

PELSALL AND RUSHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Monday 4 April 2005 at 6.00 pm

at Sheffield Sports and Community College, Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall

Present

Councillor Al Griffiths (Chairman)
Inspector Jack Ashley
Councillor Clive Ault
Mrs Margaret Hayes
Mr. Robert Hughes
Mr. Neil Jones
Mrs Isabel Mason
Councillor Catherine Micklewright
Mr. Colin Payton
Councillor Garry Perry
Mr. James Thomas

44/05

Introductions

Each member of the Partnership introduced themselves to the meeting.

45/05

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs Liz Attfield, Mr. Ron Carpenter, Mr. Bernard Dickinson, Mr. Brett Quinton, Mrs Ann Rice, Councillor Rachel Walker and Ms. Margaret Wilcox.

46/05

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Pelsall and Rushall Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 10 January 2005, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47/05 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

48/05 **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted to this meeting.

49/05 **Public forum**

50/05 **Mrs Barbara Ellens, 49 Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall**

Mrs Ellens expressed her sadness at the closure of Shelfield Library. As a regular user she said that it was very bad for the people of High Heath that the library had now been closed permanently. Mrs Ellens said that the library had been left in a state of dereliction for a long time and its closure had been brought about because of neglect. She believed that if the library had been better cared for it would not have been closed. She queried the Council's proposals for the library site.

The Chairman referred to the agenda item concerned with Shelfield Library and said that Councillor Perry would be providing a briefing on this issue later in the meeting.

51/05 **Mrs. Payton, 177 Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall**

Mrs. Payton said that she was chair of the Friends of Pelsall Common. She said there had been a lot of confusion about the number of waste bins on Pelsall Common. She had carried out a stock take and said that there were actually 12 new bins, although it had been reported there were only 2, at the last meeting. Their distribution was widespread and there were bins in every location that the friends felt where necessary, with more bins in the centre of the village where people tended to congregate. Mrs. Payton said that the friends worked with street pride to decide where the bins should be located. Street pride preferred bins to be located near to the roadside where they could be emptied easily as vehicles could not drive over the common. The only bins on the common away from the roads were located by the children's playground and the Dawn Cooper bench. There was only one bin on Little Common because there had been discussions 12 months previously about building a new surgery/library in Pelsall in this area. It would be necessary to have a portakabin on the site for approximately 6 months if the building work were to go ahead. In return for the disruption, the builders would agree to pay compensation for any damage incurred.

With regard to Little Common, Mrs. Payton said there were 21 bungalows situated there which had recently been refurbished by Walsall Housing Group. The complex had been much neglected and the friends had been

working with the Council to bring forward proposals for accessing funding to improve the area, for example, putting in bollards to prevent cars parking there. She said that Mr. and Mrs. Sheasby had canvassed people in the area and there had been a good response which would be discussed at the next meeting of the friends.

Finally, with regard to Moat Farm pool, Mrs. Payton said this was in a very sad state of repair. When the farm had closed in the 1970s, the owners would not allow anyone to carry out any work on the pool so it had begun to deteriorate and to attract litter. Since then several groups had tried to improve the site. The friends had discussed this issue and had written to residents around the Norton Road area. They were hopeful of gaining support from local residents to apply for funding to improve the area around the pool.

52/05

Mr. Clive Bradley, 3 Greenfields Road, Shelfield

Mr. Bradley said that the bin at the bottom end of the common by the Dawn Cooper bench was the only one with a lid and this used to be kept shut. He was pleased to see a number of bins, but they were now unsuitable for what people were putting into them. The open bins were full in a matter of days and had begun to smell. There were plenty of bins at the top end of the common, but more were needed at the bottom end.

Mr. Bradley said that he also wished to support Mrs. Ellens' comments about Shelfield Library. He queried why there had been no police presence in High Heath and Shelfield when the vandalism had occurred.

As a point of information, Mrs. Payton stressed that there had never been a dog litter bin on the common. She said that dog mess should not be placed in ordinary litter bins.

Councillor Perry said that he was aware of the problems with litter, not just on the common, but in other parts of Pelsall and that extra facilities were needed. He hoped that officers of the Council would work with the Friends of Pelsall Common to install additional bins on the common, in particular on Little Common.

53/05

Mr. B. Sheasby, 35 Green Lane, Pelsall

Mr. Sheasby queried whether the selection of locally appointed partners (LAPs) had been resolved for the forthcoming municipal year.

The Chairman said that he understood that action was being taken to extend the term of office of the LAPs for a further 12 months. There was still a vacancy for a LAP which the LNP wished to be filled by someone involved with young people in the LNP area.

54/05

Mr. R. Hayes, 4 Autumn Close, High Heath, Pelsall

Mr. Hayes questioned why the area around the Four Seasons public house in High Heath was so dirty. He said there had been many complaints in High Heath about this but no-one from the Council had been to clean up the area. He said that children were using the area behind the public house to take drugs and there were used needles there.

Councillor Micklewright said that she had visited the area herself. She had received a number of complaints and had spoken to the landlord of the public house who had told her that she paid the Council each year to have the area cleaned up. Councillor Micklewright said she had spoken to Council officers who could find no record of this and who were now investigating this matter.

55/05

Mrs. S. Sheasby, 35 Green Lane, Pelsall

Mrs. Sheasby said that she believed that the LNP meetings were still not being advertised enough. She was sure that if the meetings were better publicised that more local residents would attend.

Hannah Sutcliffe of the Council's Press Office, said that a double page feature on LNPs in Walsall had appeared in the Walsall Pride newsletter which had been delivered to 100,000 homes in the Borough.

The Chairman asked how many member of the public present at the meeting had received a copy of the Walsall Pride newsletter. From the small show of hands he said that obviously more work was needed to publicise LNP meetings.

56/05

Community Safety update

A briefing was given by Inspector Gwyn Bevan of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership.

Inspector Bevan referred to the Crime and Disorder strategy for the Borough which set out priorities for reducing crime and disorder in Walsall in 2005-08. He said that the strategy would be submitted to Cabinet for approval on 13 April 2005 and copies would be made available to the general public after this date. He would arrange for copies to be provided to LNP members.

Inspector Bevan said that the target for reducing crime over the next 3 years was 20%. The figures were encouraging; there had been a 9% reduction in crime in the year just ended; a 20% reduction in burglary; 19% in vehicle crime and 5.5% in violent crime.

Inspector Bevan said that at the last meeting the LNP had asked for crime and disorder figures for Pelsall and Rushall to be submitted to each meeting of the LNP i.e. every three months. He said that this could be done but was more difficult because the police divisions in the area cut across the boundaries of the LNP. However, data on community safety would be submitted on a six monthly basis to each LNP and the data for Pelsall and Rushall would be submitted to the next meeting.

Inspector Bevan assured the meeting that there was significant police activity in the LNP area. Inspector Ashley was aware of how the police were deployed in Pelsall and Rushall and from the returns received so far, the impact of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership had been significant in reducing crime and the borough was becoming consistently safer. He said that the crime and disorder figures for Pelsall and Rushall were below the national average.

Councillor Micklewright voiced her concerns about the number of children and young people riding motorised scooters and motorbikes on roads in the area.

Inspector Bevan said that this activity was illegal. The police were tackling this problem, but there were also important health and safety issues to be considered. For example, the police were mindful that the drivers and riders of the cars, motorbikes and scooters they were pursuing might very well be a child or young person and this could have dangerous implications. This meant that different tactics had to be used to apprehend the offenders. He urged residents who were experiencing problems with this nuisance to contact the police.

Mr. Neil Jones raised the matter of the deployment of police in the Pelsall village area. He said that up to 30 to 40 young people were now gathering at the entrance of the Church Road/Chapel Street alleyway on Friday and Saturday evenings. He questioned what the police intended to do about this problem as local residents were too frightened to ring the police and had asked him to raise this issue at the meeting.

Inspector Ashley said that he would investigate this matter.

Mr. Jim Thomas said that the statistics which Inspector Bevan had given were borough-wide. His concern was that the figures did not compare with those of the local neighbourhood watch which showed that crime had risen 20% in the area. He said that people in Pelsall were concerned as they no longer saw any police presence and the beat bobbies had been withdrawn and redeployed

Mr. Thomas said that the new model of policing had been introduced in October 2004 without local consultation and he did not believe this model to be working. The beat teams had had a high level of co-operation from the local community in reducing crime and he believed that what had been a brilliant scheme had now been lost.

Mr. Thomas said that local business people were also concerned about anti-social behaviour. Crime had returned to areas such as High Heath and Shelfield and the situation had deteriorated in the past 6 months. This concerned him as representatives from other communities had seen the success that had been achieved by the introduction of beat teams in Pelsall, and had planned to introduce similar teams in their areas and yet it had now been decided to dispense with these. The neighbourhood watch was aware just how fearful people were of crime and anti-social behaviour and problems at night in Pelsall village with underage drinking. The police had carried out purges on anti-social behaviour in New Deal areas such as Goscote and Beechdale but this appeared to have led to the troublemakers transferring from these areas into Pelsall along with all their attendant problems such as drug pushers.

Inspector Bevan said that the deployment of officers was based on a national force model which had been agreed following consultation by the Home Office, Chief Constables and other key agencies. The local commander had asked Inspector Ashley to deploy his resources in line with this model. He asked Mr. Thomas to speak to Inspector Ashley about particular problems with anti-social behaviour in the area. Following analysis, there had been slight adjustments made to the model to improve crime reduction and the police had to be guided by this. If it were found that the present strategies were not working, the concerns of local residents would be taken into account by the local commander and changes would be made. The Safer Walsall Borough Partnership would ensure that the anti-social behaviour unit had a clear focus on neighbourhood delivery and the police were part of the partnership committed to delivering community safety.

Councillor Perry referred to the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and the borough-wide perspective to reduce crime. He said that the Council was working with key partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and initiatives such as the Summer Reloaded programme had been very successful. Notwithstanding these initiatives, Councillor Perry said that he had campaigned to have beat teams introduced into other areas and he had spoken to Inspector Ashley about their withdrawal. He had similar concerns to those already expressed about the changes in policing methods that had been implemented. He supported the police and recognised the tough job that they did but nevertheless was fully aware of local residents' concerns about anti-social behaviour. Young people needed to be engaged and it was important to ensure that whatever resources were available to the police were used to the best effect. He referred to the crime and disorder strategy document and said that he looked forward to seeing how the priorities for reducing crime developed.

Councillor Perry said that a survey of 3,000 residents had been carried out on behalf of neighbourhood watch two years ago on issues such as beat bobbies; the introduction of CCTV etc. He queried what action had been taken as a result of the survey.

Inspector Bevan said that he had no knowledge of this particular survey. As a point of information, he said that the police carried out regular surveys and every four months contacted 500 people across the borough to find out their concerns. He said that the concerns of local residents raised at the meeting, for example, about the style of policing would be taken on board in consultation with Inspector Ashley.

Mr. D. Lym, 9 New Street, Sheffield, was concerned about crime reduction initiatives in Sheffield as it was split into two police divisions.

Inspector Bevan said that Community Safety meetings were held on a fortnightly basis and cross border police division issues were discussed at these meetings.

In summing up the discussions, the Chairman thanked Inspector Bevan for his briefing and said that the LNP looked forward to receiving crime and disorder statistics for Pelsall and Rushall at its next meeting.

57/05

Partnership plan/feedback from task groups

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The report was introduced by the Chairman who asked the Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer (Ms. Parveen Sangha) to speak to the report.

Ms. Sangha thanked all those who had attended the task group meeting on 16 March 2005. She said a further meeting was planned in late April/May at which everyone would be welcome. She stressed that the task group meetings were open to any members of the public who wished to participate.

Referring to the report, Ms. Sangha said that the partnership was being asked to approve the update version of the partnership plan and to nominate champions for each of the task groups who could provide feedback to each LNP meeting. Approval was also sought for a proposal to merge the four task groups into two; the first task group would be concerned with crime and young people and the second task group with the elderly, environment, health and housing. Individual LNP members were also asked to encourage participation from community members within the task groups.

Mr. B. Sheasby, 35 Green Lane, Pelsall, queried why it was proposed to reduce the task groups from four to two. He thought that one task group to cover issues such as the elderly, environment, health and housing was too much.

The Chairman said that many members of the task groups were members of more than one group. It had been decided at the task group meeting on 16 March 2005 that two task groups would be sufficient to cope with at present, but if it were found that the remit of the two task groups was too wide, then they would be split back into the various topics once again.

With regard to funding, the Chairman said that he was pleased to report that the Council had now agreed to allocate £250,000 to the LNPs. £22,000 would be allocated to Pelsall and Rushall LNP to provide funding for projects in the LNP area. There would be discussions in the task groups to decide the best use for the funding. The Chairman stressed that the local community would only get out of its LNP what it was prepared to put into it and he urged people to join the task groups and to be positive. The LNP had to take advantage of the funding on offer if improving the LNP area were to be achieved.

Councillor Perry supported the Chairman and said that the partnership plan was pivotal to the LNP area. What was included in the plan would dictate how funding was allocated in the Pelsall and Rushall LNP area in future years. The LNP would have a say in deciding where money was spent in their local area.

Mrs. Hayes suggested that four champions be appointed to cover the various topics in the two task groups. There was general agreement to this suggestion.

Mrs. Hayes also circulated a report and action plan which had been produced by the Autumn Close, High Heath Residents Forum. The plan set out local residents' suggestions for improvements in the Shelfield and High Heath area.

The Chairman asked that the report and action plan be forwarded to the next meeting of the task groups for consideration.

Resolved

- (1) That the update version of the partnership plan be approved;
- (2) That the task groups be merged as follows:
Crime and young people
Elderly and environment, health and housing
- (3) That the following task group members be nominated as champions for the various themes:
Crime – Colin Payton
Young people – Jim Thomas
Elderly – Sheila Sheasby
Environment, health and housing – Margaret Hayes

- (4) That individual LNP members be requested to encourage wider participation from community members within the task groups.

58/05

Community Empowerment Network

A presentation was made by Diya Lees, the manager of Community Empowerment Network (CEN). She circulated a handout relating to the work of the CEN:-

(see annexed)

Ms. Lees outlined the role of the CEN which was to work with LNPs, the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and respective communities to develop community forums where local groups and people could meet to discuss issues of mutual concern. These would provide an opportunity for local people to discuss their ideas and priorities. They could then come to meetings such as the LNP to speak with a collective voice. They would not have to act as individuals but would be part of a forum with support from a wider network of local people in their area, as well as voluntary organisations. She referred to the joint community forum meeting of Pelsall and Rushall and Bloxwich and Blakenall areas which had been held on 7 March 2005.

In conclusion Miss Lees said that the CEN was looking to develop more formal contact between the CEN and the LNP and to build on work where forums already existed with the aim of sharing ideas and resources.

Mrs. Hayes was concerned that the CEN was a duplication of the work of the LNP.

Mr. Rob Hughes said that the role of the CEN was not to detract from the work of existing groups but to galvanise support from the whole community. It might be that some people were a little apprehensive about attending a LNP meeting. If the CEN could attract people to its forums then they could perhaps be persuaded to take part in a bigger forum, such as this Pelsall and Rushall LNP.

Mrs. S. Sheasby, 35 Green Lane, Pelsall, said that she had attended the meeting on 7 March 2005 and there had only been 7 people at the meeting.

Mr. M. Armstrong, 57 Bridge Close, Shelfield, said that the meeting had been badly advertised. He questioned why, with the resources available to Walsall Council, this could not have been done better. He said that he was very keen to establish some sort of forum where he lived in Shelfield.

Councillor Perry said that the CEN had never been represented previously in Pelsall and Rushall. When community groups in the area had gone to the CEN for help in the past they had been turned down, whereas other areas had been seen to receive CEN support and this had not gone down well with

local residents. He said that the 7 March meeting had not received any real representation from the Pelsall and Rushall area. He believed it had been a mistake to link Pelsall and Rushall with Bloxwich and Blakenall as these areas had previously received support whereas Pelsall and Rushall had not. Because of this past history, the CEN might experience difficulties in trying to build bridges in the Pelsall and Rushall area.

These views were supported by Mrs. K. Harrison, 58 Old Town Lane, and Pelsall, who represented POPPIES (Drug Rehabilitation Centre). She said that after previously being turned down, it was difficult to get the support of local groups to co-operate with the CEN again.

Ms. Lees said she recognised the historical problems and that the CEN was trying to address these and to turn things around. They wanted to work closely with LNPs and the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership as they believed the only way forward was to have the voice of local people in determining how services were developed. In answer to criticisms about advertising of meetings, she said that the CEN had a mailing list of 800 voluntary and community groups. It was their intention to advertise another meeting in Pelsall and Rushall.

In summing up the discussions, the Chairman said that he believed the LNP should take up the opportunity of working with the CEN to bring about improvements in the Pelsall and Rushall area.

It was therefore:-

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the presentation on the role of the community forums by Diya Lees of Walsall CEN be noted;
- (2) That the LNP agree to work together with Walsall CEN to establish community forums comprising individual members of the local community and local groups in order to bring them together to discuss priorities and issues of mutual concern.

59/05

Contacts with local business community in the LNP area

A briefing was given by the Chairman.

The Chairman said that he had approached one or two businesses in the LNP area. His view was that as ratepayers and employers of local people they might wish to make a contribution, financial or otherwise to the work of the LNP. At present he had only approached large businesses but he was encouraged by their wish to become involved. Hopefully a representative from the local business community would be able to attend the next meeting where these ideas could be discussed further.

Resolved

That the contents of the briefing by the Chairman to encourage the participation of the local business community in the activities of the LNP be noted.

60/05

Training and development for LNP and task group members

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The report was introduced by the Chairman who asked the Neighbourhood Partnership Officer (Ms. Parveen Sangha) to speak to the report.

Ms. Sangha said that the Neighbourhood Partnership Team were presently trying to identify suitable courses for the further development of LNP members' skills. She referred to the placecheck briefing session on 25 February 2005 and said that from the discussions, issues had been identified that could be used for a placecheck approach. The task groups would be requested to move forward the proposals recommended in the placecheck report.

Councillor Ault praised the report and also the action plan put forward by the residents of Autumn Close, High Heath. He said that it was important to have the ideas of groups as such as these and to get people talking about what they wanted for their area. This in turn would encourage more people to become involved with the LNP.

Ms. Sangha said that now that the task groups were established they would be the mechanism for making things happen. Champions for the various topics had now been appointed and workshops would be arranged to move things forward. Progress on the work of the task groups would be reported to the next meeting.

In summing up the discussion, the Chairman said that the LNP was looking to members of all the groups to bring their ideas and move things forward. There were 20,000 people in the area and he hoped that as many of them as possible would want to become involved. He hoped that 75% of future agenda items would be from the public.

Resolved

- (1) That the actions for implementation set out in the placecheck report be noted;
- (2) That task groups be requested to move forward with proposals recommended in the placecheck report.

Shelfield Library

A briefing was given by Councillor Perry, the Cabinet portfolio holder for Culture and Leisure.

Councillor Perry said that it had been a sad decision to close Shelfield Library as it was not the Council's wish to close down such facilities. Walsall had a good library service and this had been recognised by the Government. He could not comment on the legacy of under investment in the library as he had not been involved in past management decisions. He could say, however, that in the last two to three years he had been involved and had led the service, every option for Shelfield Library had been explored.

Councillor Perry said that everyone was aware of the events that led to the closure of the library. Both staff and local residents had been subjected to continual anti-social behaviour. Various police initiatives had been implemented which could have led to anti-social behaviour orders being imposed on the people causing the damage. He said that prior to the closure the number of incidents of vandalism had in fact been reduced.

Councillor Perry said that the fire at the library had caused a lot of damage and the decision had been taken to close the building permanently. The final decision had been taken in consultation with the ward members and residents who lived close to the library. He referred to the interim arrangements to support library users in the area. These would include visits by the mobile library and opening Pelsall Library for an extra day. Library users had been advised of these facilities, including alternative computer facilities available to them.

With regard to safety of the library, Councillor Perry said that the building had to be made safe so that asbestos could be removed. This should be completed by the end of next week.

In conclusion, Councillor Perry said that in respect of future library provision, Shelfield and Rushall area was one of the areas of Walsall that would be looked at closely in relation to the reprovision of library services.

Mr. R. Hayes, 4 Autumn Close, High Heath, Pelsall, queried whether the site would be fenced off when the library was demolished to prevent caravans, etc. gaining access there.

Councillor Perry said that the site would be secured, but he could not say at this time what decisions on its future would be taken.

Mrs. M. Payton, 177 Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall, asked whether Shelfield College library could be opened to the general public.

Councillor Perry said that this was something that was being investigated, particularly with regard to facilities for young people. Also, the development of libraries and children's centres and the possibility of a mini library. He said that the future of the library service in the area was currently under review.

Mr. M. Armstrong, 57 Woodbridge Close, Shelfield, said that houses were soon to be built on a piece of land close to the site of the library. He questioned why some of the revenue that had come to the Council from the sale of the land could not be used for facilities for local people.

Councillor Perry said that under previous Section 106 planning legislation, developers were obliged to pay for alternative recreational facilities in the community as part of planning conditions. This requirement had not been included in the new act and alternative arrangements would be part of a government review.

Mrs. D. Johnson, 15 Fairway, Shelfield, said that she had used the library for 40 years. She said that the library had been threatened with closure twice before and was concerned that it had been allowed to get into such a state of disrepair.

Mr. C. Bradley, 3 Greenfields Road, Shelfield, said that he was a library user. He would like to see a building erected in its place that would offer not just a library but other community facilities, for example, somewhere where he could pay bills etc. The building would then become a focal point for the whole community. He said that many of the library staff had been young men and women. He questioned whether older persons employed there might have been able to handle the troublemakers better.

Councillor Perry said that Walsall had entered into a partnership as part of the Putting the Citizen First project to bring investment to Walsall. Shelfield would be ideal for such a facility as Mr. Bradley has described. The Council was aware which libraries were in poor condition and did not need meet future requirements. With regard to staffing a Shelfield Library, he said that staff who had worked there had been rotated. Some of them had been subject to personal attacks and had had their cars vandalised.

Mrs. B. Ellens, 49 Broad Way, Pelsall, asked whether Councillor Perry could give an assurance that the library site would not be used for any other purpose.

Councillor Perry said that he could not give that assurance. If there were to be a new facility then obviously the right location for this would be one of the issues for discussion.

In summing up the discussions, the Chairman said that it would cost £120,000 to bring Shelfield Library back to the required standard. Unfortunately a minority of people had forced the closure of a facility that the majority of people enjoyed. No firm promise could be made about a new

library, but he urged local residents who felt strongly about this issue to organise themselves by collecting petitions, etc. to inform the Council of their views.

Resolved

That the contents of the briefing by Councillor Perry on the current situation with regard to the closure of Sheffield Library be noted.

62/05

Update on petitions received by the LNP

The report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mrs. Mason referred to item 3 in the report, installation of lighting in the gully leading from Stanley Place to Daw End Lane, Rushall. She said that she hoped that funding would be available to install lighting in the gully as it was heavily used by elderly people attending activities at Rushall Community College. For this reason, she hoped that no steps would be taken to close off this gully.

Councillor Micklewright said that she had been investigating this matter on behalf of the petitioners. She had been informed that the gully belonged to Walsall Housing Group and had spoken to them about this. She had now been informed, however, that the gully had been adopted by Walsall Council and that officers were now looking into the possibility of lighting being installed there.

The Assistant Director for the Built Environment (Mr. Keith Stone) said that he would investigate questions raised, particularly with regard to the timescale for carrying out any lighting installation in the gully. He said that Cabinet had agreed a criteria for priority lighting in gullies in the borough for which funding would be made available.

Mrs. Hayes referred to item 2 in the report, closure of gully between Hawthorne Road and Grange Crescent, Sheffield. She said that not all residents wished to see this gully closed.

Mr. Stone said that any decision to close the gully would only be taken following detailed consultation with local residents and those most affected.

Mr. Neil Jones said that not all residents welcomed proposals to install lighting in alleyways as the lights acted as a magnet and attracted groups to gather there. He referred again to problems he was experiencing with 30-40 young people gathering at the entrance to the alleyway close to his home in Church Road, Pelsall. He said that if the alleyway were to be lit, then the problems would increase.

Mr. B. Sheasby, 35 Green Lane, Pelsall, referred to item 6 in the report, public forum. He asked the LNP to consider inviting the Environmental Health Manager to one of the environment task group meetings to discuss issues relating to dog fouling. There was general agreement from LNP members to this proposal.

The Chairman asked that progress on the various issues raised by the petitioners continue to be monitored and the LNP be informed accordingly.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be received and noted;
- (2) That the Environmental Health Manager be invited to attend the meeting of the elderly and environment, health and housing task group to discuss issues and problems of dog fouling in the Pelsall and Rushall LNP area.

63/05

Mapping exercise presentation

The Chairman advised the meeting that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: