

WILLENHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 20 January 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

at New Invention Junior School, Cannock Road, New Invention, Willenhall

Present

Councillor I. Shires (Chairman)
Councillor Bentley
Inspector J. Bostock
Mr. J. Clarke
Councillor Cook
Mr. R. Pandaal
Councillor Mrs. E.E. Pitt
Mr. A. Porter
Councillor Mrs D. Shires
Mr. S. Taylor
Councillor Woodruff

20/05 Introductions

For the benefit of all present, the members and officers introduced themselves at the meeting.

21/05 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor S. Coughlan, Mr. D. Drewe, Mr. P. Griffin, Councillor H. Withnall, Mr. I. Saville.

22/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2004, were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2004, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23/05 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24/05 Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

25/05 Public forum

Mr. S. Farrow of 36 Queens Lea, Willenhall addressed the Partnership as a representative of Barrhale Bowls Club, stating that over the last 7 years the club had used the Noose Lane, Willenhall site and last advised that the green would no longer be cut as the site had transferred to Leisure Service, Education without any consultation with the users of the land. He referred to consultation that had taken place with three schools in the area that were being closed but no consultations had taken place with the bowls club or the football club and he asked the Partnerships view on the way the bowls club and football club had been treated in terms of lack of consultation.

Mr. Challans, support officer, agreed to respond to Mr. Farrow's concerns in writing.

Mr. J. Weston of Fen Rise, Willenhall asked how issues raised at the Partnership would be taken forward to the Council, he asked what procedures were in place.

The Chairman advised that one of the Partnerships tasks was to produce a local partnership plan in the first 12 months. The outcome of which would influence the work of the Partnership. The consultation would take place on the draft plan and feedback facilities would be available thereby giving local people an opportunity to feed into the Council's policy procedures. The plan would be seeking short, medium and long term gains.

Mr. Randhawa advised the Partnership that task groups were being set up to consider various issues and members of the public would be invited to attend. The Community Empowerment Network was setting up forums for members of the public to feed into and one of their representatives would be appointed to each Partnership.

In response to points raised, Mr. Johnson informed the Partnership that Cabinet had earmarked funds for the LNP to bid into and priorities would be assessed against criteria.

Ms. V. Stanway, 46 Farmhouse Road, Manor Farm addressed the Committee on issues relating to a children's play area at Manor Farm.

Mr. Tranter (Regeneration, Housing and Built Environment) informed the Partnership that the issue part of the transforming your space programme which was lottery funded and work under that programme would be implemented in the new financial year. Consultation was on going with residents of the area and schemes would be implemented in the summer period. Further information on transforming your space would be considered later in the agenda.

In response to a question raised by Mrs S. Nightingale, Farmhouse Road, the Partnership was advised that planning permission had been granted to cap the old tip and this would should be completed in the near future and the site revert to public open space.

Mrs Nightingale also referred to vandalism of the previous play area.

26/05 **Transforming your space**

(a) Notes of task group meeting – 1 December 2004

The notes of the task group meeting held on 1 December 2004, were submitted:-

(see annexed)

With regard to the Coppice Farm area, the Chairman advised that the working group would need to meet to consider this matter further and report back to the Partnership.

Resolved

That the notes be received and a meeting of the Environment Working Group take place before the next LNP meeting.

(b) Update

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Tranter advised the Partnership that an agreement had been reached between regeneration, lifelong learning and transforming your space that the areas would be maintained.

Resolved

- (1) That the presentation be received and, subject to the amended projects satisfying the criteria for lottery funding, approval be given to £34,000 being divided equally between Hartill Street Open Space and Willenhall Memorial Park;
- (2) That the remainder of the funding be divided equally between Manor Farm and Hawthorne Road Open Space;
- (3) That consultations take place with residents and young people in the area;
- (4) That the Environmental Working Group be requested to consider the outstanding open space issues, including Coppice Farm Open Space.

27/05 Crime and disorder plan

Inspector Gwyn Bevan, Local Authority Liaison Officer representing the Police Community within the safer Walsall borough partnership together with Mr. K. Newell of crime concern, gave a brief presentation to the Partnership on the crime and disorder reduction strategy. The audit was completed following extensive data collection and consultation with many agencies including the Disability Forum.

Government targets have been set at 15% but areas with high crime rate, the target is 20%. Walsall has now set its target at 20%, as it is a high crime rate area, to be achieved by 2008.

Strategic issues:-

- Acquisitive crime – domestic burglary, vehicle crime and robbery;
- Anti-social behaviour – violent crime, criminal damage, street disorder, prostitution (victims);
- Youth crime – reducing offending levels;
- Fear of crime and vulnerability – young people as victims, domestic violence and race/hate crime;
- Drugs and alcohol;
- Road safety.

Fear of crime has been reduced so far from 81% to 70% - the target was 69%.

To date a 16% reduction in all crime types has been achieved the target being 14% this includes violence and against the national trend there has been a 1% reduction.

The framework will be ready on 24 January, and will be taken to strategic board on 25 January and will then go out for consultation.

Resolved

That the presentation be received and the comments taken on board when developing the draft neighbourhood plan.

28/05 Place check

Mr. Lord, Regeneration, Housing and the Built Environment, gave a brief presentation on the principles of “place check” as a community engagement technique, a copy of which was circulated:-

(see annexed)

After consideration it was:-

Resolved

That the Partnership agree to take on board the principles of Place Check for the workshop in respect of the partnership plan and that members agree to take up the training.

29/05 Partnership Plan

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That the report be accepted;
- (b) That a working group consisting of all members of the Partnership be established to produce a draft plan prior to consultation with residents, the first meeting to take place as soon as possible.

30/05 Physical Access Audits

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members expressed the view that an audit should be undertaken in respect of sensory and other disabilities.

Resolved

That the report be noted

31/05 **Training and development plan**

The report of the Head of Organisational Development was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That the Sub-Group be requested to consider the key awareness/ training and development issues required for the Partnership and that these align to the Local Neighbourhood Plan;
- (b) That training and development be included as a standing item on the quarterly agenda.

32/05 **Date of next meeting**

The partnership noted that the next meeting would be held on 18 April 2005 at a venue to be agreed.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: