

**THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2006**

**UPDATE ON PETITIONS AND ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST PELSALL AND RUSHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

This report provides an update on petitions and issues raised at the last meeting of Pelsall and Rushall Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

**Petitions**

**Disused Railway Line between Goscote, Station Road, Pelsall and Brownhills**

A petition objecting to the proposed development of the disused railway line between Pelsall and Brownhills was submitted on behalf of residents of Fairburn Crescent and Excelsior Grove, Pelsall by Councillor Garry Perry at the last meeting.

A public meeting was held at the beginning of February 2006 followed by a further site meeting with residents and representatives of Sustrans. Contentious issues were addressed, including agreement to amend the plans to cease any proposed access from Fairburn Crescent and re-routing the track near to Ryders Lake having sought agreement from Parkhill.

The Planning Case Officer has advised that the amendments to the current planning application have been received by the Council and are currently being assessed. One amendment to the planning application is that the footway link to Fairburn Crescent has been taken out and a link to Fordbrook Lane has been put in. Planning Officers intend to consult with local residents on the amended plan. A decision on the application will be made by the Council's Development Control Committee. The likely date for the application to be considered is 25 April 2006.

The Planning Case Officer has advised that around 40 comments/letters have been received to date in respect of the application, some for and others against.

**Request for Green Bins**

On behalf of local residents Councillor Mrs Micklewright raised the matter of green bins being provided for new residents moving into Walsall Housing Group properties in Rushall and Shelfield. It appeared that some of the residents moving out had taken the green bins with them and new residents had been asked to fund the cost of a new green bin.

Mr. Robert Hughes of WHG has responded that WHG does not provide green bins for new tenancies, where the bin has gone missing. WHG follows the policy of Walsall Council in this regard. He understands that Walsall Council make a charge of £16.50 for replacement of a green bin, where the bin has been stolen, damaged or has gone missing.

### **Sheffield Library Site**

Mr. Stephen Hartshorne of Spring Lane Pharmacy, Sheffield raised the matter of the future use of the Sheffield Library site and the possibility of having a purpose-built pharmacy and well-person clinic at the site.

The Senior Regeneration Officer advises that a development brief has been prepared for the site of the former Sheffield Library for residential purposes. The closing date for the submission of bids from developers is 31 March 2006. Updated information on this issue may be known at the meeting on 6 April 2006.

### **Redefining Conservation Areas in Pelsall**

Mrs. Maureen Payton, the Chairman of the Friends of Pelsall Common, raised the matter at the last meeting of the need to redefine conservation areas in Pelsall and for specific buildings and sites to be listed to preserve Pelsall's heritage.

The Regeneration Team has prepared the following briefing note in response to Mrs. Payton's enquiry:-

The Council are undertaking a rolling programme of conservation area appraisals through which the character of the conservation areas will be defined and described. In addition the existing boundaries of the conservation areas will be reviewed and, if considered appropriate, amendments to the boundaries will be proposed. The appraisal may also include recommendations for listing or local listing of certain properties and structures.

At present it is proposed to carry out the Pelsall Common Conservation Area Appraisal in the year 2007/2008 although this is subject to change. Public consultation will be carried out prior to the compilation of the final appraisal and its adoption by the Council.

Current conservation area legislation requires that planning permission is obtained for any alterations that affect the material appearance of a property. This includes proposals for new shop fronts. In addition, new signage in a conservation area requires advertisement consent. Therefore there are processes already in place to manage changes within conservation areas, particularly in respect to shop fronts and signage.

In respect to the listing of specific sites and buildings any member of the public can apply to English Heritage to have a building listed. There is guidance on making listing applications on the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) web-site. The Built Conservation Team can offer advice and assistance on what properties may be suitable for listing and in the compilation of applications.

In addition the Council maintain a List of Buildings of Local Architectural and Historic Importance or 'Local List', this includes buildings and structures that while not suitable for statutory listing are of local importance. The criteria for local listing are in the Council's Unitary Development Plan which can be viewed on the council web-site. Information on potential local list properties should be sent to the Built Conservation Team.

The Regeneration Manger will be submitting a report to a future meeting detailing the historic context of the Rushall and Shelfield areas in respect of conservation issues.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to indicate any further action they wish officers or task groups to investigate in respect of the various issues identified in the report.

### **Contact officer**

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