

**Meeting of Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Group**  
**Innisfallen House**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**Present**

Pc Chris Finch, Angela Chumber, Saraj Raj, Andy Hickman, Ann Nightingale, Anwar Ulhaq, Brian Ashworth, Bryan Grayson, Eddie Grizzle, Joan Oram, John Goalby, Ken Brown, Lisa Parmar, Mark Connell, Rev Raphael Duckett, Richard Ashwell, Ron Wright, Roy Hollingsworth, Steve Poole, Susan Wood, Jas Purewal, Mary Jacobs, Cllr Simkins, Cllr Miles.

**1a. Apologies**

Richard Kelly, Nisha Sharma, Cath Cunningham, Terry Percival, Susan Maule, Tina Gibbon, Brenda Richards, Pauline Fellows, Jean Hill, Tom Fellows, Doreen Pitcher, Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer, Steve Goodyear, Denise Pearson, Marcus Tomlin, Raspal Kaur, Cllr Bert Turner, Jayne Postance.

**1b. Introductions**

Cllr Miles thanked all for attending and suggested introductions were made around the room.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Cllr Miles referred to the previous minutes,

1<sup>st</sup> amendment – 1<sup>st</sup> page under matters arising last paragraph Andy pointed out that under coverage, it should read Cllr Miles **(not Andy)** said that Bilston Community Centre is predominantly Bilston North.

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

**3. Matters Arising**

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Joan Oram raised her concerns that she is still not receiving notification of meetings from the PCT. Jas confirmed that she has emailed Cath Cunningham with Joan Oram, Lisa Ansell's and Cllr Simkins contact details. **Agreed – Cllr Miles asked Joan to chase it up with the PCT.**

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Andy asked whether there was any feedback from Officers regarding the Heritage of Daisy Bank Community Centre. Cllr Miles said she was in the process of meeting with Steve Boyes, so she will raise the issue with him.

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Lisa Ansell informed the meeting that she had received a letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> May regarding the decision of the consultation areas and her concerns were that a decision had been made before the Partnership meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. Steve Poole confirmed that the letter was actually seeking nominations for a working group, as agreed at the April LNP.

Cllr Miles said the overwhelming vote was that Beckett Street should be included in the consultation. Cllr Miles went on to say that it was agreed that the LNP Board wanted as many people involved in the consultation as possible. Cllr Miles confirmed that at the March and April LNP Meetings, colleagues from Loxdale had a strong opinion that Loxdale should be included in the consultation as they have no community facilities

Andy raised his concerns that there were a couple of people who did not agree with this and Ron felt strongly that there were some Community Centres in Bilston Town Centre and Lunt.

Cllr Miles said that people do fall in the middle and it was important that the community say how they feel and where they belong. Cllr Simkins confirmed that Beckett Street is represented by FABB Queens Home Watch.

Cllr Miles asked for another show of hands to endorse the decision regarding the consultation area. It was again supported by an overwhelming majority vote.

Rev Duckett asked how Steve Poole was getting on with the display boards. Steve confirmed that he has found 7 out of 9 sites which leave 2 spaces vacant. Steve has made contact with Field View School and Loxdale School and still waiting to hear. Steve requested that any Governors of the two schools concerned remind them of the two vacant spaces. **Steve will report back at the next meeting.**

#### **4. Feedback from Task Groups**

##### **4a. Environmental Group - AU**

The second environmental meeting took place last week and this was a very good turnout. Anwar said he was keen to get people from the Lunt, Carder Crescent and Ladypool. The group has established terms of reference and are looking at the relevant component of the Action Plan. Anwar talked about the key points:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> NRI which took place in Loxdale which was very successful. It was agreed at the Partnership meeting that the next NRI should take place on the Royal Estate. Anwar asked if the Partnership was happy with this decision.
- John referred to the list of estate walks that had been circulated in a mail out to the LNP members, the rationale behind these dates are to get on board representatives from the 5 areas: Lunt, Bradley, Lower Bradley, Ladymoor and Carder Crescent.

John said he would be grateful if all representatives in the area could encourage local people to get on board for the NRI's. Rev Duckett raised his concerns around the NRI's and that it was not an appropriate way forward but he is happy to work with what we have got. Lisa Ansell also raised her concerns with regards to the amount of coverage. Anwar pointed out that this has been discussed at previous meetings and the Neighbourhood Partnership is trying to negotiate with Enterprise to improve this.

It was then agreed to bring forward the Agenda item on Bilston Urban Village.

##### **5. Bilston Urban Village – Dudley Street Closure object update.**

Anwar referred to the notes of the special meeting that had been circulated with the minutes. Anwar summarised the key points. Any suggestions for solutions have been passed on to Mark Connell and Simon Lucas.

Brian Ashworth raised his concerns about losing the BUV scheme. The main problem Brian suggested was the Morrison's entrance to the bottom end of the car park. Cllr Miles was very concerned if Bilston did lose this scheme, especially the health and leisure facilities.

Cllr Miles informed the meeting that she is going to request to meet with Steve Boyes, in order to seek an agreement between the LNP and Wolverhampton City Council.

Rev Duckett suggested the following: to re-open Bankfield Road, one way up to Salop Street, implement a traffic controlled system at the Salop Street/ Bank Street junction in conjunction with a pedestrian crossing. This would need to be complemented by a widening of Highfields Road from Salop Street to Dudley Street junction to enable a right turn filter and traffic lights at the Dudley Street junction.

There would need to be some consideration regarding the car parking outside the shops at the junction. There was a request to limited access to Baldwin Street to prevent 'rat-running' in the area.

Cllr Simkins said that the problem was very complex and Ron also expressed his concerns around the traffic congestion and new traffic lights would need to co-ordinate with flows of the Black Country Route.

Mark said he would take proposals to his meeting with Waterman's. Mark said he would pass on the maps requested to Mary for distribution.

Cllr Miles will circulate the date of the meeting with Steve Boyes to Mary, Raphael, Mark Connell and Ron once this is confirmed. Mark Connell fully sympathised with the meeting and said any agreed model would be computer modelled. Mark explained 19 developers had expressed an interest in the site they were short listed to 10 and were interviewed by WCC, and we are now down to a final 6 who will be invited back to put forward their plans. Mark will keep the group informed of the final outcome.

#### **4b. Leisure & Young Person Group - MJ**

Steve Poole said the first meeting of this group took place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> the main item discussed was with regard to splitting the Leisure Group between the topics young people and community facilities. The meeting agreed to keep it as one and perhaps review this in December. Two teachers attended this meeting and pinpointed areas which were lacking in the Action Plan. Steve has therefore agreed another audit for under 5's provision.

The meeting had asked those present to prioritise parts of the Leisure elements of the Action Plan. Discussions took place around improvements in holiday provision and green open space. It was queried if it was possible to establish the current status of the green open space at Ladypool.

Steve told all of the possibility of some outreach work at Loxdale School by the play division for under 11's. Steve also went on to say that a detached youth team are going into Loxdale also.

Steve confirmed that summer activities by the Youth Service have been switched from Bradley Lane Fields to Greenaway, following a request from the Leisure Task Group lastly, Andy Hickman highlighted that CREST were happy to support other volunteers to set up youth provision in their Neighbourhood.

#### **Youth Services**

- Angela informed everyone that the young people of the Lunt estate are still waiting for a date to resume access to the Lunt Community Centre. It is understood there is an outstanding piece of maintenance work then young people will be able to start a structured programme in the Centre.
- There was a discussion on how youth workers respond to vandalism. Cllr Simkins stated a response from Errol Bryan on the repair is required ASAP to resolve the situation.

**Agreed-MJ to send letter from LNP to request repairs can be completed as matter of urgency. Ward members and Police will also meet with Errol Bryan.**

- A group of young women from the Lunt estate have organised a trip to the Snow dome in Tamworth. This will take place in the first week of July.
- During Whit week half term, a group of young people took part in a music project at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. This involved the young people digitally producing a piece of music with the aid of some very high tech equipment. In the second day of the project the young people performed their music in front of the art gallery staff and the general public.

- Several of the young people have raised concerns over the well being of the fish in the Lunt pool. They have reported seeing people take fish from the water and cooking them on the side of the bank. Workers have walked around the pool with the young people but have not witnessed anything untoward.
- Angela also informed the meeting that the Summer Programme is in its final stages and will be distributed in July. Angela asked for clarification on £700.00 towards a mobile rock available from Wolf Mountain for young people. It was confirmed that Denise Pearson from Wolverhampton Homes was happy to fund £700.00 toward the mobile rock.
- Angela then went on to say that detached work will commence in Loxdale and Daisy Bank areas from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June. This will be for one session per week in the interim, alternating between the two areas and reviewed in September.
- The Youth Forum had its first meeting last month and the second is scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> June. The group has begun to gel and will be starting their training in committee work within the next month or so.
- School work is developing very well working with years 8, 9 and 10. The main focus of the work being Sexual Health which consists of relationships, contraception, sexually transmitted infection. There is also a drop in service for students in partnership with the NHS on Tuesday lunch times.

#### **4c. Neighbourhood Safety Group – LP**

Lisa reported back from the first Safety meeting which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> May, Cllr Simkins was voted the Chair and Megan Fitzgerald Plummer the vice Chair. Lengthy discussions took place regarding the function of the group to oversee the work of the Neighbourhood Safety Project and the direct funding involved. Lisa confirmed that the budget would be determined by the grants regime. Lisa went on to say that the Terms of Reference is currently in draft form. Lisa said that to ensure geographical issues and times it has been agreed by the group that the meetings will take place at 6pm on a Thursday evening. The Action Plan was also discussed in more detail and work plan specs regarding how many properties will receive target hardening and lighting.

Lisa responded for a fourth time to a request of information on how times of the meeting had been arrived at. It was agreed that the next meeting would go ahead as arranged. Lisa Parmar informed the meeting that she had representation from the FABB Queen, Ann from the Lunt but not from Carder Crescent. Lisa said that she would like to achieve a workable balance and that minutes are always circulated.

#### **4. d Proposal to form a Bilston East Learning Forum**

Mary reminded the meeting of the existence and purpose of the Bilston-Wide Learning and Employability Forum. Currently the level of residents who participate in adult learning, and who have an accredited qualification is relatively low. Investment and regeneration in Wolverhampton, including the Urban Village will provide new employment opportunities. School leavers and adults can access training opportunities now which could equip them to take advantage of these new jobs.

A learning theme group for the Ward would aim to bring community reps, employers, learning and training providers around the table. Please let Mary know if you are interested in becoming part of this group.

#### **Knowledge and Skills with LNP's - Richard Ashwell**

Richard Ashwell informed the meeting that he has been seconded from Wolverhampton Partnership to the Learning Partnership. Richard Ashwell talked about the three strands of his work.

Training for:

- People who work for statutory agencies regarding the LANA development

- Individuals from Regeneration and Sustainable Communities, through the Regeneration Apprenticeship Scheme.
- The development of LANA Skills and knowledge, involving people around the room.

Richard told the meeting that the Skills and Knowledge pot have some money to allow LNP's to put on courses and events to help improve the working of the group. Richard gave some examples of events that had been arranged:

Ettingshall LNP had arranged for a mini bus to go around all the neighbourhoods that the Ettingshall LNP covers. Next week Richard is looking to hold an evening session at Lowhill and Scotland's and the working of the group. Heath Town is a new LANA area, so they are looking at processes in setting up their group. Bantock LNP are currently doing a skills audit and they are starting the process next week. Cllr Miles queried how the Partnership can tie this in with schools in Bilston East as she thought it would be useful to know some kind of audit of school provision. Richard asked the meeting to report back to Mary with any ideas. Richard recommended the use of local community venues to keep money in the local area. Richard circulated a handout for all to take away and feedback to Mary or Anwar.

## **6. Any Other Business**

**(i)** Mary told the meeting that the Bilston East newsletter has been circulated to Schools and Community Centres in the Bilston East area. Mary said we still have copies available should anyone want to take them away to circulate further.

**(ii)** Mary congratulated Eddie regarding the ACOV event he organised that was held at Springvale Social Club and told the meeting what a huge success this was.

### **(iii) Dates and time of future events**

Holy Trinity Fete on 23<sup>rd</sup> June between 1.30-4.30pm

NRI on 7<sup>th</sup> July Royal Estate, 8am-11.30am.

LBCC Summer Fete on 8<sup>th</sup> July between 2pm and 5pm.

City Show on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July at West Park

Art Attack day (Family fun day) on 29<sup>th</sup> July, between 11am-3.00pm green area behind Springvale Social Club

Prince and Princesses Rose Queen Competition to be held at Daisy Bank Community Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> June.  
Summer Gala to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> July at Daisy Bank CC.

**(iv)** Joan told the meeting that she had spoken to Chris Smiles with regards to disposal of sharps. Ken Brown has received no information regarding sharps as he is regular user of injections as he is Diabetic. Ken has been told to use clippers to clip the sharps and put it into a sealed unit. Cllr Miles said in her role of the Health Chair Panel she would be happy to invite Joan along to the next meeting in September.

**(v)** John Goalby asked the meeting if they were happy to release their names and addresses to the Black Country Consortium Urban Park Project which would result in distribution on the Black Country Urban Park Project.

**The Partnership agreed that they were happy for this information to be passed on.**

**(vi)** Lisa Ansell reported to the meeting she has carried out a piece of work in partnership with YWCA and young people. Lisa asked whether the meeting would be happy for her to bring to the next meeting a draft report. – **Agreed**

**(vii)** Bryan Grayson talked about the leaflet that had been circulated regarding reporting graffiti and questioned where this had come from. This leaflet had been received from Environmental Services, WCC.

John Goalby requested if any one had any areas for graffiti removal please report to him. John said that the graffiti at Rocket Youth club bins has been removed.

(viii) A thank you was given to police by Ron on their response to a recent incident. Cllr Miles also thanked the police with regards to a serious incident which took place at Hickman Park, again the police made a quick response.

(ix) Joan Oram asked the meeting if they would be happy to invite Shane Sneyd along to a future Partnership meeting as he is a counsellor in the Bilston East area, who is currently based at Lower Bradley Community Centre. There are also discussions of Shane holding Counselling sessions at Innisfallen House too.

**Agreed – LNP Team to arrange**

(x) Lisa Ansell said it was unfortunate that Bilston by the Sea has now been confirmed as being held at West Park. The feeling around the room was that it maybe difficult to bring this event back to Bilston. Cllr Miles confirmed that Hickman Park restoration had now begun and scaffolding has been put up.

**Agreed – Mary to write a letter to convey the LNP's opinion that the event should return to Hickman Park next year.**

#### **10. Date and time of next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group will be held on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007, 6.00pm.**  
VTBC

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