

Meeting of Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Group
Parkfields High School (Bilston)
11th July 06

1. Update

Mary Jacobs the New Neighbourhood Manager for Bilston East gave an up-date of where the process was from now being endorsed by Cabinet to the 15 new LANA areas. Mary introduced the staffing for Bilston East including Lisa Parmar from Wolverhampton Community Safety Partnership. Also mentioned was the other organisations that would be part of this extended family such as BBAP and the Community Learning 'Brokers'.

Mary has contacted Service Providers such as the Police, Wolverhampton Homes etc. The only Service Provider at the moment that seems to not have a locality representative is the PCT (Primary Care Trust). A discussion broke out around the PCT, public involvement and recent local problems of an invitation only consultation to which the councillors and community reps were not invited.

The meeting was asked what other partners, would they like to see involved?

The responses Involved:

- Children & young people, covering both statutory and voluntary organised groups. Also they would like children and young people involved.
- They would like to see reps from older people's organisations such as; Social service, Leisure, Link Line and the Over 50's Forum.

2. The new Community Safety Partnership

Lisa Palmar gave an outline of the move for herself from Parkfields to Bilston East; Bilston East is now one of three priority areas for community safety and so resources (Community Safety Partnership Officers) will now be placed in Bilston East, Low Hill & Heathtown. As of the 19th June Bilston East will be a Community Safety Partnership Area until March 2008.

Lisa plans to get information from local residents with the other partnership agencies through 5,000 questionnaires (Audit to Action) mailed out to everyone in Bilston East. This will be later followed up around September and October with 'Planning for Real'. Lisa sees her priority as the residents of Bilston East though at times will have to target Bilston Town Centre. On the 12th August as part of the Bilston Music and Arts Festival, Lisa is hoping to put on a display about the Community Safety Project and the work she is planning to do.

Lisa explained about the good work that was done in Parkfields such as target hardening, improved youth provision, better street lightening. There was a 40% decrease in burglaries.

It was suggested that Lisa needs to make contact with the schools. This will be done through the Planning for Real process. Through all these consultations and discussion with partnership agencies Lisa will be able to set targets to, work to as part of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

One of the main issues for the area is Anti Social Behaviour and the importance of the Neighbourhood Warden's to carry on. Mary informed the meeting that she was impressed by Denise Pearson of Wolverhampton Homes in her work in dealing with anti social behaviour. Marcus from the Police pointed out that there needs to be improved communication between Police and Wardens.

Various members of the meeting pointed out that there had been past issues when the Police had not reacted as well as they should have.

It was agreed that in some cases the problem has been with Housing/Wolverhampton Homes not taking action on persistent anti social behaviour and dealing that families/persons tenancy. A large issue in regard of this on Mount Pleasant is due to private landlords which are more difficult to take to task over their anti social residents. The Anti Social Behaviour Unit is targeting the private landlord.

3. Finding out local priorities

With the Planning for Real the LANA team will localise it due to the size of the area and work in bite size chunks.

Ways to get information out as well as gathering information will be through:

- Planning for Real
- Audit to Action
- Newsletters
- Coffee mornings
- Road shows
- Local events (the LANA team would like information of any forth coming event)
- Police Crime Stats
- Census Data
- School Sats and other information
- PCT data

The meeting was asked for any other data needed to be collected:

School leavers and are they employed or not.

4. Governance

Mary read through these, it was suggested that the reps should go away and read/discusses these with their organisations.

It was suggested that there should be a meeting in the Autumn to agree these.

In regard of resources Neighbourhood Management though having a team come only with a small amount of funding, this will be targeted by the partnership. The real resources come with the partnership agencies.

Tom Patterson pointed out problems around Lower Bradley from a youth club that can only open a couple days a week when it has the staff and also a lack of play area for younger children. The play area they have fought for, for along time. Mary responded by offering to discuss the details of this particular youth club with TRA outside of this meeting. In general terms the partnership can ask what the youth service is doing, and could also look to support any voluntary group who could address such a problem.

5. Discussion around what relationship should be created between activity and forums around Bilston Town Centre Bilston East NPB

There will be two police teams serving this partnership 1 dedicated to the Town Centre and the other for Bilston East. Information in regard of Policing will be going through everyone letter box.

The Regeneration Forum is set around the Bilston Urban Village and town centre. There will need to be discussions on this relationship so there is “added value” from the involvement of the partnership.

6. Bilston wide projects

The following groups have worked on a Bilston Wide basis it is suggested that these forums stay the same but have more input from this LANA and local reps:

Bilston Face lift

This is a partnership of agencies and organisations that look at environmental enforcement and awareness issues. The Neighbourhood Warden’s have fed information into this group and many community safety initiatives have been funded by this group.

Learning Partnership

This is about getting people back into learning and employment through running the appropriate community courses. Two of the learning priority areas in Bilston are Bilston North & Bilston East. The partnership would like a Bilston wide learning forum, it is important to get reps onto this.

Children & young people's co-ordinated activities group

This group has supported many voluntary and statutory led activities over different times of the year with special emphasis on activities over school holidays.

7. Suggested programme for this LANA's development

Now: contacting service providers and informing groups
August/September: Audit to Action and Planning for Real
Autumn: Looking at the election of board members

8. AOB

Tanja would like to talk about the Best Team at the next meeting. Over the Summer holidays there will many varied activities aimed at 5 – 16 age group. Also Adult Education will be offering workshops over the Summer period.

9. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group will be on Wednesday 13th September at 6.15pm at Parkfields School. It was agreed that the next meeting will be in a smaller room with better acoustics.