

Bilston East LNP
Minutes of meeting held on November 14th 2007.

Present

John Goalby, Megan Fitzgerald – Plummer, Steve Poole, Sgt Tomlin, Richard Kelly, S. Wellings, Sue Wood, Raphael Duckett, Anwar Ulhaq, Errol Bryan, Mathew Potts, B.Lloyd, R.Wright, LKM Ansell. Andy Hickman, Joan Oram, A. Nightingale, Mary Jacobs, Cllr Louise Miles, Nisha Ahir, Jean Hasketh

1. Apologies.

Ann Ramsbottom, Cllr Turner, Mark Connell, Tom Patterson, Cllr Simkins, George Langford.

2. Minutes of last meeting (September 12th)

Agreed as a true record by Jean Hasketh, seconded by Raphael Duckett.

3. Matters Arising.

i) In light of the increasing number of acronyms appearing in the minutes, Jean requested a glossary of terms be appended. **Agreed.**

4. Presentation on the People's £50 million lottery bid – Matthew Potts, Bilston Regeneration team.

Matt gave a power point presentation on this bid which would benefit Bilston East directly if the Black Country Consortium is successful. The Urban Park project includes elements of environmental improvements that had already been identified by the 30 year Black Country Study, and the £50 million would give us a brilliant kick start. Our competitors are the Eden Project, Sustrans, and Sherwood Forest. The televised vote will open telephone lines from the 7th Dec, with an item about our bid being shown on ITV on Thursday 6th December. Phone lines close at 12 noon on the 10th Dec.

In Bilston East, it would pay for improvements to Ladymoor Pool, and Tank Farm. Together with improvements to the Rocket Pool, these would link to Moorcroft Wood, opening up the Dudley Caverns, and a green network through to Great Bridge Park.

Lisa Ansell informed the meeting of a local campaign to get leaflets out to residents, if any volunteers were willing to help deliver, please let Cllr Turner or Lisa know. Posters will be put on estate notice boards, and community centres. Information has been distributed through the schools. Raphael said he could organise the distribution to 2,000 households within his Parish. Officers and members indicated that they have already given support pledges on line. The Chair thanked Matt for the presentation.

5. Health Theme.

John Goalby repeated the message that Dr Adrian Phillips had given out at the Annual Conference – that the Ward has some very pressing health issues; infant mortality rates, Coronary Heart disease, cancer etc, and that Bilston East

demonstrated the great health inequalities across Wolverhampton. He proposed that a way forward for the LNP should be that the community decide locally how we discuss those health issues, and directly invite the appropriate Health professionals to come and speak to us. He suggested a February start. **This approach was agreed.**

Lisa Ansell commented that the good Healthy Schools work did not prevent lunch boxes having poor nutritional standards. There was a discussion on which topics to begin with. These included: access to G.P's and community pharmacists (particularly acute for the Lunt) and sexual health. It was noted that the new health centre on the Urban Village promises 11 new G.P's.

Andy Hickman praised the new clinic in the community, based at Daisy Bank. Held on Tuesdays and Fridays, they are a great success. Raphael added that we need a way to exert pressure on the Health Authority, and a Health Theme group could provide the mechanism. Lisa Ansell noted that there was now a policy of referring members of the public with minor ailments to their community pharmacist. Whilst this had a much shorter waiting time, she would like some information and reassurance that the patient was thereby receiving the same level of medical expertise from this kind of diagnosis and treatment. Eddie Grizzle added that we all pay for a national health service; we need to demand that we receive it.

Action: Joan Goalby to bring possible dates for a health theme group meeting to the next LNP.

6. Issues from theme groups.

A. Errol gave a brief update on Youth provision:

A group of young people from wider Bilston are being cultivated as possible candidates for a Youth Forum. Errol has been active with a project to kick racism out of football, with an event being held on Darlaston lane a week on Saturday.

Cllr Miles talked about recent projects to improve sexual education in schools, and this is being shaped with input from the Youth Council. Locally, Field View Primary has introduced an enhanced level of sexual and emotional well being information in recognition of their high numbers of young parents.

B. Neighbourhood Safety Group.

There were a number of questions from members about the future of the NSP. Anwar outlined the current uncertainty regarding funding beyond March 2008, and confirmed NSP officers had been issued with notification of potential redundancy. The same question hangs over the Neighbourhood Wardens service, with several experienced officers already having left Wolverhampton for more secure employment in Cannock.

The Chair stated that Ward Members would continue to representations at a higher level to continue both schemes. Richard Kelly thanked residents for their support.

Ron Wright commented that it felt like a repeat of the situation when BBAP had to lose its Development officers, and he gave his full support to any

efforts to retain the NSP and Wardens service because of the impact their loss would have on the community.

There were further questions on securing other forms of external funding; Anwar responded that other funding solutions had been examined but none so far would address the revenue costs required. Richard Kelly confirmed that some surrounding authorities have chosen to pay for Wardens through mainstream funding. Errol Bryan reflected the feelings of many members when he said that tackling anti-social behaviour is a priority for most neighbourhoods, and yet this is not reflected by an LSP commitment to continue the Wardens and NSP's etc.

C. Environment Theme group.

- 5,000 Energy efficient light bulbs are available for distribution out to low income households. Please see John or Anwar.
- John reported the recommendation by the theme group that Bilston Memories be the preferred partners to assist in choosing the name for the new road on the Urban Village. There were some objections to this so the Chair suggested that in addition to Bilston Memories, local schools be invited to put forward names for a vote. The Chair asked the theme group to also find out if any community art could be realised for the site, as part of Section 106 requirements.
- The next meeting of the group would be sometime in week commencing 3rd December, subject to the availability of the Wrekin Construction site manager, the contractors for Plot A.

D. Leisure theme group.

Mary explained the progress regarding the delivery process for the community facilities consultation.

- A residents questionnaire to go out within the area on the map* **Agreed**
- A similar, but customised questionnaire to be made available in a batch of 50 to all the centres quoted within the questionnaire – this includes community centres, schools, and faith centres. These questionnaires will ask the service user to indicate whether they are a Council tax payer of Wolverhampton City Council. **Agreed.**
- * Map. Andy Hickman again raised the question of electoral boundary changes. It was agreed that LNP officers would contact the Electoral Registration section to finally resolve any doubts. **Agreed.**

7. LNP Learning Away Day.

The recent event had to be cancelled due to a lack of numbers confirming. Richard asked the meeting to confirm their commitment to rescheduling a similar event in the New Year. The Chair proposed that Richard come back with a Saturday date during Jan or Feb 2008. **Agreed.**

8. Any Other business.

- Application to put LNP papers in the public domain on the Bilston On Line site, administered by Andy Hickman, **Agreed subject to confidential matters being removed at source.**
- New Planning Applications for major developments (more than 10 buildings) will be sent to LNP's for comment.
- Under the Unitary Development Plan. A corridor of redevelopment, running down the Willenhall and A 41 will be considered for designation as either prime sites for affordable housing or employment opportunities. The LNP will be consulted on their preference in the near future.
- Sgt Tomlin asked the members to confirm whether their 3 priorities for Police action remained the same: Finding solutions and enforcing action against gangs of youths, dealing with drug abuse activity, and getting rid of nuisance from mini-bikes. **Agreed.**
- Sgt Tomlin requested that part of LNP meetings be open to the public to raise any concerns to the Police, and that this availability be publicised. Agreed, LNP officers to liaise with Sgt Tomlin on details.
- Lisa Ansell asked to be told why the Town Clock was still stopped
- There was a request for local bus services to feature at a future meeting. **Agreed.**

9. Date of next meeting: January 16th @ Lunt Community Centre. Police open session @5.30pm to 6pm, Main meeting to commence at 6pm.

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