

DARLASTON LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, 5 July, 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

at Darlaston Town Hall, Victoria Road, Darlaston

Present

Councillor Bill Madeley (Chairman)
Denise Birkett
Cath Boneham
Ms. Sandra Borland
Councillor Rose Burley
Mr. Peter Burton
Councillor Keith Chambers
Councillor Ayshea Johnson
Ms. Sue Machin
Mrs. Sally Milne
Mr. David Owen
Ismail Patel
Mr. Rashid Varachhia
Councillor Graham Wilkes
Sergeant Ashby

53/05 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.

54/05 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. Andy Clarke, Mr. Keith Middleton and Mr. Tony Steadman – Locally Appointed Partners.

55/05 Minutes

Referring to minute no. 38/05 – Road Safety – Western Avenue, Bentley, Councillor Chambers reported that monitoring equipment had been provided in Western Avenue but, within two days, the equipment had been vandalised.

Referring to minute no. 39/05 – Rough Hay Road – Dispersal Orders, Peter Burton expressed concern that there were no police officers present to answer the questions he wished to raise.

Referring to minute no. 45/05, Councillor Chambers referred to no dog fouling signs which had recently been erected in locations throughout Darlaston. John Beavon (Support Team) reported that no dog fouling signs had been erected in various locations, but a number had been subject to vandalism or had been removed completely. He added that a new supply of signs had been received recently and had been re-erected. The dog wardens intended to control these areas in an attempt to catch those responsible for the vandalism or removal of the signs.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2005, a copy having been circulated to each member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

56/05 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Burley declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in any item relating to the Darlaston Housing Trust.

David Owen declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in any item relating to the Darlaston Housing Trust, Rubery Owen, RHAA and Darlaston Boys Club.

Councillor Madeley declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item relating to Leys Hall.

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

Denise Birkett declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in any item relating to the Bentley Old Peoples Centre.

7/05 Petitions

A petition containing 92 signatures from traders and residents of the Rough Hay area requesting the removal/re-siting of the telephone kiosk in Hall Street East was handed to the Partnership by Peter Burton.

The Partnership received the petition and agreed to forward it to the appropriate officer for consideration.

Councillor Burley reported that she had written in the past to British Telecom requesting the removal of the kiosk and had been advised that it could not be removed as it was well used.

A petition containing 138 signatures from traders and residents of the Rough Hay area of Darlaston requesting CCTV cameras be provided in the vicinity of the BT telephone kiosk in Hall street East was handed to the Partnership by Peter Burton.

The Partnership received the petition and agreed to forward it to the appropriate officer for consideration.

Public Forum

58/05 Pinfold Street, Darlaston – Parking Prohibition

Mr. Cownley, 81 Pinfold Street, Darlaston, requested that limited parking be allowed in that section of Pinfold Street between no. 24 and Black Horse Way.

Councillor Madeley referred to the fact that Ward Councillors had been consulted over the waiting prohibitions and had supported the proposals. He added that, if parking bays were to be re-instated, then the support of Ward Councillors would be required

Mr. Cownley reported that Black Horse Way was a private road and people who parked there whilst shopping on Pinfold Street or visiting the medical centre or pharmacy were in danger of being clamped.

It was reported that a number of small businesses in Pinfold Street were suffering because of a lack of convenient parking in the area.

Resolved

That a report on the parking provision in Pinfold Street be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

59/05 Traffic Barrier on A41

Mr. Small of 33 Banfield Road, Darlaston, referred to the recent bus tour of Darlaston and to his request for a stronger barrier separating traffic on the A41 from the adjoining service road. He had been advised by Officers that, as there had been only three accidents on that stretch of road and none had resulted in vehicles crossing the barrier onto the service road, it was felt no action should be taken to replace the barrier at this time.

Mr. Small also requested that a pedestrian crossing be provided in Dangerfield Lane as children and parents crossed the road four times a day travelling to and from school. He asked for the Partnership's support for a crossing.

Councillor Madeley suggested that Mr. Small should obtain a petition in support of the crossing which could then be submitted to Traffic Management Officers for consideration.

60/05 **Waste Land between Castle Street and Booth Street, Darlaston**

Mrs. Shaw reported that the waste land between Castle Street and Booth Street was overgrown. She asked who owned it.

Councillor Madeley indicated that the site was in private ownership. Planning permission had been granted for a housing scheme, but it had not been implemented.

Bryan Pell (Support Officer) suggested that Officers should consider serving a Section 215 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, requiring the owner to tidy the site. He added that he would advise Mrs. Shaw and Ward Councillors of the results of the investigation.

61/05 **Funding Priorities for Action**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Narinder Singh Chumber (Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer) explained the background to the report. Referring to item no. 6 - the former Moxley Urban Farm/Citadel site, Narinder reported that this would be forwarded to Safer Walsall Borough Partnership for consideration under their situational resources programme.

Referring to events on market days, Councillor Madeley reported that it was proposed to hold an event on 20 August when a vintage fire engine would be parked in the market area. A further event celebrating Christmas would take place on the 9 December.

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

(see annexed)

After further detailed discussion, it was:-

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes each project will be formally assessed by the Local Neighbourhood Partnership Project Team to ensure they meet all of the agreed criteria;
- (2) notes each project will be passed to the relevant Council Officer who will liaise with the Project Champions when required;
- (3) agrees to receive feedback from the Project Champions on progress at the next local Neighbourhood Partnership meeting.

62/05 Partnership Plan and Feedback from Task Groups

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Demographic and Health Profile of Darlaston LNP and the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership Plan were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Following detailed discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) endorses the changes and additions to the Partnership Plan;
- (2) encourages members to continue to attend workshop meetings;
- (3) requests individual Local Neighbourhood Partnership members to encourage wider participation from community members within the task groups.

63/05 Involving Young People

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Narinder Singh Chumber explained the background to the report.

Peter Burton advised that Youth Opinions United wanted feedback from LNP meetings and had requested representation on the Partnership.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the work carried out to date be noted;
- (2) That Peter Burton be nominated to undertake the role of “Young People’s Champion”;
- (3) That it be agreed that young people should observe the LNP meeting in September 2005 or January 2006;

- (4) That the Partnership considers other ways of involving young people in the Partnership process.

64/05 Youth Work in Darlaston LNP Area

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Raqia Akhtar (Darlaston Youth Worker) explained the background to the report.

Discussion ensued over the problems facing the Youth Service in Darlaston which referred to the problem of recruiting youth workers; the difficulties surrounding Darlaston Youth Centre and the problems of the lease for Darlaston Community Association.

Sergeant Ashby referred to the new legislation which had been introduced, including dispersal orders, which had succeeded in calming trouble spots. However, it was not a complete solution as it tended to move the problem to another area rather than stamping it out.

Councillor Madeley referred to the need for additional facilities in the Rough Hay, Dangerfield and Darlaston Central areas.

David Owen (Locally Appointed Partner) suggested that Leys Hall could be used and managed for youth provision.

After further discussion it was:

Resolved

That the report be noted.

65/05 Letter from Darlaston Community Association Limited

Peter Burton (Locally Appointed Partner) referred to the letter from the Darlaston Community Association Limited dated 4 July 2005, a copy of which was handed to Partners at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

He asked for additional information on this matter and also referred to the poor condition of the all weather pitch.

Sally Milne (Locally Appointed Partner) reported that the all weather pitch had been targeted by vandals and approximately 60 metres of lining had been torn up. The pitch itself had also been damaged. The Community Association was arranging for the pitch to be repaired.

Referring to the letter, Sally Milne reported that funding streams for the Community Association had been cut drastically at short notice. The roof of the building had collapsed leading to leaks which had ruined the floor making it unusable. A meeting was taking place on 6 July 2005, regarding the replacement of the floor.

Sally indicated that the Community Association needed a 21 year lease in order to attract funding. At a meeting in March 2004, it had been indicated that work on the lease would be completed shortly.

In December 2004, a letter had been received from Legal Services indicating that the work was being put out to a private company. On 29 June 2005, a letter had been received from the Association's solicitors advising them not to sign the lease agreement because of a number of problems with it. Once the lease was signed, the Association could obtain a revenue grant which would help it to survive. The Association could not access the grant without a lease. She added that, if there was no movement on this and other matters urgently, then the Community Association would have to make major decisions in the next 2 months.

Councillor Madeley stated that the letter had been forwarded to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council. He requested that the Community Association's problems be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Resolved

That the Chief Executive and the Head of Legal Services be requested to assist Darlaston Community Association to obtain its lease as a matter of urgency.

66/05 Dates, Times and Venues for Meetings of the LNP for 2005/06

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Referring to the dates for future meetings, Councillor Madeley stated that the Partnership had discussed the matter and wished to make the following amendments:-

Delete: 27 September 2005
Substitute: 21st September, 2005

Delete: 4 January, 2006
Substitute: 11 or 12 January 2006

Delete: 27 March 2006
Substitute: 16 March 2006

It was felt that existing venues should be used for meetings which should commence at 6.00 p.m.

Resolved

- (1) That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership agrees to future meetings being held at appropriate locations within each Ward on a rotational basis, subject to the venue being available on the dates allocated for future meetings;
- (2) That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership confirms that meetings continue to be held at 6.00 p.m.;
- (3) That meetings of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership be held on the following dates:-

21st September, 2005
11 or 12 January 2006
16 March 2006

67/05 Operations in July

Reference was made to the problems of reporting crime. It was felt that the police were doing a good job, but the 0800 number had not been successful.

Sergeant Ashby admitted that there had been problems with the help desk as there were not enough operators to cope with the weight of complaints. He added that people could now report crimes to the community wardens in an attempt to improve the situation.

Sergeant Ashby reported that the Borough Resources Action Group (BRAG) had arranged for 10 extra constables to be deployed in the Darlaston area during July/ Many issues could be tackled with the use of this additional manpower. A hotline number had been advertised on which messages could be left.

Councillor Madeley referred to the fact that part of Darlaston fell within the Willenhall police area and suggested that a representative from Willenhall police should be invited to future meetings of the Partnership.

Resolved

That a representative from the Willenhall police be invited to attend future meetings of the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

68/65 There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: