

**BROWNNHILLS AND ALDRIDGE NORTH LOCAL
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

Tuesday 15 March 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

In the Drama Area, South Building, Shire Oak School, Walsall Wood

Present

Inspector Jack Ashley
Mr Douglas Birch
Councillor Barbara Cassidy
Councillor Roger Collins
Mrs Lynda Cooper
Councillor Anthony Harris
Ms. Jeanne Monckton
Councillor Alan Paul
Ms. Jackie Plant
Councillor Keith Sears
Mrs Patricia Thomas
Councillor Dave Turner

37/05. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Gary Crowther, Georgina Fereday, Stella Forsdike and Kevin Lowry.

38/05. Appointment of locally appointed partners

Councillor Harris reported that at the Selection Panel held on 10 March 2005, no appointments had been recommended as the two nominations received had both been from persons resident in the Brownhills ward. The LNP already had six locally appointed partners from the Brownhills ward and the Panel wanted the remaining four places to be filled from the Aldridge North and Walsall Wood ward, to give balance to the LNP. He added that a number of nomination forms had been forwarded to residents in the Aldridge North and Walsall Wood ward which had not yet been returned. Once they had been returned a further selection panel would be convened at which all outstanding nomination forms would be considered and the remaining LNP vacancies would be filled.

39/05. **Minutes**

Councillor Sears requested that his name be included amongst those present at the meeting.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2005, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

That Councillor Sears be included as present at the meeting.

40/05. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

41/05. **Petitions**

There were no petitions received.

42/05. **Public forum**

Councillor Cassidy referred to the adverse publicity which the LNP was receiving in the local press. Councillor Harris reported that he had attended a meeting with Jamie Morris where he had explained that the Partnership was enthusiastic and everyone was pulling together to make it a success.

Jackie Plant (LAP), asked what other LNPs had done. She wondered if this Partnership could learn to improve by using the best practices devised by other Partnerships.

Imke Trum (Neighbourhood Partnership Officer) stated that she had worked with a number of LNPs and the Brownhills Partnership had carried out some good work already. She referred to the recent Environment Workshop, which she felt had been excellent. She added that none of the LNPs were perfect yet.

Vera Williamson, (resident of Lichfield Road) referred to the pedestrian crossing which had recently been installed on Lichfield Road, outside Shire Oak School. She asked when it would be operational.

Resolved

That Mrs Williamson be advised when the pedestrian crossing will become operational.

43/05. Allotment rear of shops in Beechtree Road, Walsall Wood

Vera Williamson reported that Wrekin Plc's lorries parked blocking the access to the allotments preventing plot holders from gaining access to their properties. She had spoken to Leisure Services and Highways regarding the problem but lorries were continuing to park there. She asked if Wrekin could be approached to request their drivers to park considerately so that allotment holders could get into the land.

Councillor Paul undertook to investigate this matter.

Resolved

That the drivers of Wrekin Plc lorries be asked to park considerately and not to obstruct the entrance to the allotments.

44/05. Improvements to CCTV systems into district centres

Barry Poxon (Brownhills Local Committee) referred to improvements to CCTV in district centres which had been piloted in the Willenhall area in September 2004. He asked when the scheme would be rolled out to other areas of the borough.

Resolved

That the provision of improved CCTV systems for district centres be investigated and Mr. Poxon be advised accordingly.

45/05. KFC at Oak Park Leisure Centre

Councillors Collins and Paul left the meeting during consideration of this matter.

Councillor Harris reported that a new planning application had been submitted for the KFC building at Oak Park Leisure Centre. He reminded members of the public present that objections could be received to the planning application and speakers could oppose the application at the Development Control Committee. He added that this was a poor site for such a development and should be relocated elsewhere.

46/05. Old café, Chester Road

A member of the public asked what was happening to the site and whether it would be re-developed.

Resolved

That proposals for the redevelopment of the site be submitted to a future meeting of the LNP.

47/05. **Community forums**

Diya (Community Empowerment Network) made a presentation regarding community forums and handed a diagram showing how community forums could help local people influence decisions locally and borough wide to those present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Diya reported that two community forum meetings had already been held in the Brownhills, Aldridge North area and the Brownhills Local Committee had agreed to lead at the next forum meeting. She referred to the involvement of the Community Empowerment Network in supporting the development of community forums and stated that the link between locally appointed partners and community forums was vital. She added that meetings would be held throughout the area to ensure that everyone felt included.

Several members expressed concern that community forums would simply duplicate the work of LNPs. Diya replied that the forums would give a voice to those groups that weren't represented at LNPs.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the presentation by the Community Empowerment Network on Community Forums be noted.

48/05. **Training and development for LNP and task group members**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Sue Grainger reported that training needs were being identified and a briefing session on place check would be held on 31 March 2005. She added that links were being developed with the external funding unit to obtain funding for the partnership.

Resolved

That progress made to date be noted and the LNP agree to review the training and development plan on a regular basis.

49/05. **Partnership plan**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parpinder Singh enlarged upon the report and drew attention to the Task Group meetings that had taken place. He felt that progress had been good and further meetings of the Task Groups would be arranged shortly.

Resolved

- (1) That LNP members continue to attend work shop meetings;
- (2) That individual LNP members encourage wider participation from community members from within the Task Groups.

50/05. **LNP communication officer**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Karen Adderley requested the Partnership to nominate someone to act as communications officer to encourage people to become involved in the process.

Members felt that a working group rather than one person should deal with publicity for the Partnership.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed and a small group be set up to appoint a person to act as communications officer for the LNP within the next few weeks.

51/05. **Mapping exercise**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parpinder Singh (Neighbourhood Partnership Officer) referred to the map on the wall at the meeting and requested organisations and individuals to record the places where task groups and LNPs could meet. He added that these sites could also be used to publicise future meetings of the LNP.

Resolved

That members undertake the mapping exercise.

51/05. Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.30 pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....