

ALDRIDGE SOUTH AND STREETLY LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 10 July 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

**at Goodsell Hall, Aldridge School, A Science College, Tynings
Lane, Aldridge**

Present

Councillor John Rochelle (Chairman)
Councillor Tom Ansell
Inspector Gerry Byrne
Councillor Gary Clarke
Mr. Andrew Dickson – West Midlands Fire Service
Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul
Mr. Robert Gilham
Mr. Tony Harrison
Mrs. Jenny Henney
Mrs. Pauline Heydon
Councillor Eddie Hughes
Ms. Johanne Newens
Councillor John O'Hare
Mr. Ron Perks
Mr. Dusan Popratnjak
Mr. Peter Roberts

In attendance

Karen Adderley
Parveen Sangha
Paul Wilde

115/06.

Election of Chairman

Resolved

That Councillor John Rochelle be appointed Chairman of the Aldridge South and Streetly Local Neighbourhood Partnership for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

116/06. **Election of Vice-Chairmen**

Resolved

That the appointed of Vice-Chairmen from the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership nominated partners and the Locally Appointed Partners be deferred to the next meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

117/06. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the Partnership meeting were submitted on behalf of Sarah Homer and Dave Roberts.

118/06. **Introductions**

Each member of the Partnership and the officers present introduced themselves and explained in brief the organisation they represented.

119/06. **Minutes**

Councillor Clarke referred to the minutes regarding the poor condition of the shops and flats in Boundary Road, Streetly. He reported that one of the owners had attended his surgery and would be attending Court in August.

Councillor Hughes stated that he had spoken to one of the owners who had agreed to attend the next meeting of the Partnership.

Ron Perks (Locally Appointed Partner) reported that the local postman had complained that the steps leading to the flats were crumbling and dangerous. He produced photographs showing the poor state of repair of the property. He added that rubbish was still not collected regularly which led to potential health issues.

Resolved

- (1) That an item regarding the Boundary Road shops and flats be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Partnership;
- (2) That Street Pride be requested to introduce a more regular collection of refuse/rubbish from the Boundary Road shops and flats.

Reference was made to the amount of compensation paid by the Council to persons injured by broken or uneven pavement slabs. It was reported that in 2004/05 375 claims had been made against the Council and £187,268.90 had been paid out. In 2005/06 271 claims had been made and £17,677.22 had been paid out. Comparing Walsall's figures with other Local Authorities in the West Midlands, the Council was similar to Wolverhampton, slightly lower than Sandwell and well below Birmingham.

Councillor Douglas-Maul commented that, if the Highways Department was advised of the locality of pot holes, then they would take action to repair them. Ron Perks replied that he had reported the location of a number of pot holes and been advised by a Council employee that they were not dangerous.

Resolved

That the comments on compensation for pot holes be noted.

Pauline Heydon referred to minute no 107/06 and indicated that the Redhouse Youth Club had not been offered any alternative accommodation before Redhouse JMI closed shortly. Councillor Ansell replied that a meeting had been arranged to look at the necessary improvements to the pavilion at Aldridge School for use by the Youth Club. He added that the school hall at Redhouse JMI would still be available for use for some time after the school closure.

Councillor Rochelle referred to minute no. 109/06 and suggested that action to introduce discos on Friday evenings at Aldridge Manor House be held in abeyance because Ken Smith had resigned because of ill health.

Councillor Clarke referred to minute no. 108/06 and asked if dispersal orders had been introduced in Streetly. Inspector Byrne replied that dispersal orders had not been introduced as there was insufficient evidence to provide them at present.

A Streetly resident stated that, when a complaint was made to the police, the caller was put through to Walsall to be advised that officers were busy dealing with incidents in Walsall Town Centre. Meanwhile, groups of 20 to 30 youths were creating problems in Blackwood Road and nothing could be done to prevent it. He indicated that the post office had applied to sell alcohol so the situation could only get worse. He added that police officers were still not seen in the area despite the new neighbourhood policing having been introduced.

Inspector Byrne replied that officers were deployed throughout the Aldridge South and Streetly Wards but, because of limited resources, they could not be stationed in any one location for a lengthy period. He added that things were improving in Streetly because the police had concentrated their activities in certain areas, confiscating alcohol from under-age drinkers and undertaking test purchasing in off-licences and convenience stores.

Tony Harrison referred to minute no. 108/06 and 111/06 and suggested that the Chief Superintendent be invited to attend the next meeting of the Partnership.

Resolved

- (1) That the Chief Superintendent be invited to attend the next meeting of the Partnership;
- (2) That further consideration be given to the introduction of dispersal orders in Streetly.

Referring to minute no. 111/06, Councillor Douglas Maul expressed concern over police comments that Streetly's crime rates were low, when fences in Blackwood Road were regularly vandalised by youths. He indicated that elderly residents were living in fear because the police did not attend when called. He was concerned that, if police in action continued, then people would take the law into their own hands. He added that he had recently visited Chief Superintendent Gilbert who had confirmed that Streetly's crime rate was 5%, one of the lowest in the Borough.

Sergeant Yvonne Towe (Aldridge South Neighbourhood Policing) reported that Officers took action whenever possible. She stated that she controlled 7 officers and they were regularly deployed to Streetly. She added that dispersal orders would be introduced if they were warranted.

Ron Perks felt that the police were reluctant to prosecute children in the Streetly area.

Inspector Byrne indicated that it would be impossible for the police force to live up to residents' expectations with existing resources. He re-iterated the fact that Streetly's rate for recorded crime was very low and urged residents to report more incidents to police officers.

Jenny Henney (Locally Appointed Partner) requested the police to help residents by responding more quickly to phone calls. She added that residents wanted crimes recorded, but could not get through to report them. Inspector Byrne replied that officers in Walsall had exceeded their target for answering phone calls within the required time frame.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 2nd March 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

120/06. **Terms of Reference**

An amended report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

After discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the Partnership notes the revised terms of reference as approved by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership, attached as an Appendix;

121/06. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

122/06. **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted for consideration at this meeting.

123/06. **Public Forum**

Etelka Kollar – A Streetly Resident

Mrs. Kollar asked when the gate at the entrance to Hardwick Wood would be provided. She indicated that there were still problems with drug dealers in the area and she had made a record of car number plates, but was afraid to pass them to the police in case she was victimised. It was stated that a report on the provision of the gate was included in the LNP funding report later on the agenda.

Bruce Ballett – A Streetly Resident

Mr. Ballett referred to a recent article in the Walsall Observer regarding “pooch patrols” where dog walkers were being encouraged by the police to report incidents they witnessed whilst out walking their dogs. He was concerned that, if people did report crimes, there would not be adequate support from the police.

An Aldridge resident referred to the future provision of community facilities at Aldridge Manor House and asked if there was anything the Local Neighbourhood Partnership could do to assist elderly citizens to retain their clubs and activities there.

Councillor O'Hare requested those present to set up a Management Team which could liaise with members and officers to try to improve the present situation.

124/06. **Urban Design Framework for the A454 and A461 Corridors**

Cherry Shine (Regeneration) made a PowerPoint presentation on the Walsall Strategic Corridors and Gateways Initiatives in respect of the A454 and A461 Corridors.

Following discussion and a number of questions, it was:-

Resolved

That the presentation be received and noted.

125/06. **Community Action Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

It was reported that each Local Neighbourhood Partnership would set up two Community Action Groups, one to deal with safer stronger communities and the other to concentrate on health and people. The dates for the Community Action Group meetings were set out in the final paragraph of the report.

The following persons offered to attend meetings of the Community Action Groups:-

<u>Health and People</u>	<u>Safer and Stronger Communities</u>
Johanne Newens (Chair)	Ron Perks (Chair)
Councillor Eddie Hughes	Peter Roberts
Peter Roberts	Mrs. E. Kollar
Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul	Valerie Bates
Janet Cookson	John King
Colin Boswell	Councillor John Rochelle
Jan Penketh	Tony Harrison

Resolved

That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership:-

- (1) notes the move from Task Groups to Community Action Groups;
- (2) notes the Terms of Reference for the Community Action Groups attached as an Appendix to the report now submitted;

- (3) agrees the dates set for the Community Action Groups for the municipal year 2006/07 as contained in the report now submitted;
- (4) appoints Johanne Newens as Chair of the Health and People Action Group and Ron Perks as the Chair for the Safer and Stronger Communities Action Group.

126/06. **Local Neighbourhood Agreements**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha enlarged upon the report and drew particular attention to Section 4 which contained the Partnership's pledges and Section 5 which covered the Local Neighbourhood Agreement.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the current developments around the Neighbourhood Agreement;
- (2) notes the finalised list of pledges as contained in the report now submitted.

127/06. **LNP Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

A number of new schemes were suggested including:-

- brown bins/green boxes on the former Rawlins Tip housing estate;
- benches in The Parade, Aldridge;
- re-instatement of the area of land at Bosty Lane/Aldridge Road, once recycling bins have been relocated.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the progress on funding priorities for 2005/06;
- (2) notes and agrees the funding proposal for Lindrosa Road, Streetly;

- (3) notes the current spend;
- (4) notes the criteria for the allocated funding in 2006/07;
- (5) That the following new schemes be evaluated:-
 - brown bins/green boxes on the former Rawlins Tip housing estate;
 - benches in The Parade, Aldridge;
 - re-instatement of the area of land at Bosty Lane/Aldridge Road, once recycling bins have been relocated.

128/06. **Removal of Public Call Boxes**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Partnership notes the Cabinet's decision about the role they would like to see Local Neighbourhood Partnerships take in the local consultation about the removal of the last public call box in an area/local neighbourhood.

129/06. **Re-selection of Locally Appointed Partners**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha reported that, as the Partnership already had three vacancies for Locally Appointed Partners, there would be no need to ask anyone to stand-down in 2006. With reference to the mechanism to determine which Locally Appointed Partners should be asked to stand down for re-selection in 2007, the Partnership concluded that the following criteria should be used:-

- attendance rates at Local Neighbourhood Partnership and Community Action Group meetings over the previous year then, in the event of equality;
- drawing names from the hat

Paul Wilde advised the meeting that Jan Taylor, Headteacher of Leighswood School and a Council Appointed Partner, had resigned from the Partnership because of clashes between partnership meetings and school based commitments.

The Partnership noted the resignation and requested officers to write to Mrs. Taylor to thank her for her services to the Partnership.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the changes in the selection process;
- (2) identifies the following mechanisms to decide which Locally Appointed Partners should be re-selected in 2007/8:-
 - attendance rates at local neighbourhood partnership and community action group meetings over the previous year then, in the event of equality
 - drawing names from the hat;
- (3) notes the findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment on Local Neighbourhood Partnership membership;
- (4) notes the resignation of Jan Taylor, Headteacher of Leighswood School and thanks her for her services to the Partnership.

130/06. **Green Spaces Strategy**

This matter was withdrawn at the meeting.

131/06. **Sponsorship of Traffic Islands**

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

132/06. **Update on previous concerns/matters raised at last meeting**

These matters had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

133/06. **Termination of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 9.20 pm.

Chairman:

Date: