

**Notes of the Bilston East Partnership Environmental Group Meeting
16th July 2007
Lunt Community Centre**

Present:

Jas Purewal	B.E. Administrator
Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer	B.R.A.T.S.
Rev Raphael Duckett	St Martins Church
Matt Potts	Bilston Regeneration
Kevin Parry	Bilston Development Project
John Goalby	B.E. Partnership Officer
John Ecclestone	W.C.C Public Protection
Richard Kelly	Senior Warden

Apologies

Ann Wheeldon	W.C.C Public Protection
Lisa Parmar	Bilston East NSP
Anwar Ulhaq	B.E.Neighbourhood Manager
Joan Oram	Community Rep.
Ron Wright	BRAG

1. Introductions

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Notes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising

- Megan pointed out that BRATS was spelt with one T. Otherwise the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.
- John reported that the fencing issue near to the open ground at the back of Humphries Crescent had been reported through to John Pugh several months ago. It was now an issue for Leisure Services to address.
- Regarding the housing development site on Brierley Lane, the planning application is legitimate and it has been proposed for 12 properties.
- Richard Kelly confirmed that the 3 piece suite which had been left behind the flats in Bilboe Rd. was removed at the NRI.

Item 3 – Megan mentioned the ‘Zero Tolerance’ target in relation to environmental services enforcement (Fly tipping). Rubbish bags been dumped in an alley at the rear of Ashley Street. Following the NRI and Alley clearances in Loxdale, as the Action Plan identified, a zero tolerance approach to get a prosecution will be taken.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to get fly tipping perpetrators names published in the BRAT's newsletter.

John Ecclestone said that he would be meeting with Steve Birch tomorrow and would follow up progress on contacting the householder who was thought to have dumped the rubbish bags in Ashley St.

John Goalby re-iterated that the main theme of today's meeting is graffiti and fly tipping and introduced John Eccleston to give a presentation on the subject.

4. Graffiti and Fly tipping

John Eccleston, Principal Officer for Public Protection, outlined that his remit covers Highways, fly posting, fly tipping, graffiti and a broad scope of enforcement. John outlined the numbers of staff he has and the roles of his Officers. The areas they cover are as follows:

2 Officers and 1 Senior Officer covering fly tipping for the whole of Wolverhampton. They are very actively prosecuting offenders based on secure evidence. These cases go to Court wherever possible.

- 1 and ½ Officers covering highways
- 1 Officer for abandoned vehicles
- 1 Officer for Fly posting

Discussions were held around the new law, Section 9 and whether training should be provided for residents to be able to fill in witness statements at a local level.

John Goalby suggested that perhaps there was a role for PCSO's and Wardens to act as witnesses of fly tipping and graffiti occurrences and that community members could assist them in doing this..

John Eccleston suggested that due to the fact that he had so few staff, it would be difficult for them to set up any kind of community training scheme to support community members in providing statements, but welcomed members of the community who were willing to come forward and provide witness statements.

It was also confirmed that a local man from Rocket Pool who was caught dumping tyres was arrested and received a custodial sentence.

John Eccleston requested that any reports of fly tipping, graffiti and fly posting need to be referred to City Direct on 01902 551 155.

John Eccleston confirmed that there is a duty of care for all businesses to dispose of waste in a lawful manor. Businesses can be asked to show all waste transfer notes if there is any doubt as to how they have been getting rid of their waste.

John Eccleston mentioned that Jackie and Sarah, Community Wardens, have provided details of fly tippers and thanked the Wardens. He thought that they have been absolutely brilliant.

John Goalby asked if there were protocols of logging evidence and was there any training provided for PCSO's, Wardens and the Community? Richard Kelly confirmed that there was only basic training provided via Warden recruitment training.

John E informed the meeting that Katie Mover has visited local schools to talk about dropping litter etc. and support from the schools has been excellent, Moseley Park School has been very supportive in this issue, also Wednesfield High School had given excellent support. Rev Duckett raised his concerns around school visits and his thoughts were that this was more applicable for the secondary schools as children leave school premises during lunchtimes. Everyone agreed.

Discussions took place around the shops on Bunkers Hill as there had been a lot of complaints of school children buying microwave chips and dumping the chip boxes. Megan asked if it is the shopkeeper's responsibility to remove rubbish. John Eccleston replied that it was- but that it is often difficult to prove that the rubbish was from a particular shop.

Matt Potts informed the meeting that the Council land behind the Regeneration office has been used for dumping settees etc. so he has reported this to 'Economic Development'. Issues were raised regarding the actual ownership of the land, which had caused a delay in the removal of the settees.

John Eccleston fed back that Bilston East LNP and partners had reported Graffiti sites very well and many sites have now been cleaned. He re-iterated that abusive and racist graffiti is removed within 24-36 hours.

5. Estate Walks

John Goalby circulated future dates for estate walks around Bilston East in conjunction with Wolverhampton Homes. Steve Rose outlined a future defensive planting scheme at the entry to Coronation Park which had been highlighted on a previous walk. This will be implemented in the next few months and will involve substantial planting to ensure that the nearby Doctor's surgery is more secure. Also, as a result of the estate walk in Batman's Hill, Steve had provided a planting scheme for a Wolverhampton Homes property in Peter Avenue. Steve Rose also reported that he can't touch the trimming which needed to be carried out on Weddell Wynd. He said the land belongs to Sandwell. Currently the programme of Estate walks is visiting all of the neighbourhoods in Bilston East. John Goalby encouraged everyone to come along. John also informed everyone that the next estate walkabout is on the 26th July on the Royal Estate starting at 10.00am.

6. Neighbourhood Recycling Initiative (NRI) - Royal Estate

John told the meeting that he was pleased with the NRI day which took place on Saturday 7th July. Twelve people came forward to volunteer; a couple of Cllrs, Wardens, NSP and Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership staff as well as several local people. 14 tons of rubbish was removed and 3 tons of wood was recycled.

Enterprise have informed the LNP team that Bilston East LNP has been cited as a model of good practice. Also, some LANA teams have been unable to complete their NRI's. John suggested that if there are any spare NRI's, then Bilston East will be asking for them.

7. Bilston Urban Village (BUV)

John pointed out that the BUV special meeting which took place was a positive meeting and the notes had been sent out to all via the LNP mail out. Simon Lucas had reported at that meeting that he would provide feedback and a timetable regarding the trigger points for the scheme in order for the community to be actively consulted with in the future.

8. Any other Business

Megan suggested that the Metro Line at the rear of Chapel Street (Bilston Gateway) needs clearing as rubbish has been dumped which is causing vermin in the back gardens.

Steve Rose reported that terrible problems have been experienced at Hickman Park and the Pitch has been set fire to. He outlined that some workers coats have been set alight as they have been working. Also 60 needles have been found in the bandstand area. People with children and dogs are now frightened to go into Hickman Park.

9. Dates of future meetings

John circulated a draft schedule of future dates for this group's meetings. Next meeting:

September 10th 2007 at 2.00pm at St Mary's Church, Oxford St, Loxdale, Bilston.