

Feedback on issues raised by way of Public Forum/Petitions

Alleyways in Croft Street area - ownership/rights of way issues

This issue is being dealt with by Steve Gittins of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership. A site visit has been undertaken with Councillor Oliver. Mr. Gittins points out that the process on this issue is only just beginning and that it is clear that this matter is not straightforward. He advises that the starting point will be a crime search of the area.

Mr. Gittins also points out that a great deal of rubbish has already been cleared from the site, although his section was not responsible for arranging this.

Mellish Road Church/Butts Action Group

The petition submitted to the last meeting was referred to the appropriate Executive Director for possible report to a future meeting.

The request for a copy of the condition survey of the report was passed to the appropriate Section. A reply was received indicating that legal advice is being sought regarding whether to release the document.

Beechdale Regeneration Partnership

It has been ascertained that the shops in Stephenson Square are Council-owned but the boarded-up properties are the flats above the shops. The flats are in BCHA ownership. It is understood that last year, officers from the Council met with officers from BCHA and Accord where it was agreed that BCHA/Accord would put forward a proposal for the regeneration of the whole area, including the shops, the former Neighbourhood Office and possibly some or all of the car parking. Officers are still trying to establish whether anything further on this issue has occurred.

Issue of no business representation on LNPs

It has been ascertained that Jeff Marlow, at the Chamber of Commerce, was contacted last year during the selection process for Locally Appointed Partners. Mr. Marlow had agreed to send out information to all of his members and was provided with the necessary information regarding LNPs and LAPs. Interest by individual businesses is apparently awaited. It has also been ascertained that there is business representation on two LNPs but not St. Matthews and Birchills/Leamore. This is something being addressed by the Head of Neighbourhood Partnerships and she has undertaken to speak to Business in the Community and perhaps the Urban Regeneration Company to canvas interest initially and look at potential ways forward for this particular LNP.

Funding for roundabout sculpture

It has been ascertained that the funding quoted in the press is identified specifically for the sculpture and for no other purpose.

Anti-social behaviour in Caldmore area

Issues raised by Mr. Chand were referred to Steve Gittins, of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, for inclusion of the issues raised in the Alleygating Scheme. Mr. Gittins has confirmed that any requests for alleygating should be channelled through him. He also advises that the process is very complicated and time consuming and his unit (the Community Safety Unit) is in the process of formulating a policy to clearly state what can/can't be done. He points out that all interventions must be evidence led and based on recorded crime and anti-social behaviour.

Recycling facilities

Regarding the lack of recycling facilities to low rise flats in Broadway North, it has been ascertained that the recycling roll-out is now fully rolled out to low rise properties across the Borough. With regard to medium and high rise properties, mini recycling centres for glass, cans and paper are being offered. The Council is in the process of rolling out the mini recycling centres.

With regard to Mr. Anslow, who spoke in Public Forum, he has been visited by the Council's Operations Co-ordinator for Recycling. Mr. Anslow expressed an interest in the dry recycling scheme and arrangements have been made to issue him with a recycling box.

On the question of garden waste, there has been a tendency not to issue to flats complexes due to contamination and accountability issues. Should anyone wish to pursue this, the possibility of home composters could be explored.

Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

It has been ascertained that this issue was discussed at the last meeting of the LNP Chair's Forum, when it was agreed that an options paper would be brought back to the next meeting about possible ways forward. A meeting will be set up with Council Appointed Partners regarding issues they may have about signing up to the Code of Conduct. With regard to LAPs, the majority have signed up to the Code.

Partnership Plan Issues

(a) Blue Coat School

Regarding a question raised by Mrs. Woodcock as to whether there are any proposals to close the road which splits the Blue Coat School campus, it has been ascertained that there are no firm proposals to close the road (Birmingham Street) at the present time. The road has been traffic calmed and a humped zebra crossing has been provided outside the school and provides access to both the school, St. Matthews Church and local businesses, including two public houses.

(b) Disability Working Group - Secretarial Support

This issue was addressed at the LNP Chair's Forum. Julie Ball advised Members that the traditional type of secretarial support could not be provided to the Task/Working Groups. She advised that her officers would, however, capture action points to update the Partnership Plans from these meetings. Julie advises that this was accepted by those LNP Chairs present at the Forum.

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