

# **DARLASTON LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

**Wednesday, 14 February, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.**

**Moxley People's Centre, Queen Street, Moxley**

## **Present**

Councillor Bill Madeley (Chairman)  
Cath Boneham (Vice-Chairman)  
Peter Burton (Vice-Chairman)  
Denise Birkett  
Sandra Borland  
Councillor Rose Burley  
Councillor Keith Chambers  
Paul Johnson – West Midlands Fire Service  
Sue Machin  
Jan Madeley  
Keith Middleton  
Lyndon Smith  
Rashid Varachhia  
Councillor Graham Wilkes

## **In Attendance**

Narinder Singh Chumber  
Gareth Robinson  
Sue Wakeman  
Paul Wilde

### **177/07 Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Andy Clarke, Steve Lewis, David Owen and Ishmail Patel.

### **178/07 Introductions**

Each Member of the Partnership and the Officers present introduced themselves and explained in brief the organisation they represented.

## 179/07 **Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2007, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 180/07 **Update from last Meeting**

A report was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Madeley requested that information regarding the request for a car park at Cost-Cutter in Blockall (minute no. 168/07 refers) be referred to the next meeting of the Partnership.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## 181/07 **Public Forum**

### **Bentley Mill Lane, Walsall – Various Matters**

Rhona Gidgin of Bentley Mill Lane submitted a report regarding a number of issues affecting residents which included overgrown trees to the rear of properties in Bentley Mill Lane, rubbish/fly tipping to the rear of houses in Bentley Mill Lane, restriction of access to Bentley Mill Lane caused by inconsiderate parking of vehicles and the restriction of visibility for motorists turning out of Cemetery Road, Darlaston, caused by advertising boards erected outside the Railway Tavern Public House.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the report be referred to Officers for appropriate action to be taken on the various matters raised.

### **Road Safety – Western Avenue, Bentley**

Councillor Chambers stated that he had been looking at some old Darlaston LNP minutes and had come across minute no. 38/05 which related to concerns over road safety in Western Avenue, Bentley, because of boy -racers. He added that a report had been requested on road safety in Western Avenue, but nothing had ever been received by the Partnership.

## **Resolved**

That Officers be requested to investigate the road safety issues in Western Avenue, Bentley, and report back to the next meeting of the Partnership.

## **Station Street, Darlaston**

A resident of Station Street, Darlaston, referred to problems created late at night by cars speeding along Station Street. He indicated that residents were concerned for children attending Salisbury Street Primary School. He asked if road humps could be provided in Station Street to help slow the traffic. He went on to say that cars had to be parked on-street because the houses were mainly terraced and wing mirrors were regularly smashed. He had had the wing mirrors on his own car smashed on at least four separate occasions. He asked whether CCTV cameras could be provided in Station Street to help to identify the persons responsible.

He referred to the fact that there was a right-of-way at the rear of the houses in Station Street which was the source of anti-social behaviour, vandalism and litter. He asked if the right-of-way could be gated to limit its use to residents only.

Mr. Rashid Varachhia (LAP) referred to lorries using the Station Street entrance throughout the day. He asked if lorries could use the Heath Road entrance to gain access to the factories.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That Officers of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership investigate the possibility of gating the right-of-way at the rear of houses in Station Street, Darlaston;
- (2) That Highway Officers investigate the provision of road humps in Station Street to slow traffic;
- (3) That Officers request lorries to use the Heath Road entrance to gain access to factories.

## **Parking outside Willows House Residential Home**

Councillor Burley referred to the problems arising from vehicles parking outside Willows House Residential Home. She asked if the ring-and-ride service could use the car park when picking up and depositing residents.

Peter Burton asked if there had been any comments regarding the chicanes in Dangerfield Lane.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That Officers advise of any comments regarding the chicanes in Darlaston Road;
- (2) That the Ring and Ride be asked to use the car park of Willows House when picking up or depositing residents.#

## **Presentation**

### **Re: Young People's Concerns and Youth Service Provision**

It was reported that the presentation would be made to the appropriate Community Action Group meeting rather than to the Partnership.

## 182/07 **Presentation**

### **Re: Foundation Trust**

Gareth Robinson (Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust) made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Manor Hospital's application to become a Foundation Trust. A copy of the slide show was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

He indicated that a number of hospitals had become Foundation Trusts and, as a result, were more involved with local people. This meant that decisions regarding health care and priorities could be made at the local level rather than in Whitehall. He explained the Trust's vision for the future and the priorities for the next five years which included new models of care. He indicated how local people could become members of the Trust and take their places on the Council of Governors. He added that the Membership Constituencies would follow those of Walsall's Parliamentary boundaries.

A number of questions were posed to Gareth and Sue Wakeman who responded to them, after which, it was:-

## **Resolved**

That the presentation be noted.

## 183/07 **LNP Funding**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Peter Burton requested that the £2-5,000 LNP funding which had been earmarked for the mapping exercise be made available to other projects, particularly youth projects, as a mapping exercise had already been completed. Narinder Singh Chumber reported that a project would need to be developed and brought back to a future LNP meeting.

### **Resolved**

That the Local Neighbourhood Partnership notes the progress and current spend.

### **184/07 Update from Community Action Groups**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Referring to the Safer Stronger Communities Community Action Group held on 21 January 2007, Councillor Burley reported that the dispersal order for Moxley was now in operation and problems had moved to that area of Moxley not covered by the existing order. She added that the situation had been exacerbated because police officers had been withdrawn to tackle the terrorist problems arising in Birmingham.

Councillor Madeley asked which police officers were responsible for the Bentley area.

Councillor Burley replied that fourteen officers covered the entire Darlaston LNP area and shift patterns had been altered so that two officers were permanently available for Bentley.

Denise Birkett (Locally Appointed Partner) stated that the people of Bentley were unable to get a police response. Calls went unanswered or were not returned. If anti-social behaviour was reported, then response was often very slow. She added that she had been at a meeting with the police today and something might be put in place shortly.

She drew the Partnership's attention to an incident which arose recently when she and other members of her staff were trapped in the Old Hall People's Centre when a group of children bombarded the building with bricks and bottles. She had phoned the police, but it had taken two hours for them to respond.

Peter Burton commented that this was not an isolated case. He felt that there were not enough police patrolling the streets. As a result, younger and younger children were being targeted by drug dealers.

Jan Madeley referred to a multi-agency meeting at Darlaston Youth Centre when the Youth Service had highlighted the problems of the area and been pro-active in trying to deal with them.

Cath Boneham referred to the fact that the area had been targeted and that Partnership working was important in finding solutions.

Councillor Burley referred to a meeting at Rough Hay which had been very successful, but that format had not been used again. She drew attention to the success of the ballot boxes and felt that they should be expanded and acted upon promptly.

Cath Boneham reported that the Health and People Community Action Group did not meet until 19 February 2007, so she had nothing to report.

Narinder Singh Chumber reported that a health networking lunch would be held at Ilmington House on Tuesday, 27 February 2007, commencing at 12 noon.

### **Resolved**

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

### **185/07 Safer Walsall Borough Partnership – Improving Security in Local Neighbourhoods Programme**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Madeley reported that Poplar Close could now be removed from the alleygating scheme.

Councillor Burley expressed disappointment that Pinfold Street extension could not be resolved. She added that residents were still suffering from the anti-social behaviour associated with the alleyway despite a multi agency approach to improving the situation there.

Councillor Madeley expressed concern that no one from the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership was in attendance to speak on the report.

### **Resolved**

That the report be deferred to enable Officers from the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership to be in attendance at the next meeting of the Partnership.

### **186/07 Stafford Road, Darlaston**

Councillor Madeley suggested that Keith Stone should be invited to attend the next meeting of the Partnership to discuss this matter.

## 187/07 Rubbish in Darlaston Town Centre

Councillor Madeley reported that Darlaston Town Centre was in a disgusting state with rubbish left uncollected and litter everywhere. Buildings in King Street had been graffitied and down pipes broken off. Litter bins in Victoria Park had not been emptied, the Memorial Gardens were covered in litter and rubbish had not been collected from alongside Asda. There was broken glass outside the park and carpet shop and dog fouling was out of control in the Town Centre area. Bottles and glasses had been smashed in King Edward Street early in January and had not been cleared. He requested that the dog wardens be asked to take action to reduce dog fouling in Darlaston Town Centre.

Councillor Burley stated that she was sorry for residents who lived alongside isolated pockets of land which were used for fly tipping. As it was not known who owned the land, the Council was reluctant to remove the accumulated rubbish. She felt that these areas should be cleared, the owners tracked down and made to pay for the work the Council had carried out.

Councillor Chambers referred to various sites at the entrances to Darlaston which were litter strewn. He added that the gateway sign in Moxley was now surrounded with rubbish and looked unsightly.

Paul Johnson (West Midlands Fire Service) referred to the danger of fires started in rubbish spreading to nearby premises. He suggested that rubbish should be kept in bins in secure locations well away from premises.

Andy Ody (Grounds and Street Cleansing Service Manager - Street Pride) reported that he was disappointed that the street cleaning service in Darlaston was ineffective. He agreed to take appropriate action to improve the situation. He accepted that fly tipping on private land was a significant issue and added that, whilst the Council was able to remove rubbish from some areas, it was not possible for the Council to tidy all privately owned sites.

Referring to graffiti, Andy stated that, if graffiti was reported to the Graffiti Removal Team, then it would be removed from Council-owned property within ten days. If the content of the graffiti identified individuals, or was of a racist nature, then it was normally removed within twenty-four hours.

Peter Burton commented that, where graffiti was allowed to remain for long periods, pride and respect for neighbourhoods was damaged. Andy Ody explained that, if the graffiti was on a privately owned building and the Council, in removing it, damaged the fabric of that building, then the Local Authority would be liable. He added that refuse operatives could not go on private land without the owner's permission.

In response to further questions from Members, Andy reported that Street Pride visited primary schools to get the litter message across. He added that the service had obtained additional funding to do extra work in three areas of the Borough and Darlaston had been chosen as one. For two weeks in the next six weeks, litter hit squads would be operating in Darlaston and would action any areas identified. Councillor Madeley agreed to provide Andy with a list of sites needing attention.

**Resolved**

That Councillor Madeley supply Andy Ody with a list of those sites to be visited by the litter hit squads operating in the Darlaston area during the next few weeks.

**188/07 Regeneration of Moxley Centre: Project Reference Group**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Referring to paragraph 3.5 of the report, Councillor Burley suggested that Mr. Phil Henderson of 94 Glyn Avenue, Moxley, and Mr. Bill Richards of 31 Queen Street, Moxley, should be added to the Project Reference Group. She added that the representatives from Accord Housing and the West Midlands Police needed to be identified as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Madeley suggested that Councillor Burley should chair the Project Reference Group.

**Resolved**

That Mr. Phil Henderson of 94 Glyn Avenue, Moxley, and Mr. Bill Richards of 31 Queen Street, Moxley, be included as representatives on the Regeneration of Moxley Centre: Project Reference Group.

**189/07 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership would be held on Wednesday, 4 April 2007, at a venue to be determined.

**Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.58 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....



