

St Matthews Birchills Leamore Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 21st September 2006

LNP Funding

Portfolio: Safer Stronger Communities, Partnerships and Vision 2021

Service Area: Neighbourhood Services

Wards: St Matthews Ward
Birchills Leamore Ward

1. Purpose of the Report

This report seeks to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of the funding criteria for the 2006-2007 LNP funding and to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of progress to date with regards to the funding priorities 2005-2006.

2. Recommendations

The LNP is asked to:

- (a) Note the progress on funding priorities 2005-2006
- (b) Note current spend.
- (c) Note the criteria for the allocated 2006-2007 funding
- (d) Note the deadline for spend of 2006-2007 is 31st March 2007

3. Progress funding priorities 2005-2006

Project Description	Allocated	Spent	Project Status
Social Cohesion Project	£2,000	-	See below
Rat on a Rat Campaign	£1,500	-	See below
Alleyways/ Gating	£8,000	-	See below

Total Funding spent to date **£ 2,000**
Total allocated but not yet spent **£ 9,500 (earmarked)**
Total Remaining **£10,500**

Below is a progress report for each project identified to date during 2005/06

New Project Proposals

Litter Bin in Buchanan Avenue

To provide funds to install 1 universal bin located on Buchanan Avenue adjacent to Arboretum Park. No specific budget at present, is available through Ground Services for the supply and installation of additional litter bins on the highway. Request has been made by local resident who is picking up

rubbish in Buchanan Avenue. **Cost: £260 – supply, install and emptying included**

Environmental Project - Jane Lane and Bentley Drive Schools and Reedswood Park. Contact name – Chris Jones

See appendix 1 for details

Funding sought for project: £2, 000

Funding Priority Identified through Workshop	Service Area	Feedback from Service Area	What Happens Next?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Cohesion Programme – Currently with Croft and Beechdale schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croft Community Primary School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNP allocated £2,000 towards this project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will continue with Saint Patrick’s Catholic primary school. Project lead will now be Mr Rod Dickson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rat on a Rat’ campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWBP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for a pilot in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNP to decide if they want to continue with this. West Midlands Police will look to support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caldmore Green Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Arts Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project will need further development and most probably further funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update will be given at the LNP meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleyways / Gating - Mary Street - Lewis Street - Croft Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Walsall Borough Partnership 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update will be given at LNP meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birchills Playing Field 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LNP resolved at the last meeting to hold a public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Cabinet now due by 29th November.

Funding Priority Identified through Workshop	Service Area	Feedback from Service Area	What Happens Next?
		workshop to give more details on the proposal. The information from this to be fed into Cabinet meeting on 18 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for workshop will be advised in due course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beechdale Bayou Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding required to undertake feasibility study. • Funding required £6,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project has been deferred as other match funding is being sourced (£200K) and a community organisation who will take on this site for a minimum of 21 years (conditions set by Football foundation)

4. Criteria LNP funding 2006-2007

The St Matthews Birchills Leamore LNP has been allocated a further £10,000. Note this money must be spent by 31st March 2007.

The focus of the 2006-2007 allocation of funding will have to be on developing safer and stronger communities, in particular:

- One of the council pledges for 2006-2007 is the delivery of 3 environmental projects in each LNP area. Therefore an emphasis should be placed on delivering the 3 environmental projects in the St Matthews Birchills Leamore LNP area. The LNP should aim to fund initiatives that will have the greatest environmental impact across their area.
- There needs to be a focus on hotspots/areas of greatest need, as identified by community intelligence and local stats. Therefore funding should not be split by ward but by areas of greatest need.
- The activities/actions need to have a direct impact on Local Area Agreement indicators.
- The funding will need to link in to the Pledges developed by the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

See Appendix 2 – Funding Criteria and Process

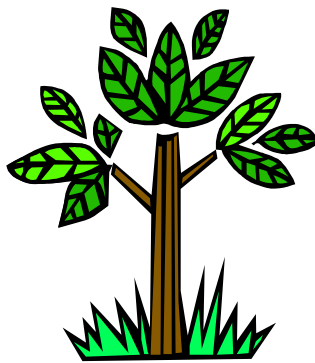
To support the LNP in distributing their funding within the criteria a menu/basket of measures is being developed through Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, Environmental Regeneration and Street Pride which the LNP would be able to “purchase” from their £10,000 allocation to assist in developing safer and stronger communities. The menu drawn up by these services will bear in mind the Local Neighbourhood Partnership pledges as well as the Local Area Agreement Indicators.

Contact Officers

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A C E S

Active Community Environmental Students



a brief outline by

**Mr C Jones
Chairman
Birchills & Reedswood
Neighbourhood/Agenda 21 Group
Vice Chair of Governors
Bentley Drive School**

ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

Over a period of many years of hard work and fundraising, Reedswood Park is now slowly being transferred into a very modern park which is being used by the whole community for various recreational activities be it for walking, exercising and pleasure. It is sad to see that this work can be set back considerably by vandalism. As a governor of a local school I took this problem to the school who agreed we should try to do something about this and combine this issue with many other issues that are at the forefront of today's society.

The issues that we are going to address are:-

Environment

Learn to improve the environment by recycling – reduce pollution etc

Cultivation

We aim to use local allotments to grow produce and teach the importance of producing and using locally grown produce and how easy it is to do this.

Parks and Open Spaces

We aim to make the children aware of the wild life that exists in our area, it's protection and enhancement to respect the facilities provided for them.

Community Engagement

Our aim is to encourage racial harmony and integration. To acknowledge the dangers that exist in society and to strive for a better community in which to live.

Supporting Bodies

We have developed a working link with:

Walsall MBC - Parks and Open Spaces
Local Education Authority
West Midlands Police
Royal Horticultural Society

To begin with this project will involve two local schools, Bentley Drive JMI and Jane Lane School. It is envisaged that this project will involve all children (including special needs). We also have the Shepwell Green School keen to participate but initially we will start small with a view to grow and develop with the passage of time. It is envisaged that we will form a steering group made up of representatives of each school and representatives from the above

agencies. This group will be responsible for the implementation and delivery of a programme that will facilitate the aims laid out earlier. It is envisaged that the project will link with the national curriculum for education, the Government's newly developed extended schools programme, Walsall MBC's programme to develop a Junior Park Rangers Scheme as well as other issues detailed in the aim section of this document.

West Midlands Police will engage with students whilst at an early age and develop relations and educate them. They will promote themselves as a body not to be feared or despised but to work as one to further the quality of life within the community.

Future

When the scheme has developed and established itself into a working programme, it is anticipated that more schools and groups of children will join and participate but more importantly it will provide the blueprint for the facilitation of more groups in other parks and open spaces within the borough. The Royal Horticultural Society are particularly keen to assist and monitor its progress as they can see a future for this nationally they are already rolling out programmes where children can engage in cultivation and environmental respects.

Conclusion

This project will rely heavily on the volunteer sector and funding will always be an issue but neither problem at this stage is considered an insurmountable problem. The foundations being laid down are deliberately being kept simple. The involvement of all concerned should lead to a flexible and workable programme whilst being kept within workable boundaries which should help to ensure the projects success and future development.

Facilities that have already been made available to date are:-

- The Park Rangers hut within Reedswood Park is available as a meeting point.
- Fully constructed raised planter beds with pathways and a polytunnel for a nominal fee of approximately £25 per annum.
- Park Rangers who will help with the programme and open the toilets for students within Reedswood Park.

Cultivation work could include plants and shrubs that could be planted within the local park, enhancing further its appearance.

The project would not exclude any parents or guardians who wish to actively involve themselves with their children.

Walsall MBC has a Business & Enterprise College, Language College, Sports College, Drama College, Engineering College but there seems to be a lack of anything to address the aims raised within this report. Rodbaston is the ultimate college but it seems there is a lack of earlier feeder students for it.

Appendix 2 – Funding Criteria and Process

Local Neighbourhood Partnerships Funding

Each of the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships have been allocated £5,000 per ward to help them support initiatives in their local community.

Please see below a guide to:

- Funding criteria 2006-2007- what the funding may be used for
- Funding process – the process that needs to be adhered to, to release the funding

Funding criteria

To be eligible for funding, initiatives will have to link in with the following criteria:

Strategic linkage:

- They need to be actions which fall within one of the pledges identified by the LNP in their Neighbourhood Agreement
- The action will need to link into the priorities for Vision 2008. In particular to “Ensure a clean and green borough”
- Prioritisation should be given by the LNP to the delivery of 3 environmental projects in their LNP area, which is a Council pledge for 2007/08. The LNP should aim to fund initiatives that will have the greatest environmental impact across their area, not necessarily on a ward by ward basis.
- The activities/actions need to have a direct impact on Local Area Agreement indicators.

Sustainability:

- The actions need to be ‘sustainable’- therefore they should not need further funding or maintenance in the future, unless further funding or a maintenance agreement has been identified elsewhere. Actions eligible under this criteria are:
 - ‘one-off actions’, which need no further maintenance/ funding, for example: an event
 - Actions which kick start a bigger initiative- for example: to fund a pilot project which can be rolled out through other funding (already identified) if proved to be successful
 - Actions which support a ‘capital’ investment where maintenance or further funding is agreed. For example: the funding of a bin, after having agreed with Street Pride that they will empty this bin regularly.
 - Actions which ‘add value’. For example: funding of equipment to support the expansion of a service/community based project.
- A menu/basket of measures is available to assist LNPs in identifying and prioritising actions and activities that they wish to fund. This has

been compiled from Streetpride, Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and Environmental Regeneration.

- Actions that **can not** be funded include: Core funding for a community or other project- as this is not sustainable unless the funding is to bridge a gap between already identified funds.

Applicants:

- Actions need to be carried out by the council or by its partners (tPCT, Police, Community Organisations, etc). If the project is carried out by a partner this should be through a grant agreement (for more information on grant agreements- see 'funding process'.)

Geographic criteria:

- Actions need to have a positive impact on the whole partnership area. The LNP will need to ensure the whole partnership area benefits from the funding. Preferably by funding projects that benefit the whole partnership area, rather than a specific area/ ward. Cross boundary projects, working with other LNP's, are also encouraged.
- There needs to be a focus on hotspots/areas of greatest need, as identified by community intelligence and local data. Therefore funding should not necessarily be split by ward but by areas of greatest need.

Please contact the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team if you want advice on whether your project proposal links into the criteria or need any advice on filling out the project proposal form.

Funding Process

The funding process has been amended slightly in August 2007 to ensure a quicker turn around of projects.

Please see below a step by step guide to the new process. Please bear in mind that the timescales involved are individual to each project and are dependent on a number of factors. The LNP team aim to keep the LNP informed of progress through the designated LNP member and at LNP meetings.

Please see the table on the next pages for the funding process.

Funding Process

1. **Priority needs are identified through the Neighbourhood Agreement pledges.**

2. **The LNP identifies an action that supports the pledge.**
This may happen by the LNP, for example in a Community Action Group, or individual LNP members may initiate this.

3. **A designated LNP member will be identified to follow through the action.**
This LNP member will be kept informed on progress. If the action is initiated by an individual and it has not been shared with the LNP yet, they will be the designated contact.

4. **A service area/ partner organisation (including Community organisations) (from now on referred to as the 'delivery agent') which can deliver the action will be identified.**
The delivery agent may be identified by the LNP, but this may also be initiated by an individual. The LNP may ask the Neighbourhood Partnership Officer for support in identifying a suitable 'delivery agent' from within the Council or from the WBSP Nominated Partners. – Please be aware the identification of a suitable delivery agent may take some time. The designated LNP Member will be kept informed of any barriers.

5. The delivery agent will need to **identify a nominated contact within their organisation who will work on the project.** The Neighbourhood Partnerships Team will need to be informed of the details of the contact person.

6. **The nominated contact will be sent the project proposal form with the request to complete it.**

7. The Project Proposal form will need to be returned to the LNP team. Upon receipt **the project team will check it for eligibility**

8. **If eligible**, the project will be taken to the LNP meeting for the LNP for consideration.

8. **If not eligible**, the LNP team will contact all relevant people to explain why the project is not eligible. They are entitled to resubmit their application with amendments.

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9. If, at the LNP meeting, the LNP agree to fund the project, based on the information on the project proposal form, the Chair will sign and date the form.

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10. The form will be returned to the Neighbourhood Partnerships team and the delivery agent will be sent a memo in which they are told they may commence the project.

10A. If the delivery agent is a Council department, they will also be sent a claim for reimbursement form which needs to be completed and returned with evidence of spend and of completion. This will be required for monitoring purposes and to enable monies to be released after completion of the project

10B. If the delivery agent is outside the council they will be sent a grant agreement which they need to sign and return. They will also be sent a claim for reimbursement form for monitoring purposes, but will receive the funding upon return of the grant agreement, rather than after the completion of the project.