

# **PALFREY AND PLECK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 at 6.30 p.m.**

**at Palfrey Community Association, Milton Street, Palfrey, Walsall**

## **Present**

Councillor Mohammed Nazir (Chairman)  
Mrs. ETTY Martin (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. Mark Pulford (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Dennis Anson  
Mr. Allah Ditta  
Mr. Gary Fulford  
Inspector Redford  
Mrs. Mandy Holcroft  
Mr. Kirpal Kaliroy  
Mr. George Rowley  
Councillor Harbans Sarohi  
Councillor Mohammad Yasin

## **Officers**

Rob Flinter  
Narinder Singh Chumber  
Glenys Ensor

### **141/06 Introductions**

Members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) introduced themselves to the meeting and the Chairman welcomed the members of the public present.

### **142/06 Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Joan Beilby, Mrs. Eileen Edwards and Mr. Matloob Hussain.

The Partnership was advised that Mr. Hussain had submitted a letter explaining his absence and requesting that the Camden Street item be deferred to the next meeting. It was considered that as no decision was necessary on this matter, the item on Camden Street would be considered at the meeting and, in addition, it would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

143/06

## **Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the LNP, be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

Minute No. 139/06 - third paragraph, third line in brackets should read:-

“near junction with Whitehall Road” and not Whittles Road as indicated

144/06

### **Update on items from last meeting**

Mr. Flinter confirmed that with regard to the Public Forum items, they had been forwarded to the relevant officers and he would ensure that they would respond directly to the individuals concerned.

Councillor Anson referred to the request for alleygating at the rear of Jerome Road and indicated that no information had been provided to the individual concerned.

Mr. Flinter undertook to ensure that the petitioner would receive a response direct.

145/06

### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. Ditta declared an interest in the item relating to Camden Street arena as he was a member of the Union of Muslim Organisations, Walsall.

The following Members declared interests as a result of their association with Walsall Housing Group:-

Councillor Yasin  
Mr. Rowley  
Mr. Fulford

146/06

### **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted.

*Following a request from the Chairman, it was agreed that the Public Forum be considered next on the agenda.*

**Public Forum****Gateway signs**

Attention was drawn to the erection of the gateway signs on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2006, to which LNP Members were invited; representatives of the Delves United Church and the press would also be present. The event would take place at 11.00 a.m. on West Bromwich Road by Sarah Gardens.

**Afghan families in Walsall**

Mr. Fahim, of 146 West Bromwich Street, addressed the Partnership on behalf of the Afghan community. Some 400 Afghan people lived around the Walsall area, with 15 families living in Caldmore/Palfrey/Pleck. Some basic help had been provided in relation to housing, employment and the organisation of cultural arrangements for the Afghan families living in Walsall. The Chairman and founder of the organisation helping families were no longer around. He asked that help be given to form a legitimate organisation in order that help could be obtained from voluntary associations who were not aware of the Afghan communities in the area.

**Resolved**

That this matter be referred to the Community Action Group for People and Health and any proposals brought back to the Partnership.

**Milton Street - traffic**

A member of the public referred to traffic flow problems in Milton Street on Fridays when prayers took place at the Mosque and it was requested that no parking/no waiting cones be provided in order that they can be displayed on one side of the road for approximately 40 minutes to assist with the free flow of traffic. The Police had offered to provide the cones but requested that these be returned but it would be more beneficial if the cones could be given to the Mosque in order that they could look after them and display them when necessary.

Inspector Redford, West Midlands Police, referred to complaints that had been received from residents of Milton Street with regard to parking and officers had monitored the situation between July and the end of September and a number of fixed penalty notices had been served but this had not improved the situation. In the short term, additional no waiting cones could be provided but there were cost implications as the cones would have to be purchased and he requested consideration to be given to a long term solution by the Community Action Group.

The Local Neighbourhood Partnership was requested to provide resources for the purchase of the cones in order to ease the situation.

### **Parking problems in the LNP area**

Members referred to the problems experienced in Milton Street as well as other areas within the Partnership and felt that the problem hot spots should be investigated with a view to forwarding a recommendation to the Partnership.

#### **Resolved**

That a site visit take place in order to assess the problems in the area and that the Community Action Group investigate this further and, in the meantime, West Midlands Police be requested to look into possible short term solutions.

### **Policing of the LNP area**

The Chairman of the Delves Partnership Against Crime addressed the Partnership and referred, in particular, to the increase in household burglaries in the area and the lack of police presence. He referred to recent re-organisation proposals for the area and asked if these had yet been introduced. Inspector Redford confirmed that re-organisation took place in April, 2006 and from 13<sup>th</sup> November, there would be changes in the policing of the area. It was proposed that Community Support Officers dedicated to work within each neighbourhood would be looking at anti-social behaviour issues.

#### **Resolved**

That this matter be discussed in detail at the Community Action Group.

### **Resiting of local bus stop**

A representative of Mr. Mohammed, 1 Redhouse Street, addressed the Partnership relating to the re-siting of bus stops in the street and, as a result, the vandalism and litter problems that were at present being experienced by Mr. Mohammed.

Mr. Narmal Singh, from 142 Broadway West, also addressed the Partnership about a bus stop that has been removed from outside his house.

#### **Resolved**

That the appropriate Council officer liaise with Centro with a view to alleviating the current problems.

### **Parking issues**

Mr. Moulton, of 78 Gower Street, addressed the Partnership on parking issues in the area and felt that a cheaper solution could be found to alleviate the problems.

The Partnership agreed to consider this as part of the report on the agenda.

### **Broadway West - traffic problems**

Mr. Mohammed Bashir, of 44 Broadway West, addressed the Partnership on traffic problems, including speeding in the area. A number of accidents had occurred and resulted in properties being damaged. He requested that consideration be given to the installation of a speed camera to control traffic speeds.

### **Resolved**

That the Community Action Group investigate the traffic problems on Broadway West.

### **Jerome Road - anti-social behaviour**

Ms. Watkins, of 56 Jerome Road, referred to the problems along the alleyway at the rear of Jerome Road and expressed concern that a recent petition had not been responded to. The situation in the alleyway was worsening.

Mr. Flinter updated the Partnership on the present position and advised members of the public in the area to report every issue to the police in order that the crime statistics for the area were more correctly reflected.

Inspector Redford agreed to refer the details to Tony Longhi to look into this problem and indicated that anti-social behaviour in the area was being investigated.

148/06

### **Update on response to Gower Street parking petition**

The report of the Group Leader, Traffic Management was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Partnership was informed by Mr. Flinter that the Council had insufficient funds to progress and unless the LNP and/or residents were able to identify funding of approximately £20k this issue would not be progressed any further. In relation to Mr. Moults comments in the Public Forum, Mr. Flinter stated that he would ask Paul Leighton to contact Mr. Moults.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**Camden Street Sports Arena**

The report of the Assistant Director was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Partnership agreed to hear representations from interested persons and residents of Camden Street and Junction Street on the Camden Street Sports Arena.

A number of residents raised issues relating to:-

- Anti-social behaviour in the area and the risks to young people
- The area was used mainly during the summer in view of the lack of security
- The area was not staffed and there were concerns about sports injuries
- An indoor leisure centre open all year round for use by all people and managed by trained staff would bring the community together

Reference was made by residents to some of the problems experienced from the arena, in particular,

- Anti-social behaviour in the form of drugs and prostitution
- The trees and mounds on the site encouraged anti-social behaviour in those parts away from the view of local residents
- Rat infestation
- Camden Street would not be the appropriate site for a leisure centre as it was bounded by houses and elderly persons homes

Councillor Arif addressed the Partnership and referred to problems arising from the arena and felt that as housing could not be introduced at the site, consideration should be given to:-

- (1) The Local Authority providing resources to bring the area up to standard but problems would still be experienced unless the site was staffed;
- (2) UKIM Sports Club Limited, a non-profit making organisation established in December, 2000, could build a sports centre on the site.

Councillor Arif referred to work carried out by the Company with a view to providing a centre at the Isha Mosque, however, this was abandoned as it was recognised that the centre would not benefit the whole community and therefore funding would be difficult to obtain.

Councillor Arif indicated that Dr. Saviq, Manor Hospital, was prepared to make a presentation to the next meeting if the LNP thought this would be helpful.

Members referred to the mounds and bushes on the site and felt that these should be removed in order to remove the resident's fear of crime.

Tim Oliver, 54 Delves Crescent, referred to the longstanding problems created by this area and referred to the need for sports facilities to serve the young people of the area. It was felt that any indoor sports facility would need to be strictly managed, supervised and run with access to as wide a community as possible and it was important that a number of groups be involved all through the project. The facility would need to be accessible to all in the community. Camden Street was not necessarily the best site for such a proposal.

After consideration it was,

**Resolved**

- (1) That a Working Party be set up to consider potential options and report back to a future meeting of the LNP;
- (2) That this item be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

150/06

**Increasing Life Expectancy by Reducing Inequalities Project**

The report of the Public Health Consultant, Walsall tPCT, was submitted:-

(see annexed)

and Ms. Martin gave a brief presentation to the Partnership setting out the issues to be addressed for the area.

**Resolved**

That the Action Plan included in the annexed report be accepted and that discussions on this matter take place at the Community Action Group.

150/06

### **Community Action Groups Report**

The report of the Senior Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Members referred to the need to publicise the meetings in order to encourage greater attendance.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That LNP Members continue in attendance at the Community Action Group meetings;
- (2) That the LNP note progress of Community Action Groups.

151/06

### **LNP Funding Report**

The report of the Senior Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

With regard to fencing around Palfrey Park Bowling Green, additional funding had been difficult to obtain as the scheme did not fit in with the criteria. Similar problems were being experienced in respect of the construction of a shelter at Pleck Park. Mr. Flinter asked the LNP to identify further options to spend funding from 2005/06 if the earmarked funding could not be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 and to pull together options to ensure that funding for 2006/07 was fully spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the progress on funding priorities 2005/06 be noted;
- (2) That the criteria for the allocated funding for 2006/07 be noted;
- (3) That LNP Members help to advertise the availability of 2006/07 funding to community organisations within the LNP area;
- (4) That the LNP agree to recommend that funding for the erection of no ball game signs on Hucker Road be approved;
- (5) That this item be included as a standing item on the Community Action Group agenda.



**Termination of Meeting**

The meeting terminated at 9.05 p.m.

Chairman .....

Date .....