

BROWNHILLS AND ALDRIDGE NORTH LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, 12 September, 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

in the Conference Centre, Shire Oak School, Walsall Wood

Present

Councillor Alan Paul (Chairman)
Mr. Keith Astin
Inspector Greg Bates
Mr. Douglas Birch
Councillor Barbara Cassidy
Mrs. Lynda Cooper
Ms. Georgina Fereday
Mr. Kevin Lowry
Councillor Dave Turner

114/06

Introductions

Members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) introduced themselves to the meeting.

115/06

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Sears, Councillor Harris and Jackie Plant.

116/06

Election of Vice-Chairmen

Resolved

- (a) That the appointment of a WBSP Vice-Chairman be deferred to the next meeting;
- (b) That Douglas Birch be appointed Vice-Chairman for the Locally Appointed Partners.

117/06

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July, 2006 be approved, subject to Inspector Gregg Bates' name being removed from the list of those present and inserted into the list of apologies.

118/06

Update on items from the last meeting

Brownhills Common

A response from Countrywide Services was read out as follows:-

“Countrywide Services have only cut down a single tree since last winter and this was used to make a bench on site. We ensure that all brash is chipped whenever we do tree works as we now have access to a chipper. This has only been available since Spring 2006. Countryside Services have worked closely with Brownhills Local Committee over recent years and do intend to involve the Committee when we next intend to carry out management work on the Common. Funding received through the LNP last year was through local people putting projects forward that came from discussion and site visits with Countryside Services.”

Response from Leader of the Council

Response from the Leader of the Council to a member of the public, the Chairman responded stating that he had spoken to the Leader of the Council who had expressed surprise at the member of public's concerns as he did not intend to cause offence. In this regard, he requested that the Chairman pass a message of regret to the member of the public.

Problems with drains on the Fullelove Estate

The Chairman reported that WHG had investigated the drains using cameras, rodded and cleared them. He was aware that there had been a blockage in the High Street that had been rectified and that he was not aware of any further problems. Furthermore, a problem with drains in Chester Road, by the Anchor Pub, was being investigated.

Extension of the driveway to the new Community Centre to join Holland Park

The following response was given:-

“The extension of drive is not possible as part of the initial Brownhills budget as there is only a limited fund to be able to complete the design/appraisal stage. Something may be put rest as part of the construction phase, however, this will not take place until 2009 at the earliest and that is subject to approval being granted from DFT.”

CCTV in Brownhills

Parpinder Singh Randhawa read out a response provided by Andy Jones.

One Stop Shops

Sue Grainger provided an update on the issue of One Stop Shops explaining that there had been a survey distributed to members of the public to establish those places which would be most accessible. This information would then be used to look at what’s available, whilst providing best accessibility for members of the public. It was hoped that a paper would be submitted to Cabinet on this issue before Christmas.

119/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

120/06 Petitions

None received.

121/06 Public Forum

Q It was asked when doctors would be moving into the new medical centre at the Brownhills Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

The tPCT representative reported that it was unlikely that the post would be filled imminently. Adverts were currently out and current doctors in the area were encouraged to apply for the places at the surgery. The LNP was assured that the tPCT were looking at every application and had put a temporary practice in situ until a permanent practice was found.

The tPCT representative reported that a doctor should be in position by 1 November 2006, however, this would leave two further places for other doctors in the NRC.

Q A further question was asked regarding the premises of Dr. Panasari who had sold his premises. It was asked what patients would have to do in this situation.

The representative of the tPCT reported that Dr. Panasari would still hold a contract and provide a service. He would have to inform patients where his new premises would be. Should Dr. Panasari move from his list area, the tPCT would re-allocate patients to a new doctor. Though patients have a choice, which would not necessarily be restricted to the same boundary, many doctors do stick to those areas.

Q A further question was asked regarding the pharmacy that was currently vacant at the NRC. Again, the tPCT representative reported that the vacant premises was down to the pharmacy itself and not the tPCT. Contracts had been exchanged, however, it was up to the contractors as to when to occupy the premises.

Q It was asked whether dog fouling bins could be provided at Shire Oak and Copsy Hall Parks. Steve Chapman reported that this was down to funding and that he was aware that other LNPs had provided funding for bins. There was also another issue whereby certain parks could be targeted with a Dog Warden to attend and fine people.

Barry Poxon wished to take this opportunity of Public Forum to thank officers for weeding the flower beds in the Parade.

Q A question was raised regarding the ownership of parks, particularly Clayhanger. Concern was expressed that Shire Oak Saints were now using this facility that could be put to an alternate use for the community.

Q Question received regarding the opening and closure times of parks and the level of supervision provided.

122/06

Island Naming

The LNP received a presentation regarding the naming of three islands in the Brownhills and Aldridge North area.

Resolved

(a) That the presentation be noted;

- (b) That the three islands in Brownhills and Aldridge North be named the Rising Sun Island, the Clayhanger Island and the Brownhills Island;
- (c) That an item be placed on the next CAG meeting to discuss the appearance of the islands once sponsorship had been agreed.

123/06

LNP Funding

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That progress on projects be noted;
- (b) That Project Champions feedback progress at the next meeting;
- (c) That nominations for funding be submitted to Parpinder Singh Randhawa.

124/06

Update from Community Action Groups

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (a) That LNP Members continue in attendance at the Community Action Group meetings;
- (b) LNP to note the progress of Community Action Groups;
- (c) That Keith Astin be appointed Chair of Health and People;
- (d) That the appointment of a Chairman for Safer and Stronger Community Action Group be deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor Cassidy left the meeting and did not return.

125/06

Late Item

Local Accessibility Plan

The LNP received a presentation on the Local Accessibility Plan.

Resolved

That the presentation be received.

126/06

Late Item

Selection Panel for Locally Appointed Partners

Parpinder Singh Randhawa explained the process for appointing Members to the selection panel for Locally Appointed Partners.

Resolved

That:-

- (a) Councillor Alan Paul be appointed as one of the 2 required Ward Members on the selection panel;
- (b) That the second Ward Member be deferred to be appointed at the next meeting;
- (c) That Lynda Cooper be appointed as the LAP representative on the Selection Panel;
- (d) That the WBSP partner be deferred;
- (e) That Parpinder Singh Randhawa write requesting nominations to serve on the panel by 29 September, 2006.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman:

Date:

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Partnership observed a 1 minute silence in respect of Councillor Collins, a former Member of the Partnership, who had sadly passed away