported that Councillor Madeley had submitted his apologies for the meeting so a Chairman was required. He asked for nominations for the Chairman and it was **moved** and **seconded**:-

That Councillor Chambers be appointed as
Chairman for this meeting.

Resolved

That Councillor Chambers be appointed as Chairman for this meeting.

Councillor Chambers in the Chair

70/05 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.

71/05 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Madeley, Burley, Bott and Partners, Peter Burton, David Owen, Andy Clarke and Tony Steadman.

72/05 **Letter from Annie Shepperd – Chief Executive
Re: Request for change of dates for Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership**

The letter from Annie Shepperd, Chief Executive, dated 16 August 2005, was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Chambers asked if Members had any comments on the contents on the Chief Executive's letter.

Councillor Wilkes commented that this meeting was just quorate. He felt there were occasions when dates of meetings should be changed.

Councillor Chambers suggested that the Partnership's concern over the decision to change the dates of the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership should be forwarded to the Chief Executive.

Resolved

That the Partnership registers its concern that the request for changes in the dates of the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership has not been acceded to.

73/05 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2005, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

74/05 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Wilkes declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in any item relating to Darlaston Community Science College.

Sally Milne declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in any item relating to Darlaston Community Association.

75/05 **Petitions**

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

76/05 **Public Forum**

Mr. J. Cownley, 81 Pinfold Street, Darlaston

Mr. Cownley asked if parking provision could be provided in Pinfold Street between no. 34 and Black Horse Way to assist the shops in that section of Pinfold Street.

Resolved

That Traffic Management be requested to consider providing on-street car parking in Pinfold Street, Darlaston, between no 34. and Black Horse Way and that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership on this matter and a Traffic Engineer be requested to attend the meeting.

Mr. Small, 33 Banfield Road, Wednesbury

Mr. Small reported a dangerous tree outside no. 11 Lansbury Avenue, the tree affected television reception for the occupier of no. 11 (Mrs. Dike). The tree had been lopped in the past, but needed further attention. Its roots were lifting the surface of the footpath making it impossible for wheelchair users to travel along that section of the footpath.

Resolved

That Street Pride be requested to investigate the dangerous tree outside no. 11 Lansbury Avenue, Wednesbury.

Large tree corner of Banfield Road and Large Avenue, Wednesbury

Mr. Small referred to the large tree at the corner of Banfield Road and Large Avenue, the roots of which were lifting the tarmac making it difficult for wheelchair users or mothers with prams or pushchairs to use the footpath. He asked if some action could be taken to re-instate the footpath in this area.

Resolved

That Street Pride be requested to investigate the damage to the footpath caused by the roots of the large tree at the corner of Banfield Road and Large Avenue, Wednesbury and take any appropriate remedial action.

Barrier along the A41

Mr. Small expressed concern that the barrier along the A41 was not substantial enough to prevent vehicles which left the carriageway from ending up in the gardens of adjoining houses. He was also concerned that the houses could be overlooked from the roadway giving them no privacy.

Councillor Wilkes advised the meeting that the Black Country Development Corporation had granted permission for this road scheme despite objections from the Darlaston Area Planning Committee which was concerned about the overlooking problem and the unacceptable access to the public house.

Members suggested that an appropriate Officer should meet with Mr. Small to hear all his concerns then report back on all the problems arising from the A41. It was also suggested that a Ward Councillor should attend the meeting and that Councillor Bott should be advised of this meeting by letter.

Councillor Johnson suggested that the Highway Agency should also be kept informed as the A41 was a trunk road.

Resolved

- (1) That Mr. Small meet with an appropriate Officer and Councillor Wilkes to discuss all his concerns regarding the A41;
- (2) That Councillor Bott be advised of all developments.

Brown Bins

Mr. Small complained that there were no brown bins or green boxes in Rowley View or Heath Hayes.

It was reported that the brown bin scheme was being rolled out across the whole of the Borough as resources permitted.

Steve Lewis reported that free composters were offered to those people who had not yet received brown bins.

Resolved

That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership detailing all of those areas without brown bins within the Darlaston LNP area.

Matters raised on behalf of Peter Burton – Locally Appointed Partner

Peter had raised concerns over the lack of support from the CEN for Community Forums in the Darlaston area. It was agreed that the CEN should be requested to respond directly to Peter Burton on this matter.

Police complaint – Log numbers not being issued

Peter Burton had raised the fact that when people contacted the police to advise them of minor crimes, certain Officers were refusing to supply them with log numbers. Sgt. Benbow reported that, if people could not obtain log numbers, they should ask for the Officer's name and report the matter to Sgt. Terry Pitt at Bloxwich Police Station who would investigate the matter and arrange for a back-dated log to be provided.

Lack of matters arising on the agenda

Peter Burton had expressed concern that there was no mechanism for the Partnership to discover what had happened in respect of matters which the Local Neighbourhood Partnership had asked for action on. It was agreed that feed-back on issues raised by way of public forum/petitions would be included on future agendas.

77/05 Partnership Plan and Feedback from Task Groups

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Referring to Darlaston Place Check, Narinder reported that a report detailing the findings from the bus tours undertaken as part of Place Check would be finalised shortly and reported to the appropriate task group.

Councillor Johnson expressed concern at the lack of publicity for LNPs. She added she would like to see full page advertisements for LNP meetings in local newspapers.

Lindsey Smith (LNP Community Liaison Officer) explained how LNP meetings were currently advertised. She added that information about LNPs could also be found in the Council's newspaper – Walsall Pride.

Resolved

- (1) That LNP Members continue to attend workshop meetings;
- (2) That individual LNP Members continue to encourage wider participation from community members within the task groups;
- (3) That the Partnership notes the progress of Transforming Your Space Schemes;
- (4) That the Partnership agrees to undergo a Partnership Plan review.

78/05 Youth Update

A report by Peter Burton was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Narinder Singh Chumber requested the Partnership to endorse the conclusions contained in the report.

Sally Milne stated that the lack of provision for youth in Darlaston was a major concern. She agreed that the REC in Rough Hay was a disgrace and highlighted the fact that the boys club provided the only youth provision in Darlaston at this time.

Councillor Johnson requested that Jan Madeley (Youth Worker for Darlaston) be invited to attend future Partnership meetings.

Resolved

- (1) That the conclusions contained in the youth update report be endorsed;
- (2) That Peter Burton be thanked for his efforts and be requested to develop his proposals further at a future meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

Narinder also drew attention to the work undertaken by the Health Task Group.

Referring to the Crime and Environment Task Group, he reported that the next meeting would be held on 13 October and a report on its actions would be submitted to the January meeting of the Partnership.

With regard to the Partnership Plan, Narinder suggested that the Partnership should hold a workshop to provide an opportunity to revisit current actions in the plan; review the statistical data and update the information from Partner organisations to develop a clear set of actions and pledges for the next 12 months.

Resolved

That LNP Members:-

- (1) continue in attendance at workshop meetings;
- (2) encourage wider participation from community members within the Task Groups;
- (3) note the progress of Transforming Your Space schemes;
- (4) agree to undergo the Partnership Plan review.

79/05 **Funding priorities for action**

A report was submitted;-

(see annexed)

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

(see annexed)

Steve Lewis (Regeneration) reported that boundary improvements would be carried out at Moxley Urban Farm.

In respect of the proposals for Darlaston Town Centre, it was reported that events would be arranged on market days. With regard to the HSBC building, it was stated the acquisition of the building could prove to be difficult. In response to questions regarding the future use of the building, Brian Pell stated that no proposals had come forward yet.

In respect of events, it was reported that Councillor Madeley was championing this project. It was suggested that £5,000 should be allocated to the event programme.

With regard to the re-orientation of the market stalls, it was suggested that the Local Neighbourhood Partnership should provide a financial contribution to the scheme.

Councillor Johnson expressed concern that the opportunity to improve the market should not be lost attempting to placate the few stallholders who currently traded there.

Councillor Wilkes referred to the poor condition of King Street and the number of shop units vacant in that area. He felt that the problem needed addressing urgently. Brian Pell reported that he had met with Councillor Madeley and the Markets Manager on site to assess the scale of the problem. He agreed that the market area had become an eyesore which detracted from Darlaston Town Centre.

Referring to the existing market arrangement, Brian stated that traders preferred the existing linear setting for the market. However, the provision of new stalls would bring colour to the market and might encourage new traders in.

Councillor Wilkes suggested that the market could be improved by introducing charity markets, Christmas markets, continental markets and farmers' markets.

It was also suggested that Sunday markets should be tried and that car boot sales could be held on the market area once a month for a trial period.

Councillor Wilkes felt it was essential for the old market stalls to be replaced if the market was to prosper.

With regard to Victoria Park, Steve Lewis reported that two plans showing improvements had been displayed. It was proposed that the LNP would fund the provision of new benches and plaques within the improvement scheme.

In response to a request for how the remainder of the LNPs monies should be spent, Rashid Varachhia suggested that some monies should be used to improve the building used by Darlaston Table Tennis Club and Councillor Johnson suggested that the County Bridge Community Group should be given £2,000 to help them clear out the Bentley Lodge fishing pool.

Narinder undertook to assess these two proposals to ensure they met the required criteria and it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That an allocation of £5,000 be made to the Events Committee to arrange events throughout the LNP area;
- (2) That a trial erection of two stall designs be carried out as part of the scheme to improve Darlaston market;
- (3) That a contribution of £3,000 be made towards the provision of benches and plaques as part of the Victoria Park/War Memorial Improvement Scheme;
- (4) That the schemes proposed by Rashid Varachhia (table tennis club building) and Councillor Johnson (Bentley Lodge fishing pool) be assessed and reported back to the next meeting of the Partnership.

80/05 Children's Centres and Extended Schools

Michael Hiscox (Education Walsall) made a PowerPoint presentation regarding children's centres and extended schools. A copy of the presentation was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the PowerPoint presentation be noted.

81/05 Victoria Park, Darlaston – Restoration and Improvement Works

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

82/05 External Funding

It was reported that Andrew Rainsford should have made a PowerPoint presentation regarding external funding, but he had been unable to return from a conference in Wales in order to attend the meeting. It was agreed that Andrew be invited to attend the next meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership to give his presentation.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting the terminated at 7.45 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: