

BLAKENALL AND BLOXWICH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 19 December 2005 at 6.00 pm.

at Bloxwich JMI CE Primary School, High Street, Bloxwich

Present

Councillor Rob Robinson (Chairman)
Councillor Leslie Beeley
Mr. Martin Blunt
Caroline Crolley
Councillor Louise Harrison
Councillor Kath Phillips
Councillor Desmond Pitt
Councillor Melvin Pitt
Trish Skitt
Councillor Bill Tweddle
Mr. Fred Westley
Mr. Kenneth Worley

Implementation Team

David Blacker
David Hancock
Parveen Sangha

82/05 Introductions

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

83/05 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Inspector Greg Bates, Mr. David Chell and Councillor Patricia Young.

84/05 Minutes

Caroline Crolley queried the minutes in relation to points she had made at the last meeting. She also referred to an interest she had declared, but was not reflected in the minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2005, a copy having been previously circulated to each Member of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership be approved as a correct record, subject to the amendments identified at the meeting.

85/05 Declarations of Interest

Caroline Crolley declared an interest in anything on the agenda relating to the Youth Service.

86/05 Petitions

There were no petitions received at this meeting.

87/05 Public Forum

Young Travellers

A member of the public was invited to address the LNP.

The member of the public informed the LNP that he had been working with young travellers and gypsies within the Bloxwich area. Various events had been organised and were planned with young people to help integrate young travellers into society and to help expel any of the myths surrounding travellers and gypsies.

The LNP welcomed and noted the information provided.

Youth Workers on the Lower Farm Estate

A resident of Ashbourne Road, Bloxwich, was invited to address the Committee.

The resident sought clarification from the LNP with regard to the provision of youth workers on the Lower Farm Estate.

Parveen Sangha from the LNP team responded directly to the questioner.

Traffic problems in and around Elmore Green Road, Bloxwich

A resident of Bursnips Road, Essington, was invited to address the LNP.

The resident raised road safety concerns in relation to the junction of Church Moat Way and Elmore Green Road, Bloxwich.

Resolved

That the road safety concerns in relation to the junction of Church Moat Way and Elmore Green Road, Bloxwich, be forwarded to the Council's Highways Section for them to investigate and respond to the questioner directly.

88/05 Gateways Project

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The LNP welcomed Bruno Edwards and Glen Buglass from the Community Arts Team. Both officers explained that new signs would be provided at significant entrances to the Borough and various gateways throughout the area. Each LNP area would also receive new signage individual to each area and would be displayed in prominent locations.

The officers sought the LNPs views with regard to the pictures and text set for the design of the signs to see if they reflected the local area adequately.

The LNP conveyed their views and made several suggestions/tweaks where they felt that improvements could be made. In particular, cutlery and an anvil stone was suggested for pictures on the signs in view of their significant connection with the history of the LNP area.

Resolved

- (1) That the signs for Blakenall and Bloxwich be endorsed;
- (2) That the LNPs comments and suggestions be incorporated into the final design before the signs are erected.

89/05 Partnership Plan and feedback from Task Group Meetings

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha of the Neighbourhood Partnership office updated the LNP on the Partnership Plan and of issues arising from the Task Group meeting held on 14 October, 2005.

Resolved

- (1) That LNP Members continue to attend the workshop meetings;
- (2) That individual LNP Members encourage wider participation from community members within the Task Group;
- (3) That dates of future Task Group meetings be noted.

90/05 **Funding priorities for action**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha of the Neighbourhood Partnership office presented a report on funding priorities for action. However, the LNP raised its concerns with regard to the report, as the report did not provide detailed costings and information on the various projects identified for funding. The LNP felt that it should have a further more detailed report on the various projects for funding before the Partnership committed any of its budget. In view of this, Councillor Pitt **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Caroline Crolley:-

That the report and all recommendations contained therein be deferred pending a further more detailed report to the next meeting of the LNP to include more detailed costings and break-downs of the proposed projects to be allocated funding.

The motion was declared **carried** with 8 Members voting in favour and 1 against.

Resolved

That the report and all recommendations contained therein be deferred pending a further more detailed report to the next meeting of the LNP to include more detailed costings and break-downs of the proposed projects to be allocated funding.

91/05 **Local Area Agreements and links with LNPs**

The LNP noted a presentation which was delivered by Mr. Brian Holland the Director of Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP):-

(see annexed)

Mr. Holland informed the LNP of the role of LNPs in the context of the Local Area Agreement. Mr. Holland explained that LNPs would be acknowledged as part of the group structure of WBSP and the WBSP pillar groups would be looking to the LNPs for service innovation involving the local community and other agencies. The overall aim of the LNPs in Walsall's Local Area Agreement was to establish LNPs as multi agency partnerships engaged with service providers at a local level who would be able to facilitate service change for the wider community. Furthermore, he stated that WBSP looked forward to working with the LNP and its task groups to deliver the Local Area Agreement agenda.

Mr. Holland then undertook to respond to questions directed to him from the LNP and members of the public.

Arising from discussions on this item, Martin Blunt raised his concerns in relation to an item "Time to Talk" that he had requested to be on the LNP agenda some time ago. However, the item never made it onto the agenda. Time to Talk was a new initiative which aimed to improve speaking and listening amongst pre-school children. In view of this, the LNP requested that the item be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the LNP.

Another discussion ensued in relation to Youth Opinions Unite of which some Members were in attendance at the meeting. The individuals from Youth Opinions Unite felt that it would be beneficial if there was a 5 minute slot on the agenda where people could inform the meeting of events/matters of interest which would be happening in the LNP area.

Resolved

- (1) That Youth Opinions Unite be invited to a future Task Group meeting;
- (2) That an item on Time to Talk be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the LNP.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: