

Meeting of Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Group
The Lunt Community Centre
Wednesday 9th May 2007

Present

Andy Hickman, Ann Nightingale, Barbara Lloyd, Carol Fawdry, Denise Pearson, Doreen Pitcher, Eddie Grizzle, Gary Graham, Ken Brown, Lesley Williams, Lisa Parmar, Sgt Marcus Tomlin, Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer, Mel Jones, Rev Raphael Duckett, Ron Wright, Roy Hollingsworth, Steve Poole, Cllr Louise Miles, Mary Jacobs, Tanja Korfkamp, Ray Patel, Barbara Nelson, Cllr Simkins, Jas Purewal.

1a. Apologies

Andy Hubble, Anwar Ulhaq, Brenda Richards, B D Patel, Beth Leach, Ins John Harpur, John Goalby, Nisha Ahir, Pauline Fellows, Simon Lucas, Terry Percival, Tom Paterson, Brian Ashworth, Joan Oram, Cllr Turner, Tom Fellows, Lisa Ansell, Mark Connell.

1b. Introductions

Cllr Miles thanked all for attending and suggested introductions were made around the room. Cllr Miles took the opportunity to send Tom Patterson good wishes for a speedy recovery from the Partnership. **Agreed-It was suggested that the Partnership send a card for best wishes.**

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Cllr Miles referred to the previous minutes,

1st amendment – 1st page apologies were not noted for Ken Brown and Raphael Duckett

2nd amendment – 3rd page, under the heading Coverage. Andy Hickman commented on the wording regarding discussions held around the heritage of Daisy Bank. **Agreed- To change wording to read "Cllr Miles will report back with regards to approach taken by relevant Officers"**

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

3. Matters Arising

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Lisa Parmar informed all that following on from the WCSP Board meeting the funds will be released for the Notice Boards.

Ron Wright highlighted that a camera has been put at the entrance of the Golden Lion Pub and did not know why this was necessary. Sgt Marcus Tomlin suggested Ron write to the Licensee or the brewery.

2nd Paragraph should read Golden Lion Pub not the Crown and Cushion. Ron was concerned that decking had been put up for a smoking area and it was over looking into private properties. Ron has looked into this and no planning permission has been submitted.

Page 3 – Under the heading Coverage, this should read Newbolt Road not Beckett Street.

Cllr Miles asked Ray if his group (Fab Queens) covered Beckett St, Fraser St and Ashley Street. Ann Nightingale confirmed that the Lunt Newsletter has previously been circulated to Beckett Street. Andy Hickman said that Bilston Community Centre is predominantly Bilston North. Cllr Miles then asked the meeting whether the whole of Beckett Street would be involved in the Community questionnaire.

It was agreed that the whole of Beckett Street would be included in the consultation.

Cath Cunningham, Assistant Chief Executive from Wolverhampton PCT.

Cath reported that the Health Summit was hosted by the Health and Social Care Partnership which was chaired by Cllr Johnson.

Locality Health Panel meetings were established by the PCT. As soon as future dates are agreed Cath will let this group know. Cath went on to say that Locality Boards are made up of GP's, the last meeting was held in February. Cath pointed out that it has been recommended that dates are set for the year. These meetings will be held at health facilities.

The PCT are currently in the process of developing a directory, this directory will have details for the public on how to access other health services and lead healthy lifestyles. Once this directory is prepared this will be sent out to communities, Faith Groups and libraries. Cath asked whether anyone had any suggestions where they would like to publicise these meetings. Cath also informed the meeting that the PCT is working for WCC regarding the mapping of transport to health facilities and that she will ensure that public transport is considered for any new health services.

Cath referred to the PCT's draft paper but is happy to share this information even though it is still in draft form. **Agreed that the draft paper would go out with the minutes.**

Page 5 – Cllr Miles queried whether a decision had been made with regards to the venue for June LNP Meeting. Mary said it was whether the dance group will still be on at Daisy Bank if that is the case then the meeting will be held at Innisfallen House. Mary also confirmed that the date should be subject to the New Council diary whether any dates clashed with Full Council.

Agreed -The meeting will either take place at Innisfallen House or Daisy Bank.

4. Bilston Urban Village – Dudley Street Closure objection

Mary apologised that Simon and Mark were unable to attend today's meeting, but Mary has had recent conversations with Simon and Mark. They offered to come along to speak at the Environmental task meeting in some level of detail and also around the concerns for the Highfield Road junction.

Mary said with regards to the Bilston Urban Village, obviously this will have traffic implications. Mary went on to say that it is quite clear that Mark and Simon have recognised local peoples concerns for traffic implications so they have suggested that a smaller group is set up and then a briefing will come back to the LNP group. Due to other commitments new dates have been suggested for 21st and 22nd May

Agreed- that a special meeting will take place on 21st May at 6.30pm.

Cllr Miles and Steve Poole attended the Regeneration Forum where a presentation was given from John Partridge and every one was supportive of the diversion of lorries. It was confirmed that full traffic consultation will take place.

Ron expressed his concerns that theme group meetings are not set during working hours. Lisa Parmar pointed out that when the open public meeting took place in January, people were asked how and when they would like the meetings to be held. Theme group meetings have therefore been arranged using the time convenient to the majority of people.

5. BME Housing Strategy Presentation – Lesley Williams

Lesley Williams circulated a Fact Sheet, where extensive research into the needs and aspirations of BME communities was undertaken in 2006 and a detailed report is available. The formal consultation will be complete towards the end of July and LNP comments and thoughts will be included. Lesley pointed out that there is a gap in the original housing strategy which was picked up from the Government housing strategy. The consultation documents will be available by the end of this week and will be available on

website <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/housing/strategy/bme.htm> or Lesley will be happy to pass this onto Mary. Lesley talked about the priorities from the research.

Discussions took place regarding housing on Fraser, Beckett and Ashley Street. Megan said that a lot of the properties are currently owned by private land lords and these properties have no adequate heating. Lesley pointed out that she has had no complaints from Bilston and now is the opportunity to do so.

Mary raised a point with regards to government funding which focuses on buildings for instance apartments not suitable for the BME communities. Cllr Simkins raised his concerns that with regard to private landlords a lot of problems were occurring around ASB. Lesley confirmed that this needs to be reported to City Direct in the first instance as there is no evidence in findings on BME evictions and that there have been no evictions for race/hate crimes as there has been no incidences.

Lesley informed all that the strategy is currently in draft format and is with relevant Officers. The Action plan will vigorously be mounted. Lesley said she is trying to develop a stakeholder panel and if any body is interested in joining please let Lesley know. Lesley suggested that everyone takes away the fact sheet and if anything is missed out please let Lesley know (contact details on the sheet circulated).

Lesley was thanked for attending.

6. Frequency of Partnership meetings and theme group meetings.

Mary updated the meeting with regards to the Theme Groups, who will be dealing with the appropriate sections of the Action Plan. The theme groups will report back to the LNP meetings. Mary asked what everyone's views were around the frequency of the LNP Meetings.

Agreed- The LNP meetings are held bi monthly and then the theme group meetings every 4-6 weeks, once within 2 monthly cycles. This process will begin from September onwards and a LNP meeting will not be held during August.

Cllr Simkins felt that the LNP meetings should still be held monthly up until September so that would give the theme group meetings a chance to be set up and running. Carol's views were that this would mean decisions would take longer to be made.

Cllr Miles confirmed that this meeting is to be used for major ward issues and therefore the control is still with the Partnership.

Lisa Parmar pointed out that there would be a difference with the Crime Group meetings as they are funded through a voluntary organisation. So Lisa would make any decisions via the working group.

Agreed - Cllr Miles confirmed that apart from the Crime Group all decisions should be ratified by the LNP group. The meeting was happy for Lisa Parmar to have a different status.

Mary informed the meeting of the forthcoming theme group meetings:

Neighbourhood Safety: May 10th

Environment: Monday 4th June @ 2pm @ Innisfallen House, King Street, Bradley. This date was decided by members of the group at the last meeting. Calling notices will be sent to those people who registered to be involved at previous LNP meetings. Please contact John on 01902 551762

Leisure Group: 23rd May @2pm, Daisy Bank C. C

Learning Meeting – TBC

Agreed – Cllr Miles suggested that perhaps the original theme group list which people signed up to at the open public meeting is circulated.

Tanja was happy to inform all that May half term activity leaflets will be going out to all schools next week. Activities will take place between 10.00am-2.00pm for ages between 8-12year olds. Tanja said a bid for

funding for healthy living schools in Bilston has been submitted. Tanja is still waiting confirmation on funding she will keep the meeting updated.

7. Audit of children and Young people's provision

Steve circulated the information he had collated from the audit of activities organised for children and Young People. Steve asked if there were any other activities which need to be part of the document. Ken Brown reported that Bradley Methodist Church have started a new Mother and Toddler Group on Wednesdays between 9.30am – 11.00am. Please contact Rose Dickenson 01902 495580.

Cllr Miles suggested that the handout goes to the Leisure Group meeting and also suggested perhaps that a gap in provision is a Ball Court area for Bradley; Cllr Miles suggested the Leisure Theme group meeting look at a funding initiative for the ball court.

Cllr Simkins views were that the ball court should be for the whole of the Ward and not just Bradley.

Ron talked of the astro turf for Wilkinson School and perhaps this could be available to others.

Carol Fawdry circulated the Youth Services draft summer programme. Carol asked the LNP group if any one would be happy to donate £700.00 towards a mobile rock wall available from Wolf Mountain for young people. This activity will be held in different areas throughout the Ward. This activity has proven very enjoyable and popular on previous occasions.

Denise Pearson from Wolverhampton Homes is happy to fund the £700.00. Cllr Miles thanked Denise.

Cllr Simkins asked if volunteers can be recruited for children's activities as the more volunteers Bilston has the more activities can then be held. Mary said this item was raised at the previous meeting.

Carol informed all that Lisa Read-Arnold is moving onto pastures new and Carol will be standing in for Lisa and will be working at Bilston High.

Ron questioned what the current situation was with regards to the Bilston Forward. Discussions were held with regards to the distribution of the Bilston Forward. Mary said a newsletter is currently been put together by Moseley Park School.

Cllr Miles confirmed that Bilston Forward has moved on to another organisation, Bilston Development Project where Cheryl has commissioned young people at Moseley Park School.

Cllr Simkins suggested that perhaps it would be an idea to have representation from Mosley Park School at LNP meetings.

9. Any Other Business

Steve reported to the meeting regarding Rocket Pool in John's absence: The Green City Forum agreed funding for improvements to the Pool. This funding is targeted at Path improvement, Fence improvement, interpretation boards and maintainable fishing pegs. The City Council allocation could be:

- £55,000 for improvements including fishing pegs
- £10,000 fencing improvements
- £10,000 Path improvements

The Environment Agency has also committed £20,000 for the project. A site plan for the first new bin on Rocket Pool has been sent to Mick Clayson in Leisure Services.

Neighbourhood recycling initiative

Steve pointed out that we need to identify the priority area for our next NRI (get RID day) which is scheduled for Saturday 7th July. The Partnership had indicated that Bradley side should be considered next.

Steve then went onto to say that John has had an estate walk with Wolverhampton Homes last week where he looked closely at the Royal Estate. There are a lot of issues concerning junk at the rear of flats in and around the estate. Some of the grassed areas to the rear and are not being maintained properly by Enterprise and subsequently they are being used to dump settees and a wide variety of boxes. Also, there are quite a lot of outhouse/sheds which are being used to house junk.

Ron raised an issue of ASB taking place, Cllr Simkins suggested Ron discusses these issues with Sgt Marcus Tomlin and also take this to the Crime Group meeting.

Cllr Simkins said the removal of the graffiti at the Senior Citizens is well done, but there is still other graffiti around Bilston East that still needs to be removed.

Mary responded to say there are some levels of concerns with regards to Graffiti and John Goalby is following these issues up. More than a third has been completed and John is trying to pursue this issue. **Mary agreed to send out some literature that has been received with regards to reporting any graffiti; this will be circulated at the next meeting.**

10. Date and time of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group will be held on **Wednesday 13th June 2007, 6.00pm. VTBC – Daisy Bank or Innisfallen House. Mary pointed out that this date is subject to Full Council dates.**