

Meeting of Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Group
Parkfields High School (Bilston)
13th September 2006

Present

T.H Paterson, Cllr T. H Turner, Lisa Ansell, Doreen Pitcher, M. Fitzgerald-Plummer, D Fitzgerald-Plummer, Nisha Sharma, Cheryl Welsh, Mel Passmore, Tanja Korkamp, Rev Raphael Duckett, Rev Beth Leach, Lisa Parmar, Terry Percival, Ray Patel, Steve Poole, Mary Jacobs, Jas Purewal, John Griffiths, Cllr Steve Simkins, Cllr Louise Miles, E Grizzle, Carol Fawdry, Nisha Ahir.

1. Introduction

Mary welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending. Brief introductions were made around the table.

Apologies

Denise Pearson, Mel Jones, Carol McNally, Ken Brown, Lyn Law, Jean Hesketh, Brenda Richards, John Fellows, Ron Wright, Joan Oram, Steve Adams, Ann Ramsbottom

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Matters Arising

Mary circulated a copy of the minutes for the last meeting. It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

Mary asked everyone, if they would like a 20-minute slot after the opening item for any burning issues in the Community. It was agreed that it was important that 20 minutes slot was given.

3. Update from Neighbourhood Manager, Mary Jacobs

- Agencies and community organisations contacted.

Mary informed all that she has been out on the patch making face to face contact, which has been very helpful and was pleased to see new faces at the meeting tonight.

Mary apologised that there was not a local representative from the NHS. A discussion broke out around the PCT. Cllr Turner raised his concerns that it was important that someone was present from the PCT. It was agreed that we do have representation, so that we are aware of the situation on the new health centre. Cllr Turner suggested that we write to John Crockett asking him to put forward a Representative to attend this meeting. Lisa Ansell raised her concerns that not only should the Health Centre be on the Agenda but also Health issues overall.

- **Youth Involvement**

Mary has had discussions with Youth Services, whether they would like to form a smaller group or become part of our larger meeting.

- **Co-location of teams**

Mary informed all that the Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership Team and Wolverhampton Community Safety Partnership moving to Bradley Housing Office is more than likely and Mary is currently awaiting costing from Wolverhampton Homes. The sharing of offices with Bradley Housing Office would be for the short term until they move out into the Town Hall. Cllr Turner raised his concerns regarding the Bradley Housing Office moving to Bilston Town Hall and that he was not happy with Bilston Bradley Office closing their facilities and jointly locating at the Town Hall and was certainly not aware of this situation. Cllr Miles confirmed that there has never been any discussion or talks with the Councillors. Cllr Turner stated he would contact Wolverhampton Homes the following morning.

Cllr Miles informed all that she did attend the Council's Scrutiny Meeting where Wolverhampton Homes were reprimanded that they were making decisions without consulting the politicians.

- **Vacant Posts**

Mary stated the staffing situation at Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership.

Mary Jacobs- Neighbourhood Manager (part-time; Weds, Thurs and Fri)

The other two days are to be advertised as a vacancy during September.

Jas Purewal – Administrative Officer

Steve Poole-Community Development Worker

Lisa Parmar -Community Safety Officer

John Golby- Neighbourhood Partnership Officer – to commence employment on 30th October 2006.

4. Update from Community Safety Co-ordinator, Lisa Parmar

Lisa gave an outline of Project Works; consultation began on 12th August as part of the Bilston Music and Arts Festival. Lisa put on a display about the Community Safety Project and the work she plans to do. Lisa is currently exploring costs regarding "Audit for Action". Audit for Action will be a questionnaire based consultation and Lisa will also run "Planning for Real". Based on 3 ½ years crime figures Lisa informed all that target hardening will start on Lunt Road and Ashley Street. Target hardening is to make it more difficult for burglars to break in. Cllr Simkins queried what would occur to any under spend in a financial year. Lisa confirmed that any remaining funding would not be carried over. Tom Paterson queried whether a certain specification for doors that Wolverhampton Homes will be used to carry out the work.

5. Emerging Projects

- **Holy Trinity Church**

Mary explained that Holy Trinity Church has a building which runs along side of the Church and that the Management Committee is willing to get together and use that building for other Community activities. The Management Committee have sought advice from Ann Reaney regarding funding. Mary also informed all that there is the possibility of the Neighbourhood Partnership bidding for lottery funding a Project Manager.

Mary said “Planning for Real” will begin at Loxdale to provide evidence for the lottery and that the draft bid will be going back to the Management Committee by the end of September. Cllr Miles confirmed that this would be an exciting project and that it is not a Catholic Club as it is separate now. However, the building is in extensive need for repairs, but the building is quite historical. Cllr Miles also informed all that the new architects have rejuvenated the whole thing and they have a lot of new ideas.

- **Greener, Safer and Cleaner**

Mary gave an update of the Greener, Safer and Cleaner which is one of the LSP themes Partnerships and that a proportion of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund is spent on this. So far priorities had been given to Wednesfield and East Park with a focus on Bilston next. Mary also informed all that items of concern have emerged from the Bilston Facelift Forum. Mary is currently in the process of arranging a meeting with Steve Rose from Parks Department. Mary will keep everyone informed when Steve Rose will be visiting. Mary informed all that she will alert everyone of the date and time of next years funding meeting.

Cllr Simkins queried what proportion of the budget (NRF) was spent on Environmental issues? Mary was unaware of this information, but will come back to Cllr Simkins with the relevant figures.

Mary welcomed any information on open space that any one was aware of that required a cleanup.

6. Governance Decisions – Steve Poole

Membership Numbers

Steve circulated his thoughts of model 1 and 2 and asked everyone to have a look at the document and to please let Steve know which they prefer. Problems when putting these two models together were around getting the correct amount of representation with the community in the majority and also how many reps from each area. To give a broad base for geographical (area) representation, Steve used numbers of residential properties to determine numbers of representatives.

Steve reminded everyone that both models were there to create discussion only.

Cllr Miles asked for clarification on the purpose of the partnership and the Partnership Board. Mary confirmed that this group is the Bilston East Partnership Steering Group and will be the larger group, the smaller group (Partnership Board) will be the task and finish group.

Tom Paterson confirmed that he was happy with the Group as they stand.

Eddie raised his concerns whether we had identified and looked at the bigger picture, with regard to Bilston East residents and also how the meeting will set up to form a BME group.

- **Nomination and election Process**

Steve then circulated the Nomination Form and explained the election process.

A discussion took place regarding the frequency of the meetings; Mary suggested that we agree a way which can then be reviewed in six months. Tom raised his concerns that if it were a larger group it would be difficult to get your point across and after all we are representing the Community. It was suggested that perhaps the larger meeting took place quarterly. It was decided that we await completed nominations to be returned and take it from there.

Mary updated the group on conversations she has had with the Chair of Bilston Regeneration Forum and its role. She had agreed that all business relating to Bilston Urban Village should go to the Regeneration Forum. However there would be an expectation that the Regeneration Manager reports on progress at the Partnership Annual Conference.

Cllr Miles thanked Mary for working with Chris Thorpe and how she managed to resolve.

Cheryl suggested that we use the Bilston Forward to promote and invest in Bilston, as she is currently working closely with them.

- **AGM**

Mary suggested that the AGM be arranged for November. A date will be agreed at the end of this meeting.

Mary explained that Zip Theatre is doing some work along the lines of Environmental issues. Cheryl confirmed that it was regarding Heritage and history of the area and.

7. Talk from Tanya Korfkamp, BEST Co-ordinator and Bilston High Extended School Co-ordinator.

Tanya gave a presentation regarding the BEST Team. Tanya explained what BIP stands for and also talked briefly about what is an Extended School, Tanya also gave an outline regarding her main roles, which are to co-ordinate the day to day activities. Tanya informed every one regarding the sort of activity the BEST Team have been doing regarding out-of-hours learning also a number of school activities that took place over the Summer Holiday, which were varied activity is aimed at the 5-16 age group. Tanya explained that they do a lot of joint working with Primary Schools, which has involved trips to the animal sanctuaries etc. They also hold other groups such as:

Adult Education Classes
Parenting Workshops
Tackling Obesity
Smoking Cessation.

Cllr Miles thanked Tanya for the tremendous work Tanya and the BEST Team have done.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr Turner informed the group that the Bradley Walk was taking place on 16th October and he hoped everyone came along to join in.

Dates for your diary

Police Sector Meeting – Wednesday 20th September at Bilston Parkfields High School, Library, Prosser Street, Bilston.

Harvest Regeneration – Sunday 1st October at 6.15pm, St Leonards.

Extended School Road Show – 2nd October at Bilston market

Breaking the Chains – 19th October, St Leonards at 6.30pm.

Wolverhampton Community Safety Event – 23rd October-Bilston Town, Market Place

Council Scrutiny – 23 October

Switching on Bilston Xmas Lights – 18th November

9. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of this group will be held on Wednesday 18th October at 6.00pm at Parkfields School. **Please note this has now changed to The Lunt**

Community Centre. It was also agreed that the AGM will be held on 15th November at 6.00pm.

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