

DARLASTON LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 10 January, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.

Old Hall People's Centre, Wing Close, Bentley

Present

Councillor Bill Madeley (Chairman)
Peter Burton (Vice-Chairman)
Denise Birkett
Cath Boneham
Sandra Borland
Councillor Rose Burley
Gary Fulford
Councillor Ayshea Johnson
Paul Johnson – West Midlands Fire Service
Jan Madeley
Keith Middleton
Ismail Patel
P.C. Robert
Rashid Varachhia

In Attendance

Narinder Singh Chumber
Steve Lewis
Jo Nugent
Paul Wilde

163/07 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Sergeant Lloyd, Andy Clarke, David Owen, Mark England and Councillor Keith Chambers.

164/07 Introductions

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

165/07 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2006, a copy having been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the addition of an apology for non-attendance on behalf of Peter Burton.

166/07 **Vice-Chairman of the Partnership**

Councillor Madeley referred to the fact that Sergeant Lloyd had been invited to become a Vice-Chairman of the Partnership at the last meeting. Sergeant Lloyd had had to decline the invitation because his duties as a police officer meant that he would be unable to attend every meeting of the Partnership. He called for a volunteer to become a Vice-Chairman of the Partnership.

Cath Boneham (tPCT) agreed to become a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year and it was:-

Resolved

That Cath Boneham (tPCT) be Vice-Chairman of the Partnership for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

167/07 **Update from last meeting**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

168/07 **Public Forum**

Dispersal Order for Rough Hay, Darlaston

Peter Burton requested that Bob Gessie should be thanked for his help in obtaining the Dispersal Order for Rough Hay, Darlaston.

Cost-Cutter in Blockall

Peter Burton referred to the problems of car parking outside the Cost-Cutter store in Blockall. He asked if a car park could be provided outside the shop.

Councillor Madeley suggested that the matter be referred to the Darlaston Housing Trust as the building was on land in their ownership.

Resolved

That the request for a car park outside the Cost-Cutter store in Blockall be referred to the Darlaston Housing Trust for consideration.

169/06 LNP Funding - Update

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Narinder Singh Chumber reported that £1,469 remained unallocated from the 2005/06 allocation.

Councillor Madeley referred to the funding for the Information Centre and indicated that the Old Hall People's Centre had paid for wiring to be installed for computers at a cost of £1,045.

Denise Birkett confirmed that the Centre had paid for the wiring, but had yet to be re-imbursed. Jo Nugent reported that the Library Service had agreed to meet some of the costs. She added that one final cable needed to be installed, then the Library's computers would be on-line.

Councillor Madeley indicated that the Local Authority should pay for the services provided at the Information Centre. If there was likely to be any shortfall, then he should be advised accordingly.

Resolved

That the progress and current spend be noted.

170/07 Community Action Groups

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Cath Boneham reported on the Health and People Community Action Group held on 18 December 2006. She stated that the meeting had been held in the new SureStart building which provided a fantastic facility for the children of the area. She indicated that the meeting had been a lively one with the results of the mapping exercise leading to a spirited debate. The exercise had shown that provision for young people was patchy and that a number of gaps needed to be filled urgently. As a consultation was to take place at the Multi-Purpose Centre on 17 February 2007, it was agreed to await the outcome of that event before further action was taken.

Peter Burton reported that the mapping exercise had confirmed what he already knew that youth provision in the Darlaston area was patchy. Referring to Rough Hay in particular, he commented that youth provision was virtually non-existent.

Councillor Burley referred to the fact that venues for youth activities were lacking in Rough Hay. She indicated that a meeting had been held at the Lodge with Jan Madeley when venues and funding had been discussed.

Councillor Johnson stated that she had had a meeting with Jan Madeley regarding the Bentley South area which was experiencing similar problems. The existing centres provided a good service, but there was simply not enough of them.

Denise Birkett referred to the street culture in the Bentley area which was reproduced throughout the Borough. She indicated that help and support was needed if these problems were to be overcome.

Councillor Madeley reminded the Partnership that established centres were working well with young people putting in their own bids for funding to a variety of organisations. Peter Burton suggested that a member of Youth Opinions Unite should become a Member of the Partnership.

Jan Madeley referred to a sum of £700,000 provided by the Government over two years which could only be accessed by young people. She felt that Darlaston's young people should be encouraged to access the funding.

Peter Burton felt that young people across the Borough should be made aware of the funding available.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

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

171/07 Alleygating Update

Steve Lewis reported that the closure of the footpath in King Charles Avenue was progressing. The closure of the Faversham Close to Western Avenue route had not met the prioritisation process and Lime Avenue and Poplar Avenue had not been prioritised, but could be considered for interventions if the Local Neighbourhood Partnership could fund the works from their own budget.

Councillor Burley asked what had happened to the other schemes which had been identified, e.g. Pinfold Street.

Steve Lewis agreed to investigate this and it was:-

Resolved

That a report on the progress of all alleygating schemes in Darlaston be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

172/07 Dispersal Order – Rough Hay, Darlaston

Councillor Burley thanked the Police and Stakeholders for their support in obtaining the Dispersal Order for Rough Hay. She added that the Order had not had the effect of moving the problem to another area. She had spoken to shopkeepers in the area who felt it had been successful and wanted to see it extended.

Peter Burton commented that a major issue revolved around the phone box in Peacock Road which was regularly used by drug dealers. Councillor Burley stated that BT had been approached to remove it, but had refused because it was well used by the public.

PC Probert advised the Partnership that a Dispersal Order for Moxley would come into operation on 1 February 2007.

Resolved

That the comments be noted.

173/07 Bentley Centre Regeneration Project

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Jo Nugent reported that the draft masterplan was being prepared by the consultancy team with views from the community events which had been held in the Autumn. She indicated that the strategic options had been obtained and the key development sites had been earmarked and added that at an event held on 2 December 2006, strategic option C had been supported.

Councillor Madeley referred to the fact that the people of Bentley were supporting the scheme whole-heartedly. He added that the money from the sale of land in Pugh Crescent for housing would be used to provide a community centre in Anson Road.

After further discussion it was:-

Resolved

That the report be noted.

174/07 Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust Stakeholder Reference Group

A copy of a letter from the Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust dated 19 October 2006, was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Councillor Johnson and Sandra Borland represent the Darlaston Local Neighbourhood Partnership on the Foundation Trust Stakeholder Reference Group.

175/07 Stafford Road, Darlaston

Councillor Burley asked if a report on Stafford Road could be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

Resolved

That a report on Stafford Road, Darlaston, be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

176/07 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership would be held on Wednesday, 14 February 2007, at Moxley People's Centre, Queen Street, Moxley, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: