

**Notes of the Bilston East Partnership Environmental Group Meeting
10th September 2007
St Mary's Church Hall, Oxford St, Bilston**

Present:

John Goalby	Bilston East LNP
Anwar Ulhaq	Bilston LNP
Rev Raphael Duckett	St Martins Church
Matt Potts	Bilston Regeneration
Kevin Parry	Bilston Development Project
Richard Kelly	Senior Warden
Lisa Parmar	Bilston East NSP
Steve Woodward	WCC – Street scene
Richard MacVicar	Enterprise
Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer	BRATS
Nick Crombie	Heantun Housing

Apologies

Shaun Walker	W.C.C Public Protection
Joan Oram	Rocket Pool Rep
Ron Wright	BRAG
Steve Rose	Parks and Contracts

1. Introductions

Anwar welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Notes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising

- John Goalby and Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer confirmed that the rubbish behind Ashley St had been removed.
- Matt Potts confirmed that the land behind the Bilston Regeneration Office is held by the Economic Regeneration section of Wolverhampton City Council.
- Anwar confirmed that the letter to withdraw Bilston East LNP's objection to the Dudley St closure had been sent to Government Office following negotiations with the Bilston Urban Village Development team and the production of a timetable of action.
- Megan re-iterated that the rubbish at the back of the Metro line (to the rear of Station Rd and Chapel St) had still not been removed.

Action : John Goalby said that he would make further enquiries regarding the Metro Line.

Other than that the notes were agreed as a true record.

3. Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance – Steve Woodward

Steve outlined the role of the Street Scene service and reported that it fell into two strands: 1. street cleaning and 2. ground's maintenance. These are an integrated service with Best Value performance at their core. Street scene is part of the Regeneration and Environment Department of Wolverhampton City Council.

The Core Functions of Street Scene are:

- Street Cleansing
- Grounds Maintenance
- Gulley Cleaning
- Cemeteries
- Playgrounds
- Parks
- Sign Cleaning

Steve outlined the way in which the contract with Street scene works currently and reported that this may shortly change. He said that Street scene currently only have an obligation to 'deep clean' a neighbourhood four times per year in the South East of the City. In the South East this frequency is now higher prior to the new contract being agreed. The new contract is expected to up the level of neighbourhood cleansing to 12 times per year. Within the City there are 3 geographical areas which each have their own differing contracts as well as a city-wide contract. The contracts are arranged as follows:

1. West Area- 10 year partnership arrangement.
2. North East- Integrated Street Scene service. Contract up for renewal
3. South East- Informal Partnership arrangement. Contract up for renewal.
4. City wide – Out of hours emergency service, arboriculture, fly-tipping etc. Deep cleansing, Gulley cleansing etc.

Steve introduced Richard MacVicar, the Contract Manager for the South East. Richard is to be our local point of contact. His telephone number is 01902 682821 or 07887 826993. Richard agreed to come to future meetings and to ensure that a street scene representative came on future Partnership Estate Walks.

Action: John to forward details to Richard.

Steve outlined that Street Cleaning monitoring is based upon the E.P.O Code (1990) and is based upon output standards. Monitoring of streets is by inspection listed:

- A. - No Litter
- B. - Predominantly free of litter
- C. - Widespread distribution of litter
- D. - Heavily Littered

Nick Crombie asked how this monitoring was co-ordinated. Steve responded by stating that Fly-Tipping monitoring Officers exist and that neighbourhoods are inspected by 50 metre transects. An aggregation of all scores is made and a

Neighbourhood and City Average is arrived at. There are three reporting periods per year.

With regards to monitoring, Nick suggested that educational projects may be a solution to some of the issues of littering and that better communication between agencies needed to exist. A discussion ensued regarding the cleanliness and litterbin emptying frequency in Bilston Town Centre especially with regard to traders. Nick offered that Kevin Parry from Bilston Development could support Town Centre improvements by monitoring the litter bin collection cycle in the town centre as well as traders waste for one month. This was agreed.

Action: Kevin to monitor town centre waste for one month upon receipt of the Town centre cleansing route plan from Richard MacVicar.

Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer once again reported that the shrubs around the end of Queen St next to the Black Country Route need to be taken out. She has made this request on several occasions. John Goalby stated that he had also put forward the need for these shrubs firstly to be trimmed back and latterly to be removed. Richard MacVicar said that Steve Rose had the responsibility over these bushes.

Action: John to re-report the need for these to be taken out both to City Direct, to Steve Rose in Leisure and to Highways.

Action: John to E-mail Richard MacVicar with a photograph of the site.

Reverend Raphael asked about the frequency of the pruning of trees which stand next to the Highway. Steve Woodward confirmed that this responsibility lay with Leisure Services and that trees were inspected within a four year inspection regime. Steve passed on Steve Lowbridge's (City wide tree officer) contact details (07771 836660) to Rev. Raphael.

Anwar thanked Steve for his presentation.

4. ACTION PLAN – TARGETS AND MONITORING – ANWAR ULHAQ

Anwar outlined that we had been asked to review our targets monitoring. The relevant section of the Action Plan was reviewed by the Group and all agreed that we were well on target with regards to progress.

- Steve Woodward clarified that BV 119 is the target we need to use against our Action Plan for Litter and detritus, graffiti and fly posting. The amount of land classed as having unacceptable levels of litter and detritus has fallen in Bilston East from 10% in 2005 to 9% for the reporting period December 06 to March 07.

5. Rocket Pool Fishing Club

John Goalby reported that the development of the Fishing Club at Rocket Pool had been put on hold until the pegs have been put in place. The start of works has been delayed whilst all Greener, safer, cleaner funding bids are appraised by the City Council Scrutiny Panel.

6. Estate Walks

John issued a list of Partnership Estate walks based shadowing the Wolverhampton Homes Estate Evaluation walks. John re-iterated how successful he felt these had been. The town centre walk had seen 12 service providers and residents in attendance.

7. Any other Business

- Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer raised the issue of Mr and Mrs Webb of Queen St who had reported that they had witnessed someone fly-tipping locally. An Officer from Public Protection had visited Mrs Webb but a decision had been made not to take the issue further. John reported that he had spoken to Public Protection and they had told him that Mr and Mrs Webb had not provided them with sufficient evidence for them to prosecute the alleged perpetrator.

Action: John to E-mail Public Protection to establish the details as to why the case was not taken further.

- Nick Crombie reported that he had spoken to John Pugh of Leisure services regarding the potential development of three former garage sites on the Rocket Pool Estate, Lower Bradley. He suggested that an approach had been agreed which may be acceptable regarding the future development of these sites. He said that this may incorporate increased leisure provision for young people locally.
- Nick and Kevin Parry raised the issue of trade waste in the Town centre. Kevin outlined a development project in partnership with Enterprise and local traders which was trying to acquire a bailing machine to enable traders waste cardboard to be bailed and then sold. The project would require capital funding of £15,000.

Anwar reported that the LNP did not have it's own funding and would unfortunately not be able to contribute to the scheme. John suggested that an approach to the Landfill Tax Credit scheme could be made for funding.

- Nick raised the issue of Kevin Parry's Town centre role and it's importance to both the local environment and traders and the links to the waste management strategy. Nick asked if the role of Bilston Development and support to town centre work could be looked at strategically at future

meetings. **Agreed: Bilston Development/Strategic role to be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.**

- Anwar asked if our group's list of 'green sites' for improvement could be circulated with the notes and calling notice for the next meeting. **Agreed.**

Action: John to send out that list with the notes and calling notice for the next meeting.

8. Dates of future meetings

Next meeting:

Monday October 22nd 2007 at 2.00pm at Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Rd, Lower Bradley, Bilston.

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