

Pheasey & Paddock LNP – 11th July 2005

Funding Priorities for Action

Purpose of the Report

To inform the LNP members of the funding priorities workshop that took place on 29th June 2005 and the next steps forward.

Recommendations

1. To note each project will be formally assessed by the LNP Project Team to ensure they meet all of the agreed criteria.
2. To note each project will be passed to the relevant council officer who will liaise with project champion when required
3. To receive feedback from the project champions on progress at the next LNP meeting

Background

Pheasey & Paddock LNP have been allocated £22,000 as a one-off sum to support the implementation and delivery of the local Partnership Plan.

To help decide which projects and schemes should receive financial support from the financial allocation a checklist of questions has been produced and previously approved by Council Cabinet. A positive answer to most questions should help each LNP to justify and prioritise their funding priorities as well as demonstrate appropriate accountability.

The key questions included in the checklist cover the following:

- Resources must be for 'one-off' items that will have visible local impact
- Must be a demonstrable link to priorities identified in LNP local plan
- Must be a demonstrable link to Council Vision 2008 priorities
- Must not be contrary to council policy
- What is the impact of the proposed spending – e.g. who will benefit, how will they benefit, numbers of people who will benefit?
- Does the spending provide Value for Money?
- Will the proposed spending lever in any 'match funding' from other partners or other agencies?
- Any resources allocated will need a named officer responsible for spending the money in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules/Contract Procedure Rules.

The process for LNP's spending their resource allocation has been agreed by cabinet, as follows:

- LNP task group completes funding checklist for each proposal
- Report to LNP meeting outlining funding priorities
- LNP chair signs the completed checklists
- LNP Project team confirms checklist is complete and passes form to relevant service area.
- Progress reports by project champion to LNP meeting.

Feedback from the workshop

The list below displays the actions within the partnership plan which were selected, the actions are listed in the order as determined by the participants, 1 is the most prioritised action:

1. Ensure facilities across the LNP area provide equivalent access
2. Bus Services – Services need to improve for Pheasey, Poor connecting service to Aldridge/Streetly or Walsall. No service to Walsall at all after 6pm.
- 3a. Extend ‘park and ride’ scheme for Pheasey residents
- 3b. Implement Park and Ride service close to the Quality Hotel on the A34
- 3c. Primary care in Paddock
- 4a. Investigate options to introduce walking buses scheme
- 4b. Conduct a comprehensive traffic survey to establish local needs
- 4c. Better transport access for elders
- 4d. Improve community transport
- 4e. Phone Masts – Does the council have strategy for installation of masts? Does this prevent installation on council owned land? Is there any potential to install masts on existing structures such as pylons etc?
5. Improvements to Doe Bank Park car park and building

Joint
priority
level

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Following the priorities exercise members formed 2 groups to discuss the options selected, below is a description of the discussions.

1. **Ensure facilities across the LNP area provide equivalent access** - This priority received the most support. As the priority is very broad and generic members were encouraged to generate tangible project ideas. From discussions the following projects were suggested:
 - **Park Hall Community Association refurbishment** – Members felt that the CA is very successful in providing community services and should therefore receive some support from the LNP. Park Hall CA have attended a LNP meeting in the past and requested for the LNP to provide some support in refurbishing the building. The approximate cost for this project is £4,000.

- **Collingwood Centre** - Members felt that the Collingwood Centre is very successful in providing community services and should therefore receive some support from the LNP. Members felt that £4000 should be allocated for improvement and refurbishment related costs.
2. **Bus Services** - A lot of discussion took place in regards to how bus services could be improved. Members agreed it was a big issue to tackle particularly as many bus services are private firms and base routes on profits and therefore influencing them will be difficult. Similarly members did not feel this was a project that would require funding but is more of an influencing action; this could therefore be a future item on the LNP meeting agenda.

However there was mention of a company named '**Community Bus**' who collect elderly residents door to door and transports them to where they require locally but mainly to prominent places such as ASDA. It was stated that the Community Bus operates within various areas of Walsall including Pheasey. Although the service to users is free the company do charge payments for the service to other bodies. Currently it has been funded through Health Action Zone and Community Chest however this money will come to an end soon. Members agreed it would be a good project to fund however services should extend to Paddock as well. The cost to run the service for a year has been estimated at £3500.

- 3a. **Extend 'park and ride' scheme for Pheasey residents** - The notion of extending park and ride was seen as a good idea, however members felt it would not benefit the whole LNP and may cause financial strain as it could be costly; this project was therefore placed on the reserve list of projects.
- 3b. **Implement Park and Ride service close to the Quality Hotel on the A34** - This links into 3a and was placed on the reserve list of projects for the same reasons.
- 3c. **Primary care in Paddock** - The group felt this was a strategic priority and required long term planning and funding, no real benefits could be delivered from using the current LNP finances.
- 4a. **Investigate options to introduce walking buses scheme** - The idea of walking buses has already been discussed at the LNP meetings and some initial action is underway. Therefore this project does not currently require any financial assistance.
- 4b. **Conduct a comprehensive traffic survey to establish local needs** - Members agreed a comprehensive traffic and bus survey would be useful. However members stated that conducting a survey can be costly and may not have visible impact in the short term. Also there are other means of completing a survey which may avoid costs i.e. an insert in the Walsall pride newsletter.
- 4c. **Better transport access for elders** – this links into project 2 and will contribute to this action.
- 4d. **Improve community transport** - this links into project 2 and will contribute to this action.
- 4e. **Phone Masts** – Although this is a pressing issue members agreed this did not require funding as it was an influencing issue and should be an agenda item at the LNP meetings in the near future. There is also a telecommunications group set up within the council who deal with this issue, linkages with this group and the LNP need to be made

5. **Improvements to Doe Bank Park car park and building** – Members felt that the car park required a lot more funding than what the LNP could provide therefore it was not seen as a feasible option.

However the group felt that some attention should be given to the request by local young people for a skate park within Doe Bank Park. Members felt that some initial research should be undertaken to determine whether a skate park was indeed a need for the local people and also to explore the costs and feasibility of actually building a skate park. The costs to carry out research and a feasibility study were estimated at £1000.

As discussions progressed members felt that a lot of the actions on the plan were more about influencing and making change within services and therefore did not require short term funding. Taking this into consideration members suggested some further short term and high impact projects which are needed within the area and could be funded via the LNP finances.

- **Graffiti removal in both Pheasey & Paddock** – this would aim to remove racist and other forms of unacceptable graffiti within both wards: estimated at £1000.
- **Chuckery Green goal posts** – members stated that the goal posts need replacing within Chuckery Green and will bring benefits to users of the green, other work may also be required to improve the green: estimated at £1000.
- **Barr Beacon** – as Barr Beacon is a prominent site members felt that this location should be highlighted for its historical background. It was suggested that a historical survey should be carried out to gather information on the sites history. This information could then be used to attract people to the site as a tourist attraction and can also be used to form a funding application to heritage project funders. Estimated cost of £1000
- **Youth engagement** – Members felt that youth involvement in the LNP process is important in order to gain youth perspective on local issues. Youth Opinions Unite (Y.O.U) are presenting their plans to involve youth at the July LNP meeting, members felt that if this is positive that the LNP should allocate a maximum of £5000 towards involving young people.

From the projects above the total amount proposed for spending is £20,500

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