

# **BROWNHILLS AND ALDRIDGE NORTH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 13 November 2006 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at Park View Centre, Chester Road North, Brownhills, Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Alan Paul  
Keith Austin  
Douglas Birch  
Councillor Barbara Cassidy  
Ms Georgina Fereday  
Councillor Anthony Harris  
Ms Jackie Plant  
Councillor Keith Sears  
Ms Lesley Woakes

### 127/06 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Dave Turner and Mrs Linda Cooper

### 128/06 **Introductions**

Members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) introduce themselves to the meeting.

### 129/06 **Election of Vice Chairman**

#### **Resolved**

That the appointment of a WBSP Vice Chairman be deferred to the next meeting;

### 130/06 **Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2006 be approved, as subject to Lesley Woakes being included in the attendance list and Kevin Lowry being deleted from the list of attendees.

131/06 **Update from last meeting**

**Dog Fouling Bins at Shire Oaks and Coppy Hall Parks**

It was reported that a decision had been taken by the Head of Environmental protection that no more dog fouling bins would be placed throughout the borough as there were already sufficient bins available. Current park bins could now be used for mixed waste including dog waste as long as plastic bags were used. Officers stated that they can look at placing stickers on current bins therefore encouraging residents providing the waste is sealed in the relevant plastic bag.

132/06 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

133/06 **Petitions**

There were no Petitions received

134/06 **Public Forum**

**Q** Residents of Catshill Estate reported various problems of Anti-Social Behaviour stating that the situation was getting worse, and that they were scared in their own homes.

A representative from the police was present at the meeting and explained that whilst he could sympathise with the situation residents were in, the police could not act without sufficient evidence. Brian Holland, Safer Walsall Borough Partnership stated that in order to address Anti-Social Behaviour, a more integrated approach was required. The issues raised by residents of Catshill would be put on the Agenda of the next CAG meeting due to be held on the 20 November 2006. He urged residents to attend. A further option to address problems such as Anti-Social Behaviour was the use of a camera that could be utilised to gather evidence to be used in court.

**Q** Barry Poxen explained that he had difficulty in contacting the police station in Brownhills whilst trying to report the problems with youths in the park.

Sergeant Yeomans responded stating that shift patterns were due to change so that local members of the team would be on duty every day. He explained the shift patterns stating that on the weekends police would be on duty until 2.00 am. It was suggested that people should attend CAG meetings in a bid to address any concerns and identify and service improvements

- Q.** It was asked why the dedicated phone numbers for police in each area, no longer appeared to work.

Sergeant Yeomans provided his telephone number as follows:-

0845 1135000 Extension 788467114

- Q.** Barry Poxen reported that the planter at the bottom of the parade had not been re-planted.

Officers stated they would investigate the issue a report back at the next meeting.

- Q.** Barry also asked if funding would be available for Green Space services for Brownhills park entrance.

Nigel Ilesey responded at the meeting stating that the project would be legible for funding; however the deadline for submissions was 31 October 2006.

#### 135/06 **Presentation by tPCT**

The committee received a presentation on “Increasing life expectancy by reducing inequalities project”.

##### **Resolved**

That the presentation be noted.

#### 136/06 **Funding Report**

A reported was submitted (see annexed)

##### **Resolved**

1. That progress on projects had been noted
2. That Project Champions feedback at the next meeting
3. That the LNP note that suggestions were needed for further projects to commit this years allocation of £10 000 ideas and suggestions could be put forward by LNP meetings, Community Action Groups by contacting LNP officers.
4. That the £70 on unallocated funding be put towards filling the empty planter at the parade.

5. That a report on the future of the activity centre and repairs needed to be submitted to LNP on the 13 January 2007.

## 137/06 **CCTV in Brownhills**

Brian Holland representing Safer Walsall Borough Partnership explained that there were a number of fixed cameras in the borough of Walsall. "No other pilot with CCTV had been undertaken. Brian stated that fixed CCTV were mainly based in the town centre and it was intended to concentrate on a more mobile and covert way of undertaking CCTV such as deploying mobile cameras into Anti-Social Behaviour situations. He explained that Anti-Social Behaviour was not only issues with youth, but dog fouling and litter dropping etc.

Regarding retail radios it was intended to roll this out into other areas however there was a cost implication to businesses. The police were involved in speaking to these businesses in the town centre and if they agreed, to pilot the system it would be rolled out into other district areas.

Mr Poxen criticised Walsall Borough Partnership as he had been trying to get a response as to why Brownhills could not have radios since 2004 and was constantly faced with re-organisation and structure changes that prevented him getting an answer.

In response Brian Holland reported that the Partnership would not be re-organising in the foreseeable future and that the pilot radio scheme in Willenhall was not successful as it had not been taken up by businesses. He further stated that technology had since moved on and it was now possible to link radios back to the town centre. The whole radio scheme could be run from a control centre in Walsall Town Centre. The new scheme would be presented to shop keepers in Walsall town centre and adequate training would be provided. If successful the scheme would be rolled out to the district centres, subject to businesses agreeing pay costs. Regarding time scales Brian reported that this would depend upon the level of take up in the town centre. If it was not successful in the town centre it would be less viable in other areas. Brian urged people attend CAG Groups where these issues could be addressed in more depth.

### **Resolved.**

That the presentation be noted.

***Collin Roberts, Lesley Woakes, and Councillor Cassidy left the meeting at 8.00 pm and did not return.***

138/06 **Parks and Leisure**

Nigel Ilesey provided an update on Clayhanger Park, providing a history of the site. Problems with adult footballers parking on the streets were reported by residents and subsequently adult footballing was stopped on the grounds. It was then mainly used purely for junior footballing. A year on, the Head of Shire Oak School requested to use the site on a longer tenure and have an agreement. This was agreed upon and the site was used on a Saturday and Sunday for football and nothing more. The grounds were open for teams and everyone from the community. It was asked why community tenants association did not have access to the pavillion during their fun day. In response it was reported that they had not requested to use the pavilion and so it was not opened.

Regarding the closing time of the parks, it was reported a Park Ranger goes around the park and informs the public that it is closing. If members of the public do not leave they will be locked in. At that point he reported that there were lots of holes in the fence where the children could enter and egress at will

**Resolved**

That the responses be noted.

139/06 **Update from Community Action Groups**

**Resolved**

That Keith Astin be appointed Chair of Safer and Stronger Community Action Group.

**The meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.**

Chairman: .....

Date: .....