

**BROWNNHILLS AND ALDRIDGE NORTH LOCAL
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

Tuesday 13 September 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

In the Conference Centre, Shire Oak School, Walsall Wood

Present

Inspector Jack Ashley
Mr. Kenneth Best
Mr. Douglas Birch
Councillor Barbara Cassidy
Mrs. Lynda Cooper
Ms. Georgina Fereday
Mr. Kevin Lowry
Councillor Alan Paul
Ms. Jackie Plant
Councillor Keith Sears
Mrs Patricia Thomas

69/05. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Collins, Councillor Turner, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Forsdike, Ms. Monkton and Mr. Ball.

70/05. Appointment of Locally Appointed Partners

The Partnership received a report detailing the recommendations of the Selection Panel held on 1 September 2005. The Chairman reported that Mr. Reader no longer wished for his application to be considered and relayed Mr. Reader's thanks to the Partnership for accepting his initial application.

Resolved

That Mr. Keith Astin be appointed as a Locally Appointed Partner for the remainder of the municipal year.

71/05. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2005, be approved, subject to minute number 62/05, paragraph 5, being amended to identify Jackie Plant as Champion.

72/05. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

73/05. **Petitions**

The Local Neighbourhood Partnership received a petition from Jane Gellin on behalf of local residents setting out their concerns regarding the proposed childrens home at 188 Ogley Road.

74/05. **Public forum**

One Stop Shop

Mr. Poxon asked whether the One Stop Shop provided at Walsall Civic Centre would be implemented in other parts of the Walsall Borough.

Mr. Poxon was informed that a feasibility study had been undertaken and it was found feasible to open further One Stop Shops around the Borough. The Chairman explained that, should the Fujitsu transfer be successful, two more One Stop Shops would be established on a trial basis. If these were successful a further seven would be established

Mr. Poxon expressed concern at the amount of time spent waiting for calls to the One Stop Shop to be answered. Officers agreed to investigate this issue and update the Partnership at its next meeting.

Walsall Wood Library

George Madison expressed concern that Walsall Wood Library would be closed down in the future.

Sue Grainger, Group Library Manager, stated that a review of library provision was being undertaken. A survey would be distributed to members of the public to establish the type of service they would prefer and urged everyone present to complete the survey. Mrs Grainger explained there was a national performance indicator for Councils to provide a static library within two miles of every

household. The purpose of the survey was to ensure that library provision in Walsall targeted the needs of the public. No decision as to closures had been made.

Task Groups

Concern was raised with regard to meeting times of Task Groups and the eligibility of those able to attend. It was explained that many people who worked during the day were excluded from attending Task Groups as they needed to take time off to attend.

It was suggested that Task Groups be held at a variety of times to engage a wider variety of the public. With regard to those able to attend it was reported that those people who had expressed an interest would be invited to attend. It was agreed that the champions for Task Groups would inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership Team of those people they should invite.

188 Ogley Road

Members of the public raised concern at the proposed conversion of a house in Ogley Road, Brownhills, into a childrens home.

Strong objections were submitted to the Partnership relating to the increased anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime should the application be approved. Various residents endorsed these concerns who also objected to the application. The Chairman informed the public that this matter would be considered at the Development Control Committee in due course and advised all members of the public to address their objections to that forum.

Representation was made to reduce the number of children and restrict any further extension of the building if the application was approved.

Youth Issues

The Partnership received a presentation on youth issues and youth provision in the Brownhills area.

It was explained that youth provision was carried out by the Council and a variety of partners such as Brownhills Community Association, utilising partners that opened a variety of funding streams that helped the Council deliver quality services.

Youth provision was delivered by both centre based youth work and detached youth work.

With regard to centre based youth provision i.e. youth clubs etc., officers explained that there was a difficulty in attracting and retaining staff at both a local

and a national level. The Council had been successful in appointing six members of staff and it was hoped that by December 2005, a further six people would be in post. Other centre based provision included the kick start centre which provided activities for excluded pupils or those close to exclusion from school.

Detached youth work was a more direct approach with youth workers engaging youths on the streets. These young people may not attend youth clubs and a youth worker would engage with them providing challenges to prepare them for adulthood.

Officers invited all members of the Partnership to inform them where they felt this activity was required most, as they needed to target where youth workers would be placed. Seven youth workers were employed by Walsall Council, all of whom received special training to approach perceived intimidating groups of youths and build their trust developing relationships and providing a mentoring service. Young people were also actively engaged in Walsall by initiatives such as Youth Opinions Unite.

Further discussions took place regarding provision of the youth service and it was suggested that a detached youth worker be invited to attend future meetings of the Partnership. It was further suggested that youth workers engage with the Police who welcomed the opportunity to discuss further initiatives.

Resolved

- (1) That detached youth workers be invited to attend future meetings;
- (2) That contact details for the youth team circulated to all members of the Partnership;
- (3) That the report be noted.

75/05. Funding Priorities for Action

The Partnership received a report detailing progress with funding priorities.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

76/05 Projects Update

The Partnership received a report detailing progress made on projects utilising the allocated £22,000 resources

Linda Cooper reported that she had received a letter from the park ranger who had confirmed that he would undertake, amongst others, the following work:-

- the removal of dead wood;
- chipping;
- path improvements to the area.

It was anticipated that work would commence at the end of October 2005.

The Partnership received an update on the heritage project, it was reported that costs would amount to £4,000. Discussion followed on the location of the project and it was advised that the mezzanine floor of the new resource centre in Brownhills would be used temporarily. Suggestions for a permanent venue were requested.

77/05. Partnership Plan and Feedback from Task Groups

The Partnership received a report detailing progress made by Task Groups,

Inspector Ashley gave an update on the crime workshop held on 11 August 2005. He informed the Partnership that “crime packs” were available free of charge at the end of the meeting. He also indicated that further shed alarms had been ordered and would be available to the public in due course. He confirmed that two wardens would be appointed to Brownhills as the borough-wide wardens initiative.

Members noted the dates of future workshops and requested that the workshop to be held on 27 September 2005, be utilised to discuss youth issues. During discussions, clarity was provided as to whom would be eligible to attend workshops. It was suggested that any expressions of interest to members of the LNP from members of the public be forwarded to the Local Neighbourhood Partnership, in order that they could maintain a record.

Resolved

- (1) That the dates of future workshops be noted;
- (2) That the Task Group to be held on 27 September 2005, consider youth issues;
- (3) That partnership plan review workshops be established.

78/05. Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.40 pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....