

DARLASTON LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday, 24 July, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

People's Partnership Welfare Centre, Wing Close, Bentley

Present

Councillor Bill Madeley (Chairman)
Mr. Peter Burton – Vice-Chairman
Denise Birkett
Ms. Sandra Borland
Councillor Keith Chambers
Paul Johnson – West Midlands Fire Service
Ms. Sue Machin
Jan Madeley
Mr. Keith Middleton
Sally Milne
Ishmail Patel
Wendy Pearce
Wendy Powell – Accord Housing Association
Rashid Varacchia
Councillor Graham Wilkes

In Attendance

Vivian Clarke
Imke Goalby
Steve Lewis
Carole Mason

112/06 **Appointment of Chairman**

Resolved

That Councillor Madeley be appointed Chairman of the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

113/06 **Appointment of Vice-Chairmen**

Resolved

- (1) That the appointment of a Vice-Chairman from the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership Nominated Partners be deferred to the next meeting of the Partnership;
- (2) That Peter Burton be appointed as Vice-Chairman from the Locally Appointed Partners for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

114/06 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Burley, Cath Boneham, Andy Clarke, David Owen, Narinder Chumber and Tony Steadman.

115/06 **Introductions**

Members, Council Appointed Partners, Locally Appointed Partners and Support Team Members introduced themselves to each other and members of the public present at the meeting.

116/06 **Minutes**

Councillor Madeley referred to minute no. 104/06 regarding the attendance of Traffic Engineers at the Partnership meeting to discuss the provision of additional parking in Pinfold Street, Darlaston.

Steve Lewis reported that he had had discussions with Steve Griffiths and, with the pedestrian refuges now in place, it would not be possible to provide car parking on Pinfold Street because of the narrowness of the carriageways. However, discussions were on-going to see if it might be possible to provide some parking in Black Horse Way, a private road off Pinfold Street, but this might not be possible.

Councillor Wilkes reported that he had received the same information and would raise the matter at Council.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2006, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

117/06 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

118/06 Award of MBE

Councillor Chambers referred to the fact that Councillor Madeley had been awarded an MBE in the recent Honours List and suggested that the Partnership should record its congratulations of the fact.

Resolved

That Councillor Madeley be congratulated on the award of his MBE in the recent Honours List.

119/06 Local Neighbourhood Partnership Terms of Reference

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Imke Goalby enlarged upon the report and advised that the Partnership was now part of the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and no longer part of the Council. Representatives from the Fire Service and Walsall Housing Group had been added to the Partnership's Membership. She added that there might be further amendments to the Terms of Reference which would be considered at the September meeting of the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the revised Terms of Reference as approved by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership attached as an Appendix to the report;
- (2) agrees to sign up to the Terms of Reference.

120/06 Petitions

No petitions were submitted to the meeting.

Helen Dickens, Attlee Road, Bentley, Darlaston

Mrs. Dickens referred to the poor cleanliness of the Bentley area generally. In the past, the shopping area had received regular cleaning, but now rubbish was left lying around. She stated that litter was also a problem in the Churchill Road, Edinburgh Avenue and Attlee Road area. She added that, in its untidy condition, it was not a good advertisement for the proposed regeneration of the area.

Resolved

That Street Pride be requested to investigate the litter and rubbish accumulation in Bentley Shopping Centre and the Churchill Road, Edinburgh Avenue and Attlee Road area.

Delivery of Walsall Pride/Advertiser/Chronicle

Mrs. Dickens stated that Walsall Pride was not delivered regularly in her area. Wolverhampton Road, Darlaston, did not receive the Walsall Advertiser or Walsall Pride. Without these publications, it was difficult to obtain information about current and future events occurring in the Darlaston area.

Peter Burton stated that a similar problem existed in the Rough Hay and Darlaston Central areas of Darlaston.

Tony Moran (Communications Team) confirmed that there had been a problem with the delivery of Walsall Pride in several areas across the Borough. He added that Darlaston had been particularly problematical, but the Communications Team were trying to resolve this issue.

Speed of Traffic in Churchill Road, Bentley

Mrs. Dickens referred to the difficulty in crossing Churchill Road, Bentley, because of the speed of traffic. She also referred to the recently introduced speed calming measure near to the doctor's surgery which had three road junctions in close proximity to it and created great difficulty for cars turning into Churchill Road from Wolverhampton Road West. She asked if the chicane could be moved further away from the junction.

Resolved

That the matters raised by Mrs. Dickens in respect of Churchill Road, Bentley, be referred to the Traffic Section for consideration.

122/06 Urban Design Framework for the A454 and A461 Corridors

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Joel Maybury and Cherry Shine made a PowerPoint presentation on the programme of proposed schemes to improve the A454 and A461 corridors. A copy of the presentation was handed to those present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Joel Maybury reported that the aim of many of the schemes was to give a good first impression to motorists entering the Borough via the A454 and A461 routes. It would also help to correct dereliction and decline along these routes.

Cherry Shine explained the proposed schemes from the Portobello Island to The Keyway and the timescales involved. She added that there would be an exhibition of the proposals at Darlaston Library on 12 August, when residents and local groups could comment on the schemes.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted.

123/06 Sponsorship of Traffic Islands

Resolved

That this matter stand deferred.

124/06 Community Action Groups

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Imke Goalby enlarged upon the report and stated that the first Community Action Group meeting had been held on 17 July 2006. Councillor Madeley indicated that the meeting had produced a lively discussion.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the move from Task Groups to Community Action Groups;

- (2) notes the Terms of Reference for the Community Action Groups attached to the report now submitted;
- (3) agrees the dates set for the Community Action Groups for 2006/07 as contained in the report now submitted;
- (4) appoints Cath Boneham as the Chair for the Health and People Action Group and Councillor Burley as the Chair for the Safer and Stronger Community Action Group for 2006/07.

125/06 Public Right of Way – Rear of Broadwaters Avenue, Darlaston

Paul Wilde reported that a meeting had taken place recently between the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership and Police Crime Reduction Officers to ascertain the best way of dealing with the situation at Broadwaters Avenue. Once a strategy had been formulated, it would be put out for consultation.

Steve Lewis suggested that a report on the present position concerning alleygating schemes should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Madeley stated that, on Friday 21 July, a disturbance had occurred in Faversham Close involving young people. Denise Birkett had attended the scene and diffused the situation.

Denise Birkett reported that youngsters on the Bentley West Playingfields had been throwing rubbish into the gardens of properties in Faversham Close. She added that the allegation that bottles had been thrown at residents was incorrect.

Councillor Madeley referred to the proposal to close the alleyway in King Charles Avenue which had been the subject of an objection from the Ramblers' Association which had prevented its closure.

Resolved

- (1) That the on-going situation and the investigations by the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership and the Police into the best solutions to the problems be noted;
- (2) That a report on alleygating schemes generally be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

126/06 Local Neighbourhood Agreements

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the current developments around the Neighbourhood Agreement;
- (2) notes the finalised pledges, but amends pledge no. 4 to refer to safer, cleaner and greener place to live, work and play.

127/06 Locality Commissioning

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Imke Goalby enlarged upon the report and indicated that a pilot project would seek to foster engagement to influence the health commissioning agenda for the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership Locality. She added that funding of £55,000 would be available for the project in 2006/07 with a further £50,000 earmarked for 2007/08.

Councillor Madeley referred to the fact that Darlaston had two excellent health centres and it was hoped to undertake minor procedures at them to save local people having to travel to the Manor and New Cross Hospitals.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the details of the project;
- (2) notes that a Health Conference will be held on 27 September 2006 at a venue to be determined;
- (3) will offer its support and encourage local people to get involved and share their views about health priorities in Darlaston.

128/06 Local Neighbourhood Partnership Funding

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Imke Goalby enlarged upon the report and explained the criteria for funding in 2006/07.

Referring to the trial erection of a “mini marquee” in King Street, Darlaston, in January, Steve Lewis reported that the word “not” had been omitted from the text. It should read “it was concluded that it may not stand up well in windy weather”. He added that a further marquee would be trialled at the market on 26 July at 9.30 a.m.

Councillor Madeley commented that, if the Partnership provided money for new stalls on Darlaston Market, then an agreement should be entered into to allow the stalls to be used for community events on non-market days.

Referring to the schedule of events arranged for Darlaston, Councillor Madeley reported that the Party in the Park would be held in August followed by celebrations for Ede and Divali in October. Christmas and Easter events would also be held. He added that the £5,000 given to the Events Committee had still not been paid. It was reported that the delay in payment had arisen because a grant agreement had not been signed.

Councillor Wilkes suggested that a project should be carried out around Moorcroft Wood. Steve Lewis replied that the Friends of Moorcroft Wood had been encouraged to make an application, but nothing had been returned.

Peter Burton referred to the bus tours and to the fact that matters which had been raised on the tours had not been actioned. Steve Lewis replied that a bus tour meeting would be held shortly to explain what had been done and what was still to be done.

It was reported that CSIG would be operating in Darlaston from mid-July until the end of August.

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the progress on funding priorities for 2005/06;
- (2) notes the current spend position;
- (3) notes the criteria for the allocation of funding in 2006/07.

129/06 Removal of Public Call Boxes

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Steve Lewis enlarged upon the report and commented that, with the widespread use of mobile phones, the use of public call boxes had declined to the extent that they were no longer economical and phone companies were considering their removal. He added that phone boxes would be retained in deprived areas or in close proximity to accident blackspots.

Councillor Wilkes asked if the Partnership could recommend that certain phone boxes be removed e.g. if they were the subject of continual vandalism or sites of anti-social behaviour.

Peter Burton suggested that the phone box in Peacock Road should be removed as a matter of urgency.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the Partnership notes the Cabinet's decision concerning the role they envisage Local Neighbourhood Partnerships taking in local consultation about the removal of the last public call box in an area/local neighbourhood.

130/06 Re-selection of Locally Appointed Partners

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Imke Goalby enlarged upon the report and indicated that all existing Locally Appointed Partners would continue as representatives of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership until October 2006 to allow a revised selection process to be introduced.

One third of the Locally Appointed Partners would then be re-selected during October/November 2006, a second third would remain in office until April 2007 and the final third until April 2008. She indicated that any Locally Appointed Partner who stood down would be eligible for re-selection and added that targeted advertising would be carried out in an attempt to close the gaps highlighted in the Equalities Impact Assessment.

The Partnership agreed that Locally Appointed Partners should be asked to stand down on the basis of attendance rates at Local Neighbourhood Partnership meetings during the previous year and, if there was an equality of Partners with the same attendance, then their names should be drawn from a hat.

Councillor Madeley commented that the Partnership already had two vacancies for Locally Appointed Partners as a result of changes in membership criteria. Looking at attendance rates, Tony Steadman, then David Owen should be asked to stand down.

Councillor Wilkes informed the meeting that Tony Steadman had indicated his willingness to stand down because of ill health.

Peter Burton suggested that a letter be forwarded to Tony Steadman to thank him for his services to the Partnership during his period as a Locally Appointed Partner. He also referred to the need to get young people involved in the process. Councillor Madeley replied that attempts had been made to engage young people with little success.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

- (1) notes the changes in the selection process;
- (2) agrees that Locally Appointed Partners should be re-selected on attendance rates at Local Neighbourhood Partnership meetings and, in the event of equality, then names be drawn from a hat;
- (3) agrees that Tony Steadman then David Owen be requested to stand down in the first instance;
- (4) notes the findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment on Local Neighbourhood Partnership Membership;
- (5) requests Officers to write to Tony Steadman to thank him for his services to the Partnership.

131/06 Youth Provision in Darlaston

Peter Burton and Jan Madeley referred to improvements to Youth Provision in Darlaston which included improvements to George Rose Park and the removal of graffiti from the skate park.

Jan Madeley reported that an Information Drop In Centre was needed and that negotiations were on-going with the Friends of the Park to see if The Lodge could be used for this purpose.

Reference was made to a number of schemes which would be run throughout the Summer for young people in Darlaston, including a reading scheme based at the library.

Councillor Madeley referred to the fact that library staff had given up part of their car park so that the Asda development could take place. He suggested that Asda should be requested to provide six car parking spaces for the use of library staff.

Resolved

- (1) That the comments on Youth Provision in Darlaston be noted;

- (2) That Asda be requested to provide six car parking spaces for use by library staff.

132/06 Disrepair of Darlaston Community Association Sports Ground and Buildings

Peter Burton referred to the poor state of repair of the astro turf pitch at Darlaston Rec and asked whether the Partnership could help to pay for its restoration. Steve Lewis replied that this was one of the schemes picked up during the bus tour. He added that work had started recently on making the Park secure. Once this had been completed, the repairs to the pitch could begin.

Resolved

That a report be submitted to the next meeting on the repair of the astro turf pitch at Darlaston Rec.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: