

**Meeting of Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Group
Lunt Community Centre
18th October 2006**

Present

T.H Paterson, Lisa Ansell, Doreen Pitcher, M. Fitzgerald-Plummer, D Fitzgerald-Plummer, Nisha Sharma, Mel Passmore, Rev Raphael Duckett, Rev Beth Leach, Terry Percival, Steve Poole, Mary Jacobs, Jas Purewal, John Griffiths, Cllr Steve Simkins, Cllr Louise Miles, E Grizzle, Carol Fawdry, Ken Brown, Ron Wright, Tom Fellows, Sue Brown, Inspector John Harpur, Steve Adams, Denise Pearson, Jess Pickard, Martha Cummings.

1. Introduction

Mary welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending. Mary apologised if we had caused any confusion with regard to the change of the venue.

Brief introductions were made around the table.

Apologies

Cllr Turner, Carol McNally, Lyn Law, Jean Hesketh, Brenda Richards, Lisa Parmar, Tanja Korfkamp, Cheryl Welsh, Andy Hubble, Saffi Price, Ann Nightingale.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Mary circulated a copy of the minutes for the last meeting. Tom Fellows requested that his name be corrected to Tom not John. Other wise it was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising.

(I) Youth Involvement

There was feedback on a meeting between Neighbourhood Management and Youth Services on identifying and engaging a group of young people as part of the Partnership. Mary posed the same question to representatives from Faith communities and voluntary sector youth clubs. Lisa A said there are young people from the Crest Group that could be interested. Ken Brown suggested his church hosted a number of organisations with young members that could be contacted. **Action: Neighbourhood Management Team to discuss further with Crest.**

NM and Youth Services to devise some written information regarding the Partnership for interested young people to take home and read. Ken Brown to be supplied also.

Agreed: Young people themselves to reach the decision on whether they met separately to the adult Forum, or sent reps from a Youth Forum.

(ii) Vacant Posts

Mary stated that recruitment for another part time Neighbourhood Manager had been successful. Their identity would hopefully be public before the next meeting.

Ron Wright enquired where the advertisements for the Bilston East Neighbourhood Manager and Neighbourhood Partnership Officer's vacant posts had appeared. Mary said the Posts had been advertised on the Wolverhampton City Council website and in local job centres. **She agreed to supply Ron with dates.**

(iii) Community Safety Project funding.

Lisa Ansell queried if Lisa Parmar now knew her budget. Cllr Simkins said he was aware that last years accounts for that body had now been passed, which would now allow future spending to be determined.

(iv) Holy Trinity. The Management Committee have made a decision that they need to refurbish the building first, so any lottery bid for a Project Worker is currently put on hold.

Cllr Miles confirmed that extensive work would need to be carried out on the building. Cllr Miles supported the view of the committee that it was unfair to proceed with other developments until the room was fit for purpose.

Mary confirmed that she would continue in using other Loxdale venues for the Planning for Real consultations.

(V) Green City Forum sites.

Cllr Simkins had queried the overall funding figure for 2006/7 Mary confirmed that it was £97,000.

Lisa Ansell raised that she had submitted a bid to tackle a local issue relating to safer, cleaner and greener but the bid was refused. She would have liked young children to go out into the community and clean spots. **Action: NM team to support Crest to make this possible.**

Mary talked about the new process for Rubbish Action Zones (RAZ).

Tom P agreed that when cleaning up areas it was important that people come forward to help and get involved.

Eddie supported this view, and said such processes should also involve BME groups

(vi) AGM

Lisa Ansell questioned the accuracy of the minutes, which said the AGM is scheduled for 15th November. Agreed: it should actually be an Inaugural meeting.

(vii) Communication.

Discussions took place around the Bilston Forward Magazine, and concerns were raised that the Bilston Forward articles were not always concerning Bilston. Mark Connell confirmed that the recent one had been a specific edition that was done as a good will gesture from Bilston Development Project through BBAP. Delivery was also discussed. Lisa Ansell suggested that perhaps children from the youth club can go out and deliver

some. Cllr Miles also suggested that perhaps schools should also take part in delivering the Bilston Forward.

Mark suggested that in the future, the three Wards in Bilston have a page each and then each Ward can decide what goes into their page.

3. Mari Gay – Director of Community Services for Wolverhampton PCT

Mary apologised that Mari had not arrived and that she would make the necessary phone calls tomorrow to ascertain why she had not turned up to the meeting. Mary apologised again, as she felt it may have been a communication error.

Discussions took place around the room and everyone voiced their concerns that how important it is to have a presence from the PCT. Cllr Miles stated that she will be speaking to John Crockett with regard to their representation on this group. In addition, Cllr Miles talked about the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital and that she was due to attend a series of future meetings with regard to the finances and closure of the unit. **Action: Cllr Miles will keep this group informed.**

4. Open Item for issues from Neighbourhoods

Eddie G made the meeting aware of his attendance at other regional meetings which talk about neighbourhood partnerships. He stressed his view that it is vital that communities take part since LNP's should look to attract funding into Wards like Bilston East.

Mary thanked Eddie for his points, and said the Team will continue to be as inclusive as possible, and actively support opportunities to attract funding. Cllr Miles took Eddie's point and suggested that at a later meeting, funding should be an agenda item and how to access it. Agreed.

Inspector John Harpur interjected and informed all that he had another meeting and wanted to know whether anyone have any burning issues before he left. Ron Wright was happy to inform Inspector Harpur that the Police response to recent incidences had been positive and that one of the residents had put a call out last Tues at 2am and the police were there within 4 minutes.(Well-done)

5. Nomination for memberships of the partnership.

Steve Poole thanked all for who had completed nomination forms. Steve Poole named all who had been nominated:

Ann Nightingale
Roy Hollingsworth
Tom Patterson
Ann Reaney
Rev R Duckett
Andy Hickman
Ron Wright
Tom Fellows

Steve requested that if anyone requires any assistance completing the nomination form; please do not hesitate to contact him. Beth and Terry informed Steve that their nomination forms are in transition. Lisa Ansell queried whether minutes could be attached to the nomination form; Steve confirmed that this was ok. Steve will put together a list of people who have been nominated and by whom.

Steve gave feedback on his discussions regarding a representative of elderly residents. A discussion took place and it was suggested Barbara Nelson from the Intergeneration Service attended a future LNP Meeting-**ACTION: Steve Poole.**

Youth involvement was covered earlier in the meeting.

Discussions took place regarding BME representation on the LNP Board.

Mary talked about a joint meeting of the three Bilston Neighbourhood Managers and the Bilston Resource Centre staff, who organise the Bilston BME Forum. It has been agreed that an event specifically targeting the BME community be organised early in 2007 in order to engage them in the LNP process.

6. Martha Cummings – Wolverhampton Compact.

Martha Cummings was invited to the meeting to inform everyone of the Wolverhampton Compact which is a written agreement of how groups are willing to work together, for example LNP's. Martha said all Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations can sign up to the Compact. Martha circulated the Compact newsletter and Compact leaflet in order for group members to make an informed decision. Martha went on to talk about the 10 principles within the Compact. Martha said she would be happy to come back to a later meeting to clarify any points – this approach she felt would make better use of everyone's time. Cllr Simkins agreed that everyone should take away the documents and bring their views back to the next meeting.

In the meantime Martha said if anyone wishes to come along to the Compact event on the 6th November or to be involved in the consultation around the Codes of Practice, they can contact Martha or Saffi for further information.

7. Steve Adams – Bradley environmentals update.

Steve is a Neighbourhood Renewal Project Officer for the street scene improvements currently taking place in Bradley. These include hardstandings, and new front boundary walls, amongst other items. Steve talked about phase 3 of the environmental improvements which will include Stirling Road. This is still at the stage of working with the Planners to arrive at the best design.

Steve acknowledged Cllr Miles request for similar improvements on Carder Crescent.

Steve stated that he has recently taken up an initiative in relation to the Rocket Pool and the Neighbourhood Management Team has also been involved. Once Steve knows any further information regarding the timing of the public consultation on this initiative, he will feedback to this group.

Ron Wright requested written details of the capital budget that has been allocated or earmarked for Bradley environmentals.

Lisa asked if owner occupiers can benefit from the scheme. Steve confirmed that they can supply no obligation quotes to owner occupiers. Lisa praised the work as it does improve the look of the area.

8. Update from Neighbourhood Safety Project.

On behalf of Lisa Parmar, Mary wished to let everyone know that as from 16th October the NSP had moved office and their new contact details are as follows: -

Bilston East NSP
Bradley Housing Office
58 Bank Street
Bradley
Bilston WV14 8PD

Tel: 550695 Fax: 497315 e-mail: lisa.parmar@btconnect.com

Mary told the group that Lisa Parmar had also recruited an Admin officer, Karl Fryer.

9. Emerging projects

Greener, Safer and Cleaner

Mary talked about two estate environmental visits to be carried with Steve Rose from the Parks Department, on November 2nd and 3rd. On 2nd November, the walk will cover from the Lunt to Loxdale, setting out from the Lunt CC at 9.30am. The walk on the 3rd will cover Bradley, setting out from the Rocket Pool YC at 1pm. Steve Poole said he was happy to alert residents when we were in their area and on route. Steve suggested that they make contact with Jas on the office number 01902 551760, so that Jas could then get a message to Steve.

The purpose of the walk is to look at areas of open ground that need to be made more secure, or cleaner, or a more pleasant green space. Steve Rose will also be looking at the Rocket Pool Project.

Local Learning Plan

Mary talked about learning as a whole in Bilston. Mary informed all that Lisa Ansell and Mel Passmore already sit on the Bilston -wide Learning and Employability Forum and Mary welcomed any new comers that would also be interested to represent Bilston East on this Group.

Mary circulated the Bilston East draft Learning Plan and asked all to take it away and come back to the next meeting with any questions and comments.

10. Dates for the diary

Planning for Real Consultation at St Mary's Church on 1st November between 3-6pm.

There will also be other Planning for Real consultation events taking place at Lower Bradley Community Centre, Innisfallen House and Daisy Bank. Mary alerted all that we would be circulating posters, once all details are confirmed.

Household surveys will be going out in the next fortnight, and the Neighbourhood Partnership Team will be in the area to assist with the completion of any questionnaires.

Black Country Memories are holding an exhibition at Bilston Craft Gallery on 4th November.
(See Megan for further details)

28th October, Family disco at Daisy bank, fancy dress at 7pm (See Lisa Ansell for further details)

9. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group would be the Inaugural meeting and will be held on Wednesday 15th November, 6.00pm at St Mary's Church.

www.bilstononline.co.uk