

Brownhills & Aldridge North Local Neighbourhood Partnership
13th June

Partnership plan

1. Brief Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the LNP of the additions made to the draft Partnership Plan and the general progress of the various task groups.

2. Work to date

The LNP has undertaken various task group meetings since the last main LNP meeting:

- **Health Task group:**

A health workshop took place on 27th April 2005 which looked at health related issues for the Brownhills & Aldridge North area. The workshop was facilitated by Stella Forsdike, Director of Performance Review and Business Management for the tPCT.

Members of the LNP who attended the workshop were provided with some useful information in regards to current health problems within the area, similarly the group also provided Stella with their localised perceptive of health issues. The group populated the 'Health theme' of the partnership plan by adding further health priorities, the new added priorities are reflected in plan.

- **Environmental group:**

Environmental task group did not meet between this and the last LNP meeting. However one of the actions within the Environment theme was to celebrate and promote Brownhills heritage. Doug Birch and Pat Thomas were leads for this particular action.

Doug and Pat arranged a open public meeting which was held on the 23rd May with the aim to establish a small working group to look at setting up a permanent heritage collection which could be placed at the new Brownhills centre which is due to be built by summer 2006.

- **Place-Check training:**

Following the place check presentation that took place during the February LNP meeting members agreed to go ahead with the Place check training and identify how the community engagement tool could be implemented within the LNP area.

The Place check training took place on 31st March, the consequent report is attached. In brief the group agreed that Placecheck should be implemented to engage youth as there is currently no representation from this section of the community.

- **Funding Workshop**

In addition to normal task groups a further meeting took place to specifically discuss the allocated budget of £22,000.

3. Recommendations

- LNP to endorse changes and additions to partnership plan
- For LNP members to continue in attendance at the workshop meetings
- For individual LNP members to encourage wider participation from community members within the task groups
- For LNP to nominate a task groups champion to report back at the main LNP meetings.

Contact officer:

Parpinder Singh

Neighbourhood Partnership Officer

Tel: 01922 654722 Mob: 07921872231

Randhawasinghp@walsall.gov.uk

Report to the Brownhills & Aldridge North LNP re Placecheck workshop 31/3/2005

8 local people attended the meeting as follows:

Douglas Birch, Lynda Cooper, Georgina Fereday, Stella Forsdike (PCT), Gail Jackie Plant, B Poxon, Pat Thomas, Cllr Dave Turner,

WMBC Officers: Parpinder Singh

Issues to be considered via using the Placecheck approach

It was said that Brownhills Town Centre was the subject of a Master planning exercise and it was thought that the future regeneration of the town centre was already receiving attention.

Whilst it was recognised that consulting local people was very useful, it was felt that identifying exactly what local agencies provided in the local areas was most important. This was particularly relevant to the needs of young people. Whilst this would not involve a direct Placecheck approach, the group suggested the following format to begin the process of finding out what young people want and need in the local area.

Who should be involved in Placecheck (whose comments/views must we obtain)

The range of agencies active in the area all of whom deal with young people should be contacted and invited to attend a public meeting.

Young people, including most importantly those who do not attend local youth groups, should be invited to meet with representatives at the public meeting.

This meeting could identify issues/places which could then become the subject of a Placecheck approach.

What might be a framework for Placecheck look like?

The possible agenda for the public meeting was discussed:

1. Agencies should state what they are doing, their objectives, activities etc.
2. Invite young people to talk to agency representatives. Also said that Youth Opinions Unite should be involved
3. Encourage networking between agencies
4. Determine a way forward – e.g. develop a map which states who does what and where – this would then identify gaps in services/activities for young people which need to be addressed

How can we develop a Placecheck approach?

1. Identify all agencies active in the area; involve the borough youth worker
-

2. Develop a questionnaire to be circulated to agencies/organisations to be completed and returned prior to public meeting
3. Agree a date for the public meeting – suggested venue Memorial Hall on Lichfield Road – equal distant between areas. Suggested time potentially late afternoon - 5-30 with food – catering will need to be ordered in to the Memorial Hall
4. Ensure young people are invited to the event – LNP members such as Georgina Fereday, and Jackie Plant could assist in this aspect. Georgina works with young people who “hang around” on street corners, Jackie would be prepared to go into local schools to talk to young people directly. (Did discuss the possibility of setting up Young People’s LNPs in the two main schools and invite one representative from each to the main LNP meetings)

What are the resource implications of using Placecheck?

1. Identifying local agencies, developing and circulating the questionnaire.
2. Collating the information as a means to establish a framework of what is available in the area. This could be used as a basis to start the meeting.
3. Posters advertising the meeting to ensure young people are aware of venue/time etc.
4. Hire of the venue, plus catering costs

Action needed to begin using the Placecheck approach

1. Those attending said it was imperative that action is taken quickly to put plans into place. Waiting a further 3 months for a full LNP meeting to ratify decisions/discussions made at this workshop would again lead to a further loss of morale and belief in the LNP. Additionally, it would effectively exclude the schools as they would be closing for summer by that time.

It was asked that notes of this meeting were circulated quickly to all LNP members with a request to ratify the decision to organise the public meeting as detailed above.

It was stated at the meeting that underpinning administrative support would be provided by LNP partnership staff. Those attending are prepared to work with WMBC LNP staff to take steps to get planning of the meeting underway quickly.

Theme: Make Walsall a healthy and caring place

Objective:

Make Walsall a healthy and caring place

The planned new health centre and the impact this would have on the area is under discussion by the LNP. It should be considered what services this would provide locally rather than travelling to the Manor Hospital. In common with other LNPs which are on the “fringes” of the borough there were perceived to be problems in travelling due to a lack of public transport. Also felt that there was inequality in the access to facilities and services locally rather than the more highly populated areas of the borough.

When considering the issues in the area, the group felt there were two distinct levels of care required. Firstly focussing on “acute” care – e.g. for local people in need of highly qualified nursing care and secondly focussing on care for vulnerable people. In terms of acute care it was stated that this was the responsibility of the PCT.

However, in terms of the second issue it was felt that it was here the LNP could take action. It was suggested that there were high numbers of elderly people who are isolated and in need of being integrated into the community. Isolation leads to exclusion and fear of crime etc increasing.

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Consider introducing a good neighbour scheme with local people calling on elderly people and assisting with “low level” tasks such as shopping.					
Directory of health services available within					

<p>the area both statutory and voluntary services. Including information on roles/responsibilities of local services and a 'health jargon buster'.</p> <p>Provide local 'poor health prevention' methods i.e. keep fit classes for elderly, health surgeries etc</p>					
<p>Crime prevention training for health professionals, i.e. nurses learning more about mental health crime issues etc</p>					
<p>Creating network of local community services i.e. police, GP's, fire service etc</p>					

More in-depth health training for first point contacts i.e. receptionists					
Re-establish the health watch group					
Regular involvement and updates on the new Brownhills Health Centre					