

**BROWNNHILLS AND ALDRIDGE NORTH LOCAL
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

Monday 12 December 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

In the Conference Centre, Shire Oak School, Walsall Wood

Present

Mr. Keith Astin
Mr. Ian Bourne
Mr. Douglas Birch
Councillor Barbara Cassidy
Councillor Roger Collins
Mrs Lynda Cooper
Mr. Kevin Lowry
Councillor Alan Paul
Ms. Jackie Plant
Councillor Keith Sears
Mrs Patricia Thomas
Councillor Dave Turner

79/06. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. Best, Inspector Jack Ashley and Georgina Fereday.

80/06. Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2005, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

81/06. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

82/06. Petitions

Partnership Plan and Feedback from Task Group Meetings

The Partnership received a report detailing progress made by task groups.

It was suggested that times of the workshops be altered in a bid to engage a greater extent of people. Many were in employment and unable to attend at 4.00 pm. In response officers reported that dates and times for workshops were scheduled to maximise attendance, although they would review the forthcoming workshops, to seek alternative times.

Resolved

- (1) That LNP members continue to attend the workshops meetings;
- (2) That each individual LNP members encourage wider participation from community members within the task group meetings;
- (3) That the times of future task groups be noted;
- (4) That officers investigate alternative times for future meetings of the task groups.

83/06. Funding Priorities for Action

The Partnership received a report detailing progress of the projects that had received funding from the £22,000 allocated resources budget.

With regard to Brownhills Activity Centre, members requested that a cost analysis be provided at the next meeting.

Patricia Thomas gave an update on the heritage project. She explained that equipment would be available during library hours and it was hoped the project would be operational by late March 2006.

Lynda Cooper provided feedback on improvements made to Brownhills common. It was suggested that the common could be utilised by ramblers and for organised walks.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress made to date be noted;
- (2) That progress be reviewed at the next meeting;
- (3) That a further report detailing the actual works and a cost analysis for Brownhills Activity Centre be submitted to the next meeting.

84/06. Holland Park Extended Opening Report

This report was withdrawn.

85/06. Neighbourhood Resource Centres

The Partnership received a presentation on neighbourhood resource centres (NRC), during which information was provided in relation to:-

- The background to NRC;
- NRC management arrangements;
- Lease arrangements;
- The current position of NRCs

Following the presentation, the Partnership asked if assistance was available to produce viable business plans and what help was available to assist NRCs in securing funding. Concern was expressed with NRCs being able to afford the service charge.

In response it was stated that assistance was available to aid the production of business plans and that events had been held in late 2005. Further advice could be received from Steve Lewis, Planning Officer at Walsall Council. With regard to service charges the level at which they were set would vary from centre and centre and would equate upto 50% of the market value. The first year would be free.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted.

86/06. Public Forum

One Stop Shop

In response to a question raised at the previous meeting, it was reported that calls had been monitored. During September 2005, 51,861 calls were received with 45,549 being answered within 15 seconds, 87.8% of all calls were answered within the response time. During a 3 month period 86.2% of all calls were answered within 15 seconds. To improve this service further the strategic partnership were investing in technical advances.

With regard to the implementation of one stop shops across the borough, it was explained that the provision of further "shops" were linked to the transfer of the services to Fujitsu which was currently being negotiated. In response Mr. Poxon reported that the difficulties were apparent when trying to call street pride. Officers reported that they would investigate the matter further.

Shannon Drive – Traffic Problems, Brownhills Island

Representation was made with regard to on-street parking in Shannon Drive. Officers agreed to investigate the matter and report to the next meeting.

Further representation was made with regard to the island at Brownhills and associated traffic problems. Officers were requested to provide a report to the next meeting.

Neighbourhood Policing – CCTV Scheme

It was requested that a presentation be provided to the next meeting of the LNP and that an update be given on CCTV.

Gateways Project

The Partnership received a presentation on Walsall Beacon Gateways in the Brownhills/Aldridge North area. Information relating to the concept of beacon gateways, design proposals for all signs with the Brownhills/Aldridge North area were put to the Partnership. Members of the Partnership and the public provided feedback and suggested amendments for the siting of the gateways and the selection of photographic images and text proposed. Officers undertook to incorporate suggestions in to the final designs and investigate the feasibility of alternate sites.

Resolved

That the gateways project team take into account the comments made by the Partnership and members of the public and incorporate suggestions where appropriate.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.55 pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....