

**Bilston East Local Neighbourhood Partnership**  
**Minutes of meeting held on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Present.**

Joan Oram, Ken Brown, Sue Wood, Sylvia Wellings, Ann Nightingale, Cllr Louise Miles (Chair), Megan Fitzgerald Plummer, Brian Grayson, Zee Sadler, Raphael Duckett, John Goalby, Barbara Nelson, Nisha Sharma, Richard Ashwell, Debbie Asquew (Gazebo Theatre), Denise Pearson, Tanya Korfkamp, Mary Jacobs, Jean Hasketh, Ann Ramsbottom.

**Apologies.**

Sgt. Marcus Tomlin, Lisa Ansell, Lisa Parmar, Steve Poole, Anwar Ulhaq, Cath Cunningham, Doreen Pitcher, Steve Goodyear, Terry Percival, Pauline Fellows, Jean Hill, Brenda Richards, Carol Fawdry, Ron Wright, Andy Hickman, Mark Connell, Derek Smart, Andy Hubble, Cllr Bert Turner, and Cllr Steve Simkins.

**Welcome.**

Louise opened the meeting by voicing her concerns as Chairperson, on the standard of conduct and length of the LNP meetings. She said this was responding to feedback from LNP members and service providers. She wanted everyone's commitment to ensuring meetings were shorter in length, and that rude, aggressive and bullying behaviour, irrelevant asides, and other contentious behaviour should not be tolerated. This would result in shorter, more efficient meetings. **This was agreed, with the intention that future meetings would end at 8pm.**

**1. Minutes of meeting held on July 25<sup>th</sup>**

Points of accuracy: i) Page 2, NEAP should read NESB.

ii) Hesketh should read Hasketh.

iii) Jean stated she had included a request that reps from community associations contact her regarding her audit of community centre activities, but this did not appear in the minutes.

iv) Jayne Postance name mis-spelt.

**2. Matters arising.**

- Item 5: Query on receipt of Raphael's letter. It was confirmed that it had been given to Simon Lucas and considered in the debate.
- Health Panels: Joan complained about the poor organisation skills demonstrated by the PCT in organising and advertising the Health Locality meetings. JH requested that reps feedback a request that a wider variety of venues be considered to increase inclusion. AR reinforced this with a plea for central locations or those easily accessible by public transport, especially if they were evening meetings
- Listing of Daisy Bank School. Louise confirmed that an application for Local Listing on the building was made, had been refused, and the decision was now being appealed against. Raphael asked to be kept up to date on developments because it could be pertinent to his own church buildings. TK asked what was the status of the Science and Technology building in Mount Pleasant. LM thought that the building was listed, but was in private ownership. Bilston Regeneration Team has sought to negotiate with the owners over its upkeep to no avail in the past. MFP

raised concern about the Health and Safety of tiles which were piled in a stack outside the building. **Agreed to report this to Mark Connell.**

- JH requested she is included in the invite to the community facilities working group meetings; she had been double booked on each occasion so far, but wished to contribute if at all possible. **MJ agreed to inform her by telephone when next meeting set.**

#### **4. Items from Theme Groups.**

##### **Environment group.**

a) John Goalby said the group had last met the previous week, so minutes were not yet written. The meeting was a positive one, with good news on improved street cleaning activity. In anticipation of a new contract tender in 2008, Street Cleaning Services were already carrying out trials of an increase to 8 visits per estate per year, from 4. It is hoped this might increase further in the new contract. The Service also agreed to provide an officer to attend estate walkabouts.

b) The LNP action plan for environmental issues was reviewed, and the activity was on course against targets.

c) The Rocket Pool fishing club will move on its wider activities once the new fishing pegs are installed.

MFP raised a concern about her lack of response from Environmental Services. She felt that they did not use evidence when supplied from residents to carry out enforcement action. There followed a discussion on City Direct. JG answered questions from AR on the frequency of street cleaning on estates (deep clean). This is likely to increase from 4 times a year to eleven or twelve times, but members of the theme group would need to monitor that this occurs. AR wanted to establish who had altered the date of the Lunt estate walkabout; JG replied this was done by Wolverhampton Homes.

d) MJ read out a letter received from Enterprise PLC requesting that sites for recycling centres be identified, with a view to limiting the overall number in each LNP area. This appeared to contradict their officer's earlier presentation which had talked about an increase in sites. The meeting agreed with identified locations in the Town Centre and on the Lunt, with confirmation needed of a choice for Bradley. The Chair stated she would seek clarification from Alistair Merrick.

##### **Learning and Employability group.**

Richard Ashwell gave an update, stating that Rod Sheppard, in his role as head of the Learning Partnership has outlined the Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Plans (NESP) in priority areas.

A date of October 17<sup>th</sup> has been set for the first theme meeting, venue to be confirmed on invitations. Initially, the development plan and key tasks for the group would need to be agreed. LM, JH, TK, NS volunteered to represent the Bilston East community on the group.

Secondly, RA talked about the LNP Learning Away Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at Lower Bradley Community Centre, 10am to 4.30pm.

Other work RA was involved in was partner work with Gazebo theatre (hence a member of the company was present at the meeting to observe), and in producing a guide to good meetings. JH challenged RA on the necessity for the latter, saying numerous such guides already existed. RA responded that he hoped a version that was customised to local structures would still be relevant

support. AR countered this point by saying that knowledge of other methods of doing business other than meetings would be more useful. The Chair rounded off the debate by saying that it was critical that local people have access to learning and skills provision in order to take advantage of new employment. Lastly, LM mentioned that the new school for Bilston had been confirmed in the media that week, but no dates given for its completion.

#### **Health group.**

JO asked for volunteers to attend the next Health Locality Panel, to contact Mary if interested. Steve Poole's notes from the last one to be circulated with the minutes. **Agreed: that numbers of GP's and how local communities are consulted should be raised.**

#### **5. Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Support Strategy consultation.**

Mary explained the presence of a consultation document and timetable for community and voluntary organisations to get involved. She explained the document proposed a step change to ensure grant support and outcomes for the VCS relate directly to LSP, Community Plan and LAA targets. It would be important for organisations currently funded, and those thinking of applying to keep themselves abreast of the changes.

The deadline for community responses is the 10<sup>th</sup> November, with JH confirming that a Focus Group will be held in the morning on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at the Bingley centre.

Copies of the document were requested by Ron Brown, Raphael Duckett, Denise Pearson, Nisha Sharma and Ann Ramsbottom.

#### **6. Annual Conference.**

MJ said that since this was a requirement of the LNP to have an Annual Conference, so the team wanted to make it an enjoyable day which partly rewarded all members' efforts in attending LNP meetings and events during the past year. It was proposed to have a morning coach tour of the Ward, with speakers on the coach painting a picture of the history of the area, and dovetailing this with information on regeneration projects due to affect those same sites. Lunch at the Robin 2 Club would be followed by a key note presentation on Health by Dr Adrian Phillips, as well as a progress report against the Action Plan by the LNP and NSP teams. The meeting was asked to agree the programme and the estimate of expenditure for the day of £800. **This was agreed.**

#### **6. Any other business.**

i. LM asked about the current situation with Bradley Housing Office and its tenure. MJ confirmed that Wolverhampton Homes were happy for the LNP and NSP officers to be renting the accommodation. The future terms and conditions for a number of WH tenancies used by LNP teams will be negotiated centrally in the near future. AR declared an interest in this item as a member of the Wolverhampton Homes Board.

MJ said the teams would request the landlord's permission to allow other organisations to be joint tenants if a body with funding for rent appeared. Thus far, part time use by the Neighbourhood Wardens team and the voluntary counselling sessions by Shane Sneyd were being supported because of their benefit to the general community.

li) JH raised an item of information on behalf of WNC. The City Council have agreed to hand over the remaining small grants funds to WNC to allocate. Drop in sessions have therefore been arranged at short notice to begin this process. One session had been held the previous evening, with another one due at Innisfallen House at 7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. WNC representatives will be available to work through the form filling with community and voluntary organisations. There will be a rolling programme of appraisals on a monthly basis. JH will inform the LNP of subsequent dates.

iii) The Chair raised an item on the Bilston Regeneration Forum, and her conversations with Steve Boyes to ensure there was a review of how this structure was contributing to community involvement in regeneration activity. This sparked a response from a member from Carder Crescent who had not had a positive experience during past discussions on the new Leisure centre. RD said the experience of the environmental theme group was that using the LNP to enter into a dialogue before making any official objections had been constructive. The Chair agreed that local views on the Leisure Centre should be heard.

lv) Notice boards. JO commented on the absence of doctors surgery times on the outside of LBCC. **Agreed to feed this back to Steve Poole.** She asked for an update from a recent estate walkabout on the progress in dealing with overhanging trees and the state of the tarmac to the car park. JH indicated that the condition of the windows to the building had been included in her audit work recently, and that whilst the car park would be the responsibility of the Council, the doctor was responsible for his own signage. Joan announced there will be a celebration of a Bilston dentist who has served Bilston for 80 years. Any stories please pass them onto Joan.

v) RD wished to raise colleague's awareness that in March 2008, St Martins Church will celebrate 25 years in its current building.

vii) AR requested that everyone continue to share dates of community events. She also requested that the LNP use double sided photo copies for its paperwork. **Agreed.**

viii) Dates for forthcoming theme groups were distributed, with special attention drawn to the next LNP meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> which will be the AGM. LM requested the LNP team aim for a health theme.

**7. Date of next meeting: AGM, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 6pm @ "The New Room", Bilston Methodist Church, Bow Street, Bilston**