

**BROWNNHILLS AND ALDRIDGE NORTH LOCAL
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

Monday 13 June 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

In the Conference Centre, Shire Oak School, Walsall Wood

Present

Inspector Jack Ashley
Mr. Douglas Birch
Mrs. Lynda Cooper
Mr. Gary Crowther
Ms. Georgina Fereday
Ms. Stella Forsdike
Mr. Kevin Lowry
Councillor Alan Paul
Ms. Jackie Plant
Councillor Keith Sears
Mrs. Patricia Thomas
Councillor Dave Turner

52/05. Appointment of Chairman

Resolved

That Councillor Alan Paul be appointed Chairman for the 2005/2006 Municipal Year.

53/05 Introductions

Members of the Partnership and officers introduced themselves.

54/05. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barbara Cassidy, Roger Collins, Anthony Harris and Ms. Jeanne Monckton.

55/05. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2005, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

56/05. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

57/05. **Petitions**

There were no petitions received.

58/05. **Public forum**

In response to a question regarding a pilot CCTV Scheme in Willenhall, the Chairman of the Committee advised that he would investigate and contact the member of the public directly.

Management of Brownhills Common was raised and it was explained that this item was to be discussed as part of agenda item 7. It was advised that matters such as the Common could also be discussed at the Environment workshop.

Regarding the establishment of the Crime Workshop, it was reported that the feasibility of establishing the workshop would be investigated.

Inspector Jack Ashley responded to a question regarding the radio communication system used to improve security between shops in Brownhills. He explained that he was unaware that some of the radios had been inoperative and would investigate the matter and report back.

Karen Adderley responded to a question on the costs of providing and running Local Neighbourhood Partnerships. It was agreed that broad figures may be available and this would be reported to a future meeting.

59/05. **Funding Priorities for Action**

The Partnership received a report informing Members of the outcome of a funding workshop held on 1st June, 2005:-

(see annexed)

The workshop had considered that the following projects were suitable for receiving funds:-

- (1) Promoting the heritage of the whole LNP area;
- (2) Providing improvements to Brownhills Activity Centre;
- (3) To receive information on and become involved in the management of Brownhills Common (five projects were identified by Colin Manning) (Countryside Services));
- (4) To undertake further analysis on a range of issues such as types and locations of criminal damage and disorder to inform future plans;
- (5) To provide a directory of health services available within the area consisting of both statutory and voluntary services. The directory should include a jargon buster and the roles and responsibilities of local health services.

The Partnership considered each of the suggested projects for funding, along with two other actions not shortlisted, relating to Ravenscourt toilets and a review of levels of engagement with hard to reach/vulnerable groups locally.

During discussions with Inspector Jack Ashley, it was agreed that action (4) be held in abeyance. Regarding Project (5), it was noted that the project would require a great deal of planning and it was possible that this would not be ready for implementation in 2005.

Resolved

- (1) That the Partnership endorse the projects as follows:-
 - Promoting the heritage of the whole LNP area;
 - Providing improvements to Brownhills Activity Centre;
 - To receive information on and become involved in the management of Brownhills Common (five projects were identified by Colin Manning) (Countryside Services));
- (2) That Parpinder Singh Randhawa be the Liaison Officer project champions when required;
- (3) That project champions provide an update report to the next meeting.

60/05. **Partnership plan and feedback from task groups**

The Partnership received a report detailing proposed amendments and additions to the Partnership Plan and the progress of Task Groups.

With regard to the Health Task Group, it was reported that additional priorities were suggested for inclusion within the Plan. These included, amongst others, the provision of a directory of health, local poor health prevention methods, i.e. keep fit classes, an increase of in-depth training for first point contacts and the re-establishment of a Health Watch Group.

Discussion was held regarding the provision of a directory of public health and questions were raised as to how this would be funded and the depth/level of information required.

Inspector Ashley advised the Partnership of an initiative to help the elderly. He invited the help of nurses, undertaking house visits to place pre-recorded message boxes by the door that would remind people to lock the door chain.

Regarding the Environment Task Group, a public meeting was held on 23rd May, 2005 with a view to establishing a small Working Group to set up a permanent heritage collection to be based at the new Brownhills Centre. Mr. Birch explained that the meeting was a moderately successful event and well attended. These thoughts were echoed by Mrs. Thomas. The importance of raising awareness of the heritage of Brownhills was important to all.

Mrs. Thomas thanked the Brownhills Councillors for their support with the project.

Resolved

That the amendments and additions to the Partnership Plan be endorsed and that the following be appointed as Task Group champions:-

Stella Forsdike - Health Task Group

Lynda Cooper/Pat Thomas - Environment Task Group

61/05 **Involving young people**

The Partnership received a report informing Members of the progress made in involving young people in the Local Neighbourhood Partnership process and requesting the appointment of a young people's champion:-

(see annexed)

During discussion, it was highlighted that there was a need to work hard to contact hard to reach groups using resources such as the Police and detached youth workers. The approach taken with Youth Opinions Unite was welcomed, as was the possibility of inviting young people to attend a future meeting.

Resolved

That the report be noted and that _Georgina Fereday be appointed as the young people's champion; that young people be invited to observe a future meeting of the Partnership.

62/05. Community Safety Update and Bulletin

The Partnership received a report detailing crime figures and rates:-

(see annexed)

Gwyn Beavon gave a detailed account of the statistics before the Partnership and explained that an update on an alcohol strategy would be provided at a future meeting. Reference was made to the implementation of mandatory drug testing for those arrested for signal crimes. If tested positive, those arrested were referred to a variety of programmes in a bid to overcome their addiction.

It was noted that interviews were being undertaken to appoint further staff within the Police.

With regard to the local and national comparison, it was highlighted that Walsall's crime rates (with the exception of one area), were below the national rate.

Following Gwyn's update, Members of the LNP reported various concerns relating to crime and it was suggested that these views be filtered back through Lynda Cooper in her capacity as Champion.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

63/05. Statement of community involvement

The Partnership received a report and presentation on the Council's statement of community involvement and its role in involving communities and partners in town planning decisions:-

(see annexed)

It was explained that each Council had a statutory duty to produce a statement setting out how and when it would involve the local community in plan making and planning decisions. The draft statement of community involvement was being produced and would be subject to a six week consultation period. Views of the community and key partners would be sought at that time. The report was duly noted.

Resolved

That copy's of the draft statement of community involvement be circulated to Members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

64/05. Childrens centres and extended schools

The Partnership received a presentation on children's centres and extended schools.

With regard to children's centres, it was explained that focus would be on providing a service to children and their families, holistic support for children's development to support families with young children and facilitating the return to work of those parents who are unemployed. Further information was provided in relation to family and parental outreach support, including issues such as increasing parent's understanding of their child's development and the role of fathers. Information relating to child and family health services and links with other services such as Job Centre Plus were explained.

The Partnership were informed that extended schools were, potentially, the most exciting development in the education sector for a generation. The purpose of extended schools was to widen involvement in learning and become more connected.

To reach better attainment, other factors such as health, diet and emotional wellbeing would contribute. Officers gave further explanations of the following:-

- Extended schools relationship to the Government's Plan
- What extended schools would accomplish
- Extended schools relationship to the Children's Act
- The provision of extended schools in Walsall

The report was noted.

65/05. Fly tipping

A discussion was held on the amount of fly posting in the area. Officers reported that a report be submitted to the next meeting.

Resolved

That a further report be submitted to the next meeting.

66/05. Dates, times and venues for future LNP meetings

The Partnership received a report seeking a view as to the date, time and venues for future meetings:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That meetings for the 2005/2006 Municipal Year be held at Shire Oak School and commence at 6.00 p.m.

67/05. Late Item

Locally Appointed Partners - Recommendations of Selection Panel

The Partnership received a report detailing the recommendations of the Selection Panel held on 6th June, 2005:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following persons be appointed as Locally Appointed Partners for the remainder of the Municipal Year:-

Kenneth D. Best
Ian Bourne

68/05. Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.55 p.m.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....