

**Meeting of Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Group
Lunt Community Centre
Wednesday 14th February 2007**

Present

Jill Griffiths, Megan Fitzgerald, Jean Hasketh, PC Wayne Wallace, Barbara Nelson, Ann Nightingale, Anwar Ulhaq, Eddie Grizzle, Errol Bryan, John Goalby, Ken Brown, Cllr Louise Miles, Lisa Ansell, Lisa Parmar, Cath Cunningham, Nick Crombie, Joan Oram, Mary Jacobs, Roy Hollingsworth, Cllr Steve Simkins, Simon Lucas, Steve Poole, Tom Fellows, Tom Paterson.

1a. Introductions

Everyone was given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

1b. Apologies

Andy Hubble, Andy Hickman, Beth Leach, Carol McNally, Carol Fawdry, Cheryl Welsh, Denise Pearson, Jean Hill, John Waterfield, John Griffiths, Judy Watton, Mike Reaney, Nisha Ahir, Pauline Fellows, Raphael Duckett, Tanya Korfkamp, Sgt Marcus Tomlin, Tracey Hickman, Cllr Bert Turner, Craig Gutteridge, Sue Brown (Community Wardens).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Lisa Ansell: point 5, page 3 – 2nd Paragraph
1st amendment – Its not the St Chad's Centre, it should read Chad's Tenants and Residents Association.

Lisa Parmar: Item 5 – should read 900+ questionnaires not 90 questionnaires.

Otherwise the Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Item 6, page 3- Joan Oram had spoken to the necessary departments and results would be sent.

Item 5, Paragraph 2 – Domehawk camera, the camera is fixed and should be operational soon.

Lisa Ansell commented that the Community should also be involved in where the camera is situated.

Lisa Parmar suggested that the first place it will be situated is on Rocket Pool Drive. Ron Wright noted that if it's called for in Old Bradley they want it in Old Bradley.

Jean Hasketh asked about 'reporting incidents systems'. Lisa Parmar suggested the police be the ones who incidents are reported to and a crime number be sought.

Anne Nightingale said crimes have been stopped due to the deployment of the dome hawk. The Chair suggested that, as a result of a meeting with Sgt Tomlin that it was identified that two cameras were purchased for Bilston, one camera should remain in Bilston East Ward permanently.

Action: The Chair suggested that we need to draw up a list of crime hotspots in the Ward. Area representatives can help in this process.

Cllr Simkins asked that if the other camera was intended to be shared with Bilston North that we ensure we get our full 50% usage of this.

Action: The Chair agreed that progress on camera use and protocol for using cameras should be included as an agenda item for the LNP meeting in March.

Other Matters arising

Section 5 – Page 3 Lisa Ansell asked what the minor works referred to were.

Lisa Parmar clarified that the minor works bid was only a discussion about possible minor works.

Item 4, page 2 – Joan Oram, let the Partnership know that “Recycle” in Wolverhampton would also take re-usable furniture from local communities.

Item 6, Lisa Ansell asked whether the anti graffiti paint could be purchased by the general public. The Chair said that she thought that it was only available via the department.

Action- John to find out if the paint is available to the wider community.

Action- John to find out when our priority graffiti will be tackled. (Cllr Simkins asked for this to be done.)

4. Dudley Street Closure Consultation – Simon Lucas

Simon outlined the closure plan is available for viewing at Bilston library and Bilston High School if anyone wants to look closer.

The section of Dudley Street identified in the shade on the plan will be closed; this is in order to ensure access via a new section of the road to the new Leisure Centre. This new access will be to Prosser Street and the School. The rest of Prosser Street will be stopped up. Bankfield Road will open and have a bus only lane.

Ron Wright and other reps suggested that traffic at the other end of Dudley Street on Highfields Road in Bradley will escalate under the scheme.

Lisa Ansell asked about pedestrian and disability access within the scheme whilst building work in progress.

Simon suggested that the contractor would be forced to maintain pedestrian access.

The Chair asked Simon to clarify pedestrian access whilst the work was going on. Simon clarified that the contractor hadn't been engaged yet but would ensure that the contractors maintain pedestrian access.

Cllr Simkins asked for consultation details and especially for a 3D model to be provided in order that a clearer view of what was proposed is given via a model.

Tom Paterson queried the consultation process and the reconfiguration of the scheme. Simon Lucas answered that links between the school and the Leisure Centre were important links.

The Chair pointed out that Oxford Street Tenants have made it clear that they have difficulties, with access from the Oxford Street Island.

Ron Wright said that Contractors don't listen to access issues. He wants to see proper consultation between the Contractors and the wider community.

Jean Hasketh asked if Bankfield Street would be accessible by cars both ways. Simon Lucas confirmed it would. Jean then said that parking issues and congestion would be very detrimental to Bradley people.

Megan Fitzgerald asked that the 'figures' surrounding the consultation should be made available.

The Chair reiterated that Bilston Urban Village should be part of Bilston not a "graft on "

The Chair clarified that the Planning Permission was only in outline at this stage, there is no detail yet. The outline planning consultation was done via Bilston Regeneration Forum. Mark Connell is the lead for the ongoing consultation.

Ken Brown raised a question about traffic surveys, Simon replied that the traffic surveys were done four years ago. It was noted that easy access was needed to the Bilston Urban Village in order that it does not become a ghetto.

Nick Crombie said that because of the Dudley Street closure there would be good benefits for the school and good results for the Leisure Centre. He said we need to be sure that the result was also good for people and traffic at the Bradley end of Dudley Street.

Joan Oram asked if the extraction of the site waste would or could cause local problems including health problems due to contamination.

Simon Lucas informed all that, contamination levels in waste was low on site and the scheme would like to re-use as much material on site as possible.

Tom Paterson asked for more detail on the Bilston Urban Village Site. The Chair clarified the consultation period, Phase1, 1st-28th February. This was based on government guidelines, 28 days.

Action- The Chair suggested that Mary writes a letter outlining the group's concerns saying that we object to the closures based on the plan presented and the traffic problems which may be caused. Government Office West Midlands will have the objections and then looks at how the work and issues raised can be resolved. Agreed

Action: Lisa Ansell asked if a duplicate of the letter could be sent to all members of the LNP. The Chair agreed

The next phase of consultation will be a planning application for the Leisure Centre accompanied by traffic data.

The Chair re-iterated that Bilston Urban Village should be at the heart of Bilston's Community. **Simon agreed to keep the LNP updated.**

Cllr Simkins asked about the PCT's involvement in Bilston Urban Village development.

Cath Cunningham answered that the PCT is committed to its positive involvement to Bilston Urban Village and its PCT Lift project development.

Cllr Simkins thanked Cath for her positive feedback and related the news that a new Police Station was also being planned.

The Chair thanked Simon Lucas for his time and his very informative presentation.

5. Presentation on Youth Services Strategy followed by questions – Errol Bryan

Errol outlined that there were problems communicating how Youth Services worked in Wolverhampton. He hoped that his presentation would go some way to overcoming these difficulties. Copies of Errol's presentation are available on request by dialling 01902 551760.

Errol outlined how the 6 sector youth service is set up across Wolverhampton and then specifically outlined the work which Bilston Sector undertakes. He then gave the Partnership information on how the planning and performance arrangements operate. Errol reported that Ofsted inspections would take place this year and the Youth Services quality process was also backed up by a user survey.

Errol pointed out that one to one referrals to the Youth Service can also be made by Parents and relations of youths with problems as well as from a range of statutory and voluntary organisations.

Bilston Motor project: To qualify the youngsters go through a behaviour reporting process at school, the successful completion of this qualifies them to a 12 week motorbike course. The reporting system continues throughout the course.

Errol continued to outline the varied work carried out by Youth Services including Youth Club activity, Hungarian exchanges and Youth elections. Errol flagged up future work including the "Senior Members Training Course" due to start in April. This Partnership needs to decide how Young Peoples views are fed into the LNP meetings. This will be done in conjunction with the "Senior Members training course".

(Q) Joan Oran asked Cath Cunningham about the PCT's involvement with Young People regarding teenage pregnancy.

Cath confirmed that the PCT is key in delivering those services.

(Q) Megan Fitzgerald asked about extended schools and an after school programme.

The Chair replied that 'extended schools' core offer has had a mixed take up from headteachers in Bilston.

(Q) Tom Paterson and others pointed out that the lack of funding for young people was one of the major reasons why there were perceived problems with young people. It was also noted that Parental training should be on offer.

Resourcing Youth Services was discussed. The voluntary sector has a role to play in providing Youth Services. Mary proposed to work with all agencies within the action plan to achieve greater levels of youth provisions.

CREST

Lisa Ansell from Crest gave a presentation on the work of Crest based in Bradley, including voluntary young members of the group. (See information sheet attached).

Steve Poole confirmed that the LNP will have a future role to play in how Youth Services budgets are configured.

The LNP thanked Crest and Youth Services for their excellent work with young people.

The chair suggested that Youth Provision should be one of the key themes for Bilston East LNP. Cllr Simkins supported this.

Action: Chair suggested a survey be undertaken of existing provision for Children and Young people's activities in Bilston East. Data gathered to be from ages 5-11 years old and 11-16 years old. Lisa Ansell volunteered CREST to collate information on the 5011 year old provision-AGREED

6. Neighbourhood Recycling Scheme

Mary reminded the meeting that it had been previously agreed that a decision would be reached at the February meeting on which two locations should benefit from a NRI.

Mary Jacobs outlined the NRI changes, stating these are no longer RAZ's. Mary proposed that the LNP use some of the action planning budget to assist moving other bulky items including tidying up alleyways. This could also occur from this year's budget.

Lisa Ansell felt that people would feel let down by NRI's if other bulky items were not taken. **The Partnership agreed.**

The Group agreed that the NRI scheduled for March 3rd should be in Loxdale.

Cllr Simkins feels that we are getting a reduced service from previous RAZ. This needs to be raised as an issue for inclusion to Environmental Services.

7. Update from Community Safety partnership -Lisa Parmar

Lisa Parmar passed around her report and was thanked by the Chair for her hard work. The report is available on request from telephone number 01902 551760.

Steve Poole reported back on the re-shaping of Guardian Services. Job descriptions for Street Crime and Community Wardens will be amalgamated. Cllr Simkins made some suggestions about the shortage of Wardens and suggested the Partnership continue to look at that.

A discussion ensued with regard to the merits or otherwise of Community Wardens.

- It was thought that Wardens should have a higher profile between 5pm-11pm on Bilston East estates.
- Cllr Simkins suggested that if Community members had problems with the warden's service then they should be conveyed to the Chair and for the Chair to report these to Lisa Green.
- The Chair said that many issues had been supervision based.
The positive elements are:-
 - 1) A co-ordinated service was to be welcomed.
 - 2) Our representation could be made to Lisa Green and the LNP would act as a management arm.

10. Proposed spend of Action Planning budget (July–March 07) – Neighbourhood Management.

Cllr Simkins proposed that the Chair and the Vice to agree this years spend, with the understanding that the process be more transparent for 2007/08.

The group agreed to this.

11.

• **Nomination of a Representative to the Voluntary Sector Group.**

Lisa Ansell was nominated as the LNP's rep for the Voluntary Sector Group and Megan Fitzgerald was nominated and seconded as reserve.

Action: Officers to check/clarify the rules regarding substitutes and voting rights.

• **Feedback from Health Panel Meeting – Lisa Ansell/ Steve Simkins**

Very good, a gateway into PCT for the LNP.

Tom Paterson outlined that if you go to a 'walk in' centre you can get seen quickly, if you phone you get put in queue.

Cath Cunningham said that two services are operating at the Phoenix medical centre, one is "doctors on call"- that requires a wait and the other is a nurse led 'walk in' centre. Cath agreed that this needed to be communicated better to the wider community.

It was agreed that the main item for a subsequent Bilston East LNP should be health (Chair)

12. A.O.B.

• **Theme Groups**

The Chair asked that people fill in the Theme Group Interest Forms.

Mary Jacobs advertised the BME event on 10th March and asked members to publicise and attend the event.

Lisa Ansell asked if any groups have contacts with young women, can they pass on their details to herself for her research project.

13. **Date and time of the next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group will be held on **Wednesday 14th March 2007, 6.00pm. Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, Lower Bradley.**

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