

PHEASEY AND PADDOCK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, 24 October 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

at St. Martin's Church Hall, Daffodil Road, off Sutton Road, Walsall

Present

Councillor Barry Sanders (Chairman)
Ms. Yvette Sheward (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Adrian Andrew
Mr. Fred Bell
Councillor Mike Bird
Sergeant Pete Finch
Councillor Chris Towe

131/06 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Ms. Sharon Froggatt, Councillor Rose Martin, Mr. John Punch, Ms. Jeet Sohal and Councillor Zahid Ali.

132/06 Welcome

The Partnership welcomed Yvette Sheward, the WBSP Appointed Partner, Vice-Chairman.

133/06 Introductions

Members of the Partnership introduced themselves.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman advised the LNP that Gary Brookes, the Walsall Housing Group representative, had moved to St. Matthews and Birchills/Leamore Local Neighbourhood Partnership. The Partnership thanked Mr. Brookes for his contribution to this LNP during the period of his membership.

Minutes**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

In agreeing the minutes, Partnership Members received the following updates:-

Vice-Chairman - LAP

The Chairman mentioned that, at the last meeting, the LNP had decided to defer the selection of a Locally Appointed Partner Vice-Chair until the next selection process had been completed. No new nominations for Locally Appointed Partners had been received for the LNP and he, therefore, suggested that the Vice-Chair be selected from the current pool of Locally Appointed Partners.

The Partnership agreed and it was,

Resolved

That Jeet Sohal be appointed as Locally Appointed Partner Vice-Chair for the remainder of the year subject to her acceptance.

Neighbourhood Watch, Pheasey

Ward Councillors gave feedback on the current position with regard to the re-establishment of the Neighbourhood Watch. There had been little support from the Police and no further progress had been made. A brief discussion took place on methods of publicity for the Group, following which, Ward Councillors said they would approach Mr. Alan Crunden of the CEN to see if he would be willing to undertake a "caretaker" co-ordinators role.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman mentioned that Mr. Crunden had won a Safer Community Award from the Mayor at the recent Civic Awards ceremony for his contribution to the Orchard Hills Neighbourhood Watch, which he had kept running for 20 years. The LNP congratulated Mr. Crunden on his achievement.

Three Crowns School - Closure

It was noted that the Council was still looking at options and once the development brief had been produced, the LNP would be consulted.

Three Crowns School - hot food van

The Senior Support Officer, Judith Sunley, explained the position with regard to the issue of a street trading consent for a hot food trader in the area. She said that the trader was not situated directly by the school, had been trading tidily and had not been obstructing the highway.

A short discussion took place in respect of the categories of streets within the Borough for the purposes of street trading and suggested that Licensing and Safety Committee should be asked to review the status of the streets within the Borough for those purposes. Councillor Towe said that he would look at it from a scrutiny perspective.

Resolved

That Licensing and Safety Committee be requested to review the status of streets within the Borough for the purposes of street trading.

Traffic congestion - Broadway North

This would be dealt with later on the agenda.

Funding - suggested projects

This would be dealt with within the Community Action Group report later on the agenda.

135/06 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

136/06 **Petitions**

There were no petitions received.

137/06 **Public Forum**

Walsall Arboretum User Group

The Chairman and the Secretary of the Arboretum User Group, Mr. Barry Jenkins and Mr. John Llewellyn, attended the LNP and made a brief presentation explaining the background to the Arboretum User Group. He said that in 2005, the Group received an award of £500 from the LNP for the purposes of bulb planting in the Arboretum. This funding was received in July, 2006 and the bulbs had now been planted

along the old model railway line. The planting involved pupils from three local Primary Schools. In view of the success of the project, the Group applied for additional funding from the LNP, most of this, again, being spent on bulb planting to create conservation areas and would involve local schools and some disabled volunteers. Walsall Library had approached the Group to assist them in creating a library area in the Arboretum. The silver medal garden from the BBC Gardener's World Award, would now be relocated to the park to the part opposite the old Crabtree's factory. Mr. Llewellyn said that the Project Manager for this was a retired headmistress, Jackie Cocken, who had been excellent in getting people involved in the projects. She had praised the co-operation of parks staff on the projects.

The Chairman congratulated the User Group on their work.

A brief discussion took place, during which time, Councillor Bird said that Mrs. Cocken had asked him, on her behalf, to pay tribute to the grounds maintenance staff and rangers who have assisted the Group in their submission to Gardener's World which had won a silver medal. The Group had been asked to submit an application for the following year.

The Senior Support Officer, Mrs. Sunley, suggested that this was an opportunity to celebrate the work of the Group and suggested that the work be included in a proposed LNP newsletter as an example of best practice involving the wider community. The Chairman thanked Mr. Llewellyn for his presentation.

Arboretum/Leckie Senior Club - request for funding

Mr. Garbett, who was a member of the Arboretum/Leckie Seniors Club, highlighted some problems being experienced with the bowling green/tennis courts area. The area was being mis-used with youths cycling across the bowling green and animal fouling. He said that the Leckie Club had been there for over 70 years and the bowling green was a popular area of the Arboretum. He said that although the park staff provided an excellent job looking after the area, he felt that some further preventative action could be taken such as fencing for the croquet green. Mr. Garbett was aware that there were a number of funding streams which could possibly provide some help, however, he asked for some assistance with regard to identifying other funding streams and making applications accordingly. He did confirm that he would be meeting the Council's External Funding Manager, Mike Gaffney, to seek his advice on accessing funding to secure the greens. The Chairman thanked Mr. Garbett and a discussion took place on the various funding options available to Mr. Garbett. The Chairman said that he would be meeting with senior officers and the portfolio holder, Councillor Louise Harrison, that Friday to walk around the Arboretum and he would look at the areas identified by Mr. Garbett.

Maintenance of highway trees

A member of the public re-iterated concerns that were raised at the last meeting in respect of driveways (semi-permeable areas) being block-paved for parking which created an overflow drainage issue. Councillor Bird concurred with the comments indicating that tree roots were drowning as the water table was rising. He confirmed, however, that the Cabinet portfolio holders were discussing a long term strategy for the maintenance of highway trees.

138/06

Traffic management - issues arising from the last meeting

Councillor Rachel Walker, Cabinet portfolio holder for Environment and Street Pride attended, together with Glyn Oliver, the Traffic and Transport Services Manager and responded to traffic management concerns raised at the last meeting. The responses were based on a letter sent from the Director for the Built Environment following the last meeting. Members commended officers for a prompt and thorough response to the issues raised at the last meeting. During the ensuing discussion, the LNP asked officers to investigate whether the “turn left lane” at the Broadway roundabout and Birmingham Road could also be made straight on. Glyn Oliver undertook to look into this possibility. The LNP also asked about the Barry Road traffic calming scheme. Glyn also undertook to look into this further.

A further discussion took place in respect of provision for car parking within the Town Centre, during which, Councillor Walker informed the LNP that the Council was working on increasing awareness of alternative car parking by using inter-active signs indicating where car parking spaces were available. Unfortunately, these would not be in place until after Christmas. Councillor Bird referred to the new college and mentioned that one of the planning conditions required the college car park to be available for shoppers at weekends. In addition, Councillor Bird also asked for confirmation that the multi-storey car park to the new ASDA store would remain free of charge.

Councillor Andrew, in his role as portfolio holder for Regeneration, informed the LNP that a substantial number of regeneration projects were taking place in the Town Centre over the next few years and this would result in approximately 2,500 new spaces. He said that there was currently sufficient capacity but not in the right places. Councillor Andrew also mentioned that the Government was consulting on the introduction of congestion charging and, hopefully, the Local Neighbourhood Partnership would be part of that consultation process.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Walker and Mr. Oliver for attending.

139/06

Increasing life expectancy by reducing inequalities project

The Vice-Chairman and tPCT representative, Yvette Sheward, gave a presentation which explained a project commissioned by the WBSP to identify ways of increasing life expectancy.

A discussion took place around access to welfare benefits and its effects on health. Members considered that work on the Local Delivery Plan should link with welfare benefits systems resulting in those in need increasing their income and its subsequent effects on the regeneration of the Borough. Members also commented that the wider issues included the need to address the skills gap using education and re-introducing the careers adviser into schools.

The Chairman thanked Yvette for the presentation.

Resolved

That the Health Community Action Group look at links between health and benefits.

140/06

Community Action Groups - Update

A report providing an update on the progress of the Community Action Groups was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Towe, as Chairman of the Safer and Stronger CAG, gave feedback in respect of the meeting held on 21 September, during which time, the Police representative, Sergeant Finch, referred to the concerns in respect of issues facing Chuckery Green and commented that although serious offences had been committed and arrests had been made, he had noticed a decrease in all levels of crime in that area. He accepted that statistically, perceptions may be different but assured the LNP that policing would continue in the area.

Parpinder, the Senior Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer, asked Members to contact him with items for the next agenda on 2 November.

In respect of the Health CAG which took place on 4 October, the Chairman said that he had taken the chair in the absence of Councillor Martin. Officers from the Youth Service had attended, including Andy Driver and Julie Nokes, however, the CAG had been poorly attended and further meetings were being arranged with youth officers. At the same meeting, the issue of the location of a mobile breast screening unit at the Broadway North site was discussed and the LNP noted that a health needs assessment was being carried out. Councillor Towe mentioned that he had seen a small mobile breast screening unit and asked that if smaller vehicles were available, could one be located at the Collingwood Centre.

Councillor Sanders also mentioned that a health needs assessment was now being carried out in respect of a potential health centre in the Paddock Ward.

Resolved

- (1) That LNP Members continue in attendance at the Community Action Group meetings and that the public be urged to attend;
- (2) That the progress of the Community Action Groups be noted.

141/06

Funding Report

A report informing the LNP of the progress on projects that the LNP had agreed to fund to date was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer, Mr. Randhawa, introduced the report.

Members discussed the proposed projects to be funded. In respect of the Eco Girl Project, Parpinder undertook to look into how the company was being funded to ensure that the production wasn't being funded twice.

In respect of the litter competition, Councillor Walker mentioned that a report was being prepared to all LNPs asking for problem areas to be identified and rolling this out to secondary schools.

The LNP supported the proposed projects and it was,

Resolved

- (1) That the progress on projects be noted;
- (2) That project champions feedback progress to the next meeting;
- (3) That the suggested projects be recommended for funding.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman

Date