

ALDRIDGE SOUTH AND STREETLY LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday 12 September 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

at The Streetly Association, Foley Road East, Streetly

Present

Councillor John Rochelle (Chairman)
PC Rob Bailey
Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul
Mrs. Jenny Henney
Mrs. Pauline Heydon
Sergeant Hill
Councillor Eddie Hughes
Ms. Johanne Newens
Mr. Ron Perks
Mr. Peter Roberts

In attendance

Karen Adderley
Parveen Sangha
Paul Wilde

134/06 Election of Vice-Chairmen

From WBSP Nominated Partners - Johanne Newens
From Locally Appointed Partners - Peter Roberts

Resolved

That Johanne Newens and Peter Roberts be appointed Vice-Chairmen of the Aldridge South and Streetly Local Neighbourhood Partnership for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

135/06 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the Partnership meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ansell and J. O'Hare and Tony Harrison (Locally Appointed Partner).

136/06 **Introductions**

Each member of the Partnership and the officers present introduced themselves and explained in brief the organisation they represented.

137/06 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership held on 10 July 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Partnership, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

138/06 **Update on items from last meeting**

Redhouse Youth Club

With reference to the Redhouse Youth Club, Councillor Rochelle reported that, as Redhouse School was to be demolished, the youth club would have to move to Aldridge School or the Airport.

Dog Fouling

With reference to dog fouling, Councillor Rochelle reported that the Dog Warden Service had been asked to cover the Streetly area. A member of the public present at the meeting asked if dog bins could be provided in Streetly's parks. Andy Ody replied that, if dog mess was placed in general rubbish receptacles, then it could be dealt with by the Council's refuse collection operatives. If the dog mess was placed in designated dog bins, then specialist contractors had to be used for its disposal.

Removal of Call Boxes

Councillor Rochelle reported that a request had been received asking for the removal of the telephone box outside no. 100 Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge, as it was the subject of continual vandalism.

Green Spaces Strategy

Councillor Rochelle advised the meeting of the work which had been carried out in parks in the Local Neighbourhood Partnership's area as part of the Green Spaces Strategy.

Ron Perks (Locally Appointed Partner) asked why different equipment was provided in apparently similar play areas.

139/06 **Boundary Road Flats**

Councillor Hughes stated that the Boundary Road shops and flats were an eyesore as far as residents in the area were concerned, but there was only a limited amount of action that could be taken by the Council, because the property was in private ownership. As long as the building was safe and kept clean, then the Local Authority could not act. Street Pride tidied the area regularly to remove accumulated litter and fly tipped material. He added that both people who had an interest in the site had been invited to attend this evening's meeting to explore the way forward.

Mr. Khan, who owned eight flats, had submitted his views in a letter dated 18 August 2006, a copy of which had been circulated to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Khan wished to see the property refurbished.

Mr. Ahmed, who owned sixteen flats, was represented by his agent, Michael Eagleton, of Eagleton and Company, Chartered Surveyors. Mr. Ahmed wished to demolish the building and redevelop the site.

Mr. Eagleton stated that a report had been commissioned which showed that the premises had been constructed using high alumina cement which had weakened over time. If it became damp, then it was possible that the structure could fail.

Residents from the area present at the meeting indicated that they would prefer redevelopment of the site to refurbishment of the existing building. Mr. Eagleton requested the Council to appoint Mr. Ahmed as the preferred sponsor. He also asked if the Council would consider using Compulsory Purchase Order powers to get the redevelopment underway. If a Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed, then the redevelopment of the site could not be frustrated.

Mr. Eagleton referred to a recent meeting at the Council House involving Ward Councillors, Officers, Mr. Ahmed and Mr. Khan which it was hoped would bring some progress. Unfortunately, this had not happened as Mr. Khan continued to insist that the building should be refurbished.

Mr. Gatensby, an owner/occupier of one of the Boundary Court flats, advised the meeting that, if Mr. Khan had his way, then he would have to find £50,000 to restore his flat. He did not have that sort of money and was in danger of losing his home.

Mr. Perks (Locally Appointed Partner) referred to the health and safety situation at the flats where postal workers delivering letters and parcels to the property had complained that stairways were crumbling.

Councillor Hughes requested the Partnership to recommend to Council that Compulsory Purchase Order powers be used to ensure the redevelopment of the site.

Councillor Rochelle suggested that residents of the area should draw up a petition to show the Council the strength of feeling over the site.

Councillor Hughes indicated that Officers should investigate the situation further and report back to the next meeting of the Partnership on whether Compulsory Purchase Order powers could be used.

Councillor Douglas-Maul stated that something had to be done to remove this eyesore as Mr. Khan and Mr. Ahmed would never agree as to the way forward.

Resolved

That Officers investigate whether Compulsory Purchase Order powers could be used to assist the redevelopment of the Boundary Court site and a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

140/06 **Meeting with Police**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following persons represent the Partnership at the meeting with Chief Superintendent Gilbert to be held on a date to be arranged:-

Councillor Rochelle (Chairman)
Councillor Douglas-Maul (Streetly Councillor)
Johanne Newens (Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership)
Ron Perks (Locally Appointed Partner)
Peter Roberts/Jenny Henney (Locally Appointed Partner)

141/06 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

142/06 **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted for consideration at this meeting.

143/06 **Sponsorship of Traffic Islands**

Andy Ody made a presentation using PowerPoint with respect to the sponsorship of traffic islands:-

(see annexed)

He referred to the schedule of islands to be named at the end of the report and the Partnership agreed to name them.

Resolved

- (1) That the presentation be received;
- (2) That the following traffic islands be named:-

- Chester Road/Little Aston Road Irish Harp Island
- Northgate/Leighswood Avenue Leighswood Island
- Erdington Road/Barr Common Road./Little Hardwick Crematorium Island
- Aldridge Bypass/Superstore/Westfield Drive Morrisons Island
- Erdington Road/Foley Road West/Aldridge Road/Beacon Hill Foley Island
- Northgate/Little Aston Road Not named
- Leighswood Road/Aldridge Bypass Not named
- Chester Road/Thornhill Road/Queslett Road Moorcroft Island
- Aldridge Road/Queslett Road Queslett Island

144/06 **Presentation on Affordable Warmth**

Mandy Findlay made a presentation regarding affordable warmth and drew attention to the fact that approximately 16 per cent of households in the LNP area (approximately 200 properties) were in the vulnerable category. Under occupancy could be a problem. She referred to the various grants and schemes that were available to help the elderly and disadvantaged keep warm and pay their heating bills.

Resolved

That the presentation be received.

145/06 **Public Forum**

Under Age Drinking and Enforcement of By-Laws

Keith Henney produced three black sacks filled with bottles and cans collected from the playing field at the rear of the building which had been left by under-age drinkers on Friday evening. He referred to a by-law relating to parks which imposed a £25 fine for littering and asked if it was a criminal offence to flout the by-law and whether by-laws were enforceable by the police.

Sergeant Hill (West Midlands Police) informed the meeting that the Home Office determined what crimes should be recorded by the police and, as far as he was aware, infringements of the by-laws were not recordable. He indicated that the police would log the call and give it a log number, but it could not be given a crime number. Log number incidents were investigated, but did not receive the priority given to crimes.

Jenny Henney expressed concern that, when people rang in to report crimes, calls often went unanswered. Sergeant Hill replied that the police wanted people to report crime and the system had been improved.

Ron Perks asked how many times the police patrolled Streetly on Friday nights and was action taken against under-age drinkers. Sergeant Hill replied that Officers carried out regular patrols on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. He advised that there was an alcohol ban in force in Streetly, so officers could confiscate drink from youths congregating in the park.

Andy Ody reported that the Council had an Anti-Social Behaviour Group and an Enforcement Officer who could issue fixed penalty tickets.. He suggested that the Anti-Social Behaviour Group should be invited to attend the Partnership to explain what could be done to improve the situation.

Councillor Rochelle referred to the fact that the police had carried out an exercise recently on a Friday evening and 260 litres of alcohol had been confiscated from under-age drinkers. Seventy-three individuals had also received cautions,

Sergeant Hill stated that the police had undertaken test purchasing exercises in conjunction with Trading Standards and alcohol had not been sold to minors.

Mrs. Kollar stated that parents and older siblings often purchased alcohol for younger brothers and sisters.

Jenny Henney requested a police presence at the youth club on Friday evening. Sergeant Hill undertook to provide a police presence.

Councillor Douglas-Maul expressed frustration that youngsters caused trouble in the area and seemed to be allowed to get away with it. A majority of the area's young people were fine law abiding citizens, but there was a small number creating problems which had to be dealt with.

With reference to Dispersal Orders, Sergeant Hill advised that one had been introduced in Pheasey because there were problems with gangs coming over from Kingstanding so the Dispersal Order was used to return them to their area. In Streetly, the problems were created by young people from the Streetly area. As a result, a Dispersal Order could not be used because the youngsters could not be dispersed elsewhere.

Resolved

That the Anti-Social Behaviour Group be invited to address a future meeting of the Partnership.

146/06 **LNP Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

A supplementary report was circulated to those Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Parveen Sangha enlarged upon the report then drew attention to the supplementary report which sought to purchase seven performances of Eco-Girl for primary schools in the Local Neighbourhood Partnership's area. The Partnership did not support the project and it was:-

Resolved

That the Partnership:-

(1) notes the proposals on existing projects;

- (2) agrees to explore potential project proposals that meet the 2006/07 funding criteria;
- (3) takes no action with regard to the project to fund the purchase of seven performances of Eco-Girl for primary schools in the Local Neighbourhood Partnership's area.

147/06 **Community Action Group Update**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Safer and Stronger CAG – 31 July 2006

Ron Perks reported that the Group had received a presentation on alley gating. Publicity for LNPs had also been discussed.

Karen Adderley reported that the distribution of Walsall Pride was being investigated as certain areas of the Borough did not receive it at present.

Health and People CAG – 24 August 2006

Johanne Newens reported that the meeting had been productive and a communications plan had been put together.

Resolved

- (1) That Local Neighbourhood Partnership Members continue to attend Community Action Group meetings;
- (2) That the Partnership notes the progress of Community Action Groups.

148/06 **Selection Panel for Locally Appointed Partners**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Selection Panel for Locally Appointed Partners comprise Councillors Rochelle and Hughes, Peter Roberts and a representative from the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership Appointed Partners.

149/06 **Mayor's Civic Awards – 13 October 2006**

Councillor Rochelle reported the receipt of a letter from the Mayor inviting eight representatives from the Partnership to attend the Mayor's Civic Awards Ceremony to be held at Bescot Stadium, Walsall, on 13 October 2006. He added that it promised to be a very eventful evening with winners receiving "Dora's".

Councillor Rochelle, Ron Perks and Peter Roberts indicated their willingness to attend the Mayor's Civic Awards Ceremony on behalf of the Partnership.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 9.40 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: