

Meeting of Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Group
Lower Bradley Community Centre
Wednesday 14th March 2007

Present

Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer, Ann Nightingale, Anwar Ulhaq, Eddie Grizzle, Errol Bryan, John Goalby, Cllr Louise Miles, Lisa Parmar, Joan Oram, Mary Jacobs, Steve Poole, Ann Wood, Andy Hickman, Cheryl Welsh, Craig Gutteridge, Doreen Pitcher, Jean Hasketh, Jayne Postaine, Sgt Marcus Tomlin, Mel Jones, Nisha Ahir, Rev Raphael Duckett, Ron Wright, Bryan Grayson, Tracey Hickman, Jas Purewal, Cassie Gunderson-Biles, Ann Modi.

1a. Apologies

Denise Pearson, Sue Brown, Bryan Ashworth, Cath Cunningham, Jess Pickard, Nisha Sharma, Terry Percival, Tom Patterson, Tom Fellows, Lisa Ansell, Barbara Nelson.

1b. Introductions and procedure of business agreement

Cllr Miles thanked all for attending and everyone was given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Cllr Miles referred to the previous minutes, discussions took place around the closure of Dudley Street.

Cllr Miles asked all to look at the procedure of business agreement and everyone agreed they were happy to follow this procedure.

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

3. Matters Arising

Page 2, section 5 –Ron Wright asked Lisa Parmar for clarification on minor works.

Lisa Parmar confirmed that minor works involved improvement to doors at Becket Street and Bevan Street. Cllr Miles had spoken to Lillian from Beckett Street who knew no different.

Joan Oram informed all of the methane levels. Joan has spoken to Mr Dye who gave Joan a verbal response. *Joan confirmed that 18 points on Humphries Crescent and Batmans Hill had been asked.* Carbon dioxide levels and Oxygen levels were well below guidelines. Cllr Miles thanked Joan for this information.

Ron Wright highlighted that the workmen on the Bilston Urban Village site were ignorant of pedestrians walking past and also access for people.

Cllr Miles informed all that following discussions at the last LNP meeting with regards to the closure of Dudley Street, she had written to the Government Office West Midlands as well as talking to Steve Boyes and the Fire Service. Cllr Miles asked everyone to please note the response to her letter from the Government Office West Midlands at the signing in desk.

Mary raised her concerns as her guidance was that this item should go through the Bilston Regeneration Forum protocol. Ron Wright's views were that the Bilston Urban Village affects the whole of Bilston East not Central Bilston.

Cllr Miles asked all if they were happy to take Bilston Urban Village for outline planning to the next LNP meeting as an agenda item – **All Agreed.**

Action: Cllr Miles and Mary Jacobs to invite Mark Connell to attend the next meeting. Re: Urban Village and Highway issues.

A document was circulated from Lisa Parmar regarding the Dome hawk cameras and how to identify hotspots.

Cllr Miles informed all that it has been agreed to reserve rights to deploy the cameras on Rocket Pool. Consideration has also been made for the dome hawk cameras to be available on the Royal Estate.

It was suggested that once a Crime Group is established as a subgroup, perhaps then discussions can take place where camera's can be deployed.

Sgt Marcus Tomlin informed all that not all lamp posts are good enough to hold the camera, as it needs to take the weight of the camera. Sgt Tomlin said that the cameras were best situated at 6 metres.

Cllr Miles asked what further costs would be incurred to replace the lamp posts, £1,000 - £1,200.

Lisa Parmar confirmed that some funding was earmarked for further lighting columns. Sgt Tomlin also highlighted that the protocol also mentions the need to move the camera. Cllr Miles thanked Lisa for the work carried out and said that the feedback had been very positive. Cllr Miles asked around the room if anyone had any further comments.

Page 2, item 6 - John Goalby confirmed that graffiti paint was available to the public but is expensive; John also said that graffiti was being tackled in Bilston East by Environmental Services.

4. Draft LNP Action Plan – Mary Jacobs

Mary referred to the action plan and stressed that this document was still in draft form. MJ briefly went through the pages to outline each section. MJ informed all that LNP's had been charged to go through a process to consult with local people and their concerns. After meeting with the Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor, there are still alterations to be made; the draft action plan needs to be submitted by Easter which will then go to a Reference group to be signed off by the Local Strategic Partnership.

A date for the 23rd March was agreed for all comments from the Partnership to Bilston East Neighbourhood Management.

Cllr Miles is in the process of writing the foreword for the Action Plan; Cllr Miles welcomed comments from the Partnership. Jean raised her concerns with regard to the language used in the draft action plan and requested the use of plain English. MJ asked Jean to let her know of any other changes.

MJ talked about Community Play and Youth and that section needs more work, this may be divided into two sections. MJ currently awaiting feedback form Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor.

Discussions took place around the Youth club at the Lunt and the lack of Youth provision as there had not been a youth club since Christmas due to the H&S situation.

Cllr Miles said it was identified that at previous meetings that there had been lack of youth provision across all areas in Bilston.

Cllr Miles thanked Anwar and Mary for their hard work they had put into the action plan.

Cllr Miles informed all that Steve Poole had been out consulting with the youths to see what the needs were and this will still remain one of our key areas.

MJ expressed more need for volunteers from the Ladymoor and Carder Crescent.

MJ finished by saying there is still a final page to be added where there will be the formal signatures of partners. Ron pointed out that his group was not in the glossary.

All agreed that the LNP meetings were more relaxed and worked better as a group. Ron said people were happier to share information. Joan expressed that as volunteers we all have a wealth of information and knowledge and all are happy to share this at the Partnership.

Cllr Miles said it is vital that the Partnership stays inclusive as possible and there is not set numbers for members attending the Partnership.

Cllr Miles asked MJ for an update on the budget:

Youth Spend

Crest - £500.00

Rocket pool – £300.00

Parkfields Bilston High - £300.00

Pentecostal Church - £542.25

Fire Cadets - £300.00

Bilston Cleanup - £2,000.00

£57.75 left over on the youth spend

Steve Poole informed all of the costs involved for Community Notice Boards which was £2,000.00.

3x Wall mounted

2 x post mounted on 2 black aluminium posts

Lisa Parmar would know by Tuesday whether the Wolverhampton Community Safety Partnership could match fund the poster boards, which would then make a total of £4,000.00. Steve also asked all to let him know of any other sites, where people may want poster boards displayed

Anwar informed all that the Neighbourhood Recycling day in Loxdale was very successful that took place on Saturday 10th March. It was also confirmed that a cleanup of Bradley has been identified.

Ron Wright raised his concerns with regard to having volunteers included on photos and that in future can we ensure that the community is involved in photographs. Cllr Miles informed all that she did approach the photographer from the Express and Star to ask him to include the volunteers in the photos. But as he had limited time and he was unable to do this.

Mary informed all that £1,500.00 has been put aside for the Bilston Forward Newsletter, which would be going out shortly.

5. Discussion and Agreement on Community Consultation process – Ann Wood

Cllr Miles asked the Partnership for open and honest comments. Cllr Miles highlighted that this is an introduction on the start of the consultation.

Ann Wood said that we need to agree on where we do the consultation and what we do next. Ann talked about the areas that would be involved in the consultation, a map was circulated and Ann highlighted the areas covered which was from Bradley Lane, Weddell Wynd, Ladymoor, Carder Crescent, Ashley Street

and Fraser Street (catchment area for the Lunt). Ann informed all that there is provision for a new Community building if it is what people want.

Cllr Miles said it needs to include a strategic approach. It was agreed that Lower Bradley would not be included in the consultation as we already have a Community Centre and they do have Youth provision there.

Joan felt there was a more positive action coming from the table which has not been felt before.

Andy queried how we would encourage youths in the Coseley area, as Daisy Bank is so close to Coseley and is on the border. Cllr Miles confirmed that the Parliamentary election in Coseley is to be included. Cllr Miles feels they should be involved. Ann Wood was happy to take this on board.

Agreed that everyone was happy to take a strategic approach and geographic area to be agreed.

Cllr Miles confirmed that Loxdale needs to be included and that they are consulted, it was questioned whether to include Mount Pleasant and stop at Oxford Street roundabout. Further discussions need to be given on the geography.

Jean referred to Holy Trinity Church and that the provision is there but the building is currently under refurbishment.

Agreed – Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer to feedback to Mary once she had consulted with members of the community in Loxdale

Mary circulated a proposed list of Community involvement techniques for the community and explained that we need to agree suitable methods for the questionnaire to be distributed. Everyone was happy with the methods apart from Random sample, by invitation, item 4 - concerns were raised as people can feel excluded.

Cheryl suggested that the youths are involved from the start and then this will become long term assets. This could drop into schools and CREST.

Cllr Miles confirmed that the questionnaire needs to be worded carefully and that the Partnership will see the questionnaire before it goes out.

Mary suggested that Teleresources take all calls for the telephone hotline.

Mary will report back to the next LNP meeting with more details on Pinpoints.

Discussions took place regarding the intake at Community Centres and CREST has a full range of people from different areas. As Lunt youths just go to Lunt, It was confirmed that Youths tend to stay in their own patch. **Agreed – to contact all schools and the disabled in the Wards involved.**

Comments were made around Daisy Bank being knocked down, the community were not happy for this to happen.

Cllr Miles took this opportunity to wish Ann Wood a happy retirement; Ann is retiring on 24th April.

6. Any other business

Steve Poole informed all that Youth Services had contacted him with regards to the LNP database and questioned if the Partnership are happy to have their details passed on to Errol Bryan, Youth Services so that they can circulate the Summer Programme for young people activities during the 6 week summer holiday. **Agreed – Partnership happy to give their details.**

Steve also informed all of the Young Peoples grants for voluntary organisations. Please contact Steve and he will be happy to come out and see you.

Lisa Parmar informed all regarding the planning permission for security fencing on Price Street has drawn to a halt. Cllr Miles asked for more details and will follow this up.

Ron talked about the No smoking gazebo at the Crown and Cushion, as no planning is needed for a movable object. Steve Poole confirmed that if planning receives a complaint, they have to investigate it. Any thing over 6 foot needs planning permission, but if the neighbours agree they can go up to 8 foot. But if they take up tarmac and slabs they can be had for parking license. Cllr Miles informed all that the Cllr's do get the planning applications every two weeks; **Cllr Miles agreed that we need to look at this at the next meeting.**

Mary circulated the Wardens Action plan to take away and come back to the next meeting for any comments.

Cllr Miles referred to the questionnaire for the Bilston Town Hall and the Town Hall should be complete by December 07, the Ball room is listed so it is ensured that the Ball room is preserved. They are currently looking at different uses of the Town Hall i.e. offices and they would like to keep an element of Council offices.

Joan Oram informed all regarding a reunion (1940-1960's) for people living in Wesley Street, Cross Street taking place at Holy Trinity on 18th April. 90 tickets have been sold so far, tickets are £2.00.

Mary took the opportunity to send Lisa Ansell good wishes for a speedy recovery from the Partnership.

7. Date and time of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group will be held on **Wednesday 25th April 2007, 6.00pm. Parkfields Bilston High School. It was noted that Daisy Bank are willing to hold any future meetings.**