

# ST. MATTHEWS AND BIRCHILLS/LEAMORE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

In the Community Room, Burrowes Street, Birchills, Walsall

## Present

Councillor Tim Oliver (Chairman)  
Councillor Mohammed Arif  
Councillor Joan Barton  
Mr. Malcolm Barton  
Mr. Terry Edis  
Inspector Andy Gilbert  
Mr. Chris Jones  
Mr. Aftab Nawaz  
Councillor Carol Rose  
Rev. David Sims

## In Attendance

Steve Rowley, Energy Efficiency Officer, Walsall MBC  
Dave Haq } Youth  
Angela Carr } Service

100/06

## Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Khan, Councillor McCracken, Mr. Martin Cain and Mrs. Elaine Perrins.

101/06

## Minutes

### Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

102/06      **Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared personal and prejudicial interests in the items indicated and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon:-

Councillor Carol Rose	-	Beechdale Bayou Project
Mr. Aftab Nawaz	-	Caldmore Balti Village Proposal

103/06      **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted.

104/06      **Public Forum**

With the approval of the Partnership, the following persons addressed the meeting on the issues indicated:-

**Maureen Woodcock**

Mrs. Woodcock referred to the fact that the Health Action Zones had ceased to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> March and that she was attending LNP meetings to ask what health issues the LNPs were promoting, what initiatives were in existence to promote health awareness and what this LNP's priorities were.

It was suggested that Jane Evans (tPCT representative) could be asked to give a presentation on this issue. It was pointed out that the Public Health Department Document on Health Inequalities was particularly pertinent to the LNP area. It was also pointed out that the LNP's pledges document for the new year contained a priority around health and this had been produced in collaboration with the tPCT.

It was **agreed** that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the LNP on health issues.

**Madeline Holland**

Mrs. Holland addressed the Partnership on two issues:-

- (1) She referred to the proposals to re-name Caldmore as the Balti Village and the bus service 404 as the Balti Bus. She had undertaken a survey of residents of the area and it was clear that they were not in favour of this proposal.

It was pointed out that this issue would be discussed at Item 10 on the agenda as part of the "Funding Priorities for Action" report.

- (2) Mrs. Holland referred to traffic congestion in the Caldmore area, specifically between Mount Street and Brace Street. She felt that more use of the car park in that vicinity could help ease the congestion problems.

The Chairman pointed out that this issue was dealt with at Item 7(b) on the agenda, although no timescale for the proposal had yet been identified.

105/06

**(a) Youth provision in area covered by LNP**

Dave Haq and Angela Carr gave a presentation on this issue, including an update on youth provision in the Butts area. Various questions were raised, including the drugs issue in Birchills and what action was being taken on that issue and whether there were any figures available highlighting involvement in youth provision on an ethnic basis. Angela Carr undertook to provide this information and indicated that with regard to access to youth clubs in the area, everyone had the opportunity to attend, regardless of ethnicity. A question of whether one full time worker for the area would be sufficient was raised. It was pointed out that there would be one full time worker but there would also be part time workers and work would also be undertaken with other agencies. A question was also raised in relation to the Youth Conference in March, 2006 regarding how the young people were selected and how the event was advertised. Dave Haq undertook to provide a list of the organisations invited, together with a breakdown of ethnicity and background of those who actually attended. The point was made that although Proffitt Street was to become a "centre of excellence", an artificial barrier existed between the Butts and the Birchills areas. Dave Haq indicated that all areas would be treated equally.

The point was also made that there was consultation about five years ago regarding facilities in the area, in consequence of which, promises were made in relation to the provision of youth facilities, but nothing had been forthcoming. Angela Carr indicated that a full time worker in the area would address these concerns.

**Resolved**

That the presentation be noted and that the Youth Service be congratulated for the work they were doing in the area.

106/06

**(b) Outstanding issues**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

## **Resolved**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That a further update on Blue Coat School - traffic problems/traffic calming measures, be provided to the next meeting of the LNP.

107/06

## **An Affordable Warmth Strategy for Walsall**

A presentation was given by Steve Rowley, Energy Efficiency Officer, Walsall MBC.

Mr. Rowley gave a brief profile of Walsall and an indication of why there was a need to have an affordable warmth strategy. He gave details of the partner organisations involved in the strategy and the links of the strategy to Local Area Agreements. He explained how the strategy would be prepared and the Action Plan for achieving that. He explained the ways in which the strategy would help LNPs achieve its targets under Local Area Agreements, help to reach the most vulnerable households in fuel poverty, target funding successfully, create new affordable warmth projects and provide statistics for reporting.

In conclusion, Mr. Rowley informed Members that a formal consultation event would be held on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Resolved**

That the presentation be noted.

108/06

## **Partnership Plan and feedback from Task Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The point was made that very few Members of the LNP actually attended Task Group meetings and that there was a need to appoint lead Members to "Champion" the Task Groups. Members were advised that the intention was that the make up of the LNPs would change, resulting in more partners being available to attend Task Group meetings.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the report be received;
- (2) That LNP Members continue to attend workshop meetings;

- (3) That LNP Members continue to encourage wider participation from community groups within the Task Group;
- (4) That the dates of future Task Group meetings be noted.

109/06

### **Funding priorities for action**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That progress to date be noted;
- (2) That progress be reviewed at the next meeting;
- (3) That it be noted that each project will be formally assessed by the LNP Project Team to ensure they meet all of the agreed criteria;
- (4) That it be noted that each project will be passed to the relevant Council officer who will liaise with the Project Champion when required;
- (5) That with regard to specific projects:-

#### **(a) Social Cohesion Programme**

That the possible closure of Beechdale Primary School be noted and that the Chairman receive an update when schools return after the Easter break;

#### **(b) Re-brand Caldmore to Balti Village**

- (i) That Councillor Arif's comments, which indicated that the majority of restaurants in the area were in favour of this proposal, be noted;
- (ii) That Mrs. Madeline Holland's comments, which indicated that she had conducted a survey of residents of the area who were not in favour of the proposal, be noted;
- (iii) That Councillor Rose's comments, that Caldmore Green was a Conservation Area and that this needed to be taken into consideration in relation to any Gateway proposals, be noted;

- (iv) That officers discuss the proposal with Community Arts to see how the Project could be moved forward.

(c) **Alleygating**

That work in progress on the following schemes be noted:-

Northcote Street car park area

Brewer Street

Cross Street, Mary Street and Lewis Street

Small Street, Brace Street and Mount Street

Northcote Street, Hospital Street and Gladstone Street

Leamore Precinct to Comwall Close

Stafford Street and Green Lane

(d) **Birchills Playing Field**

- (i) That it be noted that there has been no progress on this project;
- (ii) That the relevant officer be asked to report back on this issue to the next meeting.

(e) **Beechdale Bayou Project**

It was noted that the application for funding was being processed and that feedback was awaited.

110/06

**West Midlands LTP Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2006/8**

A report previously submitted to Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the report be received and noted.

111/06      **Training and Development Issues**

There were no training and development issues raised.

112/06      **Venue for next meeting**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That, subject to availability, the next meeting of the LNP be held at the St. Mary's the Mount Pastoral Centre, Glebe Street, Walsall.

**Termination of Meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.43 p.m.

Chairman      .....

Date              .....