

ST. MATTHEWS AND BIRCHILLS/LEAMORE
LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

23RD JANUARY, 2006

FEEDBACK ON ISSUES RAISED BY WAY OF PUBLIC FORUM/PETITIONS

1. Mellish Road Church

The ground survey that was commissioned by the Council and jointly funded by the Council and the owners of the site has been completed and the Council are now in receipt of the site investigation report.

The Council will be considering the results of the report and meeting with the owners to discuss the information.

This information is in addition to an earlier condition survey of the church building and together, these reports will inform the Council of the level of remedial works required to bring the church back into a useable condition. The Council are continuing to negotiate with the owners but do have the powers to serve a Repairs Notice if sufficient progress is not made on achieving the restoration of the church.

Contact Officer: Claire Hines (01922 652449)

2. Youth Provision in Butts Area

The following developments are currently taking place:-

- (1) A detached team is currently delivering sessions in the Birchills area.
- (2) Officers have offered to deliver detached sessions regarding the training of parents from the Sawmill Tenants Group. A response to this offer is awaited.
- (3) Officers have contacted local police officers to meet and discuss ways of working together. A response is awaited.
- (4) The Youth Service is now at the stage where the adverts for detached youth work staff are going out and this process will take a little while, with CRB checks and medicals etc. Interviews will proceed in the new year.

Contact Officer: Angela Carr (01922 650448)

3. **Traffic problems in Caldmore**

To complete the Walsall - Blackheath 404 bus showcase scheme, the Council has published Traffic Regulation Orders affecting Caldmore Road, Weston Street and West Bromwich Road. In respect of Caldmore Road, between Mount Street and Brace Street, the effect of the Order would be to prohibit waiting on the western side between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The consequence of this, if approved and in combination with the existing Orders on the eastern side will be to prohibit waiting on both sides of this section of Caldmore Road between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Parking on sections of the western side would be allowed between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Also, published were proposals that would prohibit loading on the eastern side between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The published Orders generated a large number of objections, including many to the above element of the proposals. Bruce George requested a meeting to discuss the proposed restrictions. This meeting was held on 16th September and was attended by Bruce George, MP, Councillor Longhi, as Portfolio Holder, Councillor Khan (St. Matthews Ward), Councillor Yasin (Palfrey Ward), Council officers and representatives of residents affected by the proposals. The meeting resulted in requests for various investigations to be undertaken, including the possible diversion of the 404 bus route away from Caldmore Road or the introduction of a one-way system in Caldmore Road. Peak hour site visits, attended by those present at the meeting, were also requested, together with a follow up meeting before the Orders are sealed and implemented.

To date, progress on the investigations has commenced but has not yet been completed. Consequently, the published Orders have not been sealed.

Contact Officer: Neville Owen (01922 652562)

4. **Disabled parking bays - Walsall Civic Quarter**

Nothing to report.

Contact Officer: Paul Leighton (01922 652500)

5. **Blue Coat School - traffic problems/traffic calming measures**

Dealt with at Item 7(a)

Contact Officer: Richard Clarke (01922 652511)

6. **Stephenson Avenue/Beechdale Regeneration Partnership**

Nothing to report.

Contact Officer: Mark Chaplin (01922 652631)

7. **Re-opening of Green Lane**

Terry Edis asked at the last meeting why the section of Green Lane between the Police Station and Birchills Street had not been opened since it appeared that the road works in that area had been completed.

It has been established that the section of road in question was actually opened to two way traffic on Saturday, 10th December, 2005.

Contact Officer: Glyn Oliver (01922 652503)

8. **Dropped kerbs**

Ascertained that current Council policy is 0 to 6 mm upstand on pedestrian dropped kerbs. With regard to location or inventory for such crossings, it is not something that officers have at present. There are no future plans to record them. However, on new schemes, they are recorded and an inventory of sorts is slowly, by default, being collated on this basis.

Contact Officer: Clive Betts (01922 652536)