

**Notes of the Bilston East Partnership Environmental Group Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007  
Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Rd, Bilston**

**Present:**

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| John Goalby  | Bilston East LNP            |
| Anwar Ulhaq  | Bilston LNP                 |
| Matt Potts   | Bilston Regeneration        |
| Kevin Parry  | Bilston Development Project |
| Alan Clews   | Powergen                    |
| Gerwyn Owen  | Road Safety Engineering     |
| Joan Oram    | Lower Bradley Community Rep |
| Mark Connell | Bilston Regeneration        |

**Apologies**

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Steve Rose               | Parks and Contracts.   |
| Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer | Loxdale Community Rep. |
| Nick Crombie             | Heantun Housing        |
| Lisa Parmar              | N.S.P.                 |

**1. Introductions**

Anwar welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

**2. Notes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising**

- Kevin Parry reported back on the town centre litter bin monitoring which he had undertaken. Kevin reported that the bins were being emptied on a regular basis. He also made several recommendations. Firstly that the 'new' type bins are easier to use, secondly that in his view, the lamp post mounted bins are prone to vandalism and should be replaced with the 'new' type bins.
- Kevin had also monitored business waste hotspots in the town centre. **(see attached report).**
- John Goalby suggested that Kevin forward the report to Richard McVicar at Streetscene.
- Joan Oram raised the issue of garage sites in Humphries Crescent which Nick Crombie had reported back on at the last meeting. John clarified that Nick had spoken with John Pugh only to suggest that there needed to be increased provision for young people on the Rocket Pool Estate as a whole.
- Other than the above the notes were agreed as a true record.

### **3. Powergen – Alan Clews.**

Alan offered to provide the group, via Powergen, 1000 packs of energy saving light bulbs initially. These are to be targeted to people who are on benefits and in need. More could be provided if distribution was successful. The group agreed to have 1000 'trial' packs and that community reps to the LNP and partners could identify people in their localities who would benefit and distribute the bulbs with a copy of the Bilston East Newsletter. This could complement distribution by the LNP team. Alan said that he would get the bulbs to the LNP Office as soon as possible.

### **4. Presentation by Mark Connell on People's Millions Bid. Black Country as an Urban Park**

Mark reported that the Black Country's bid had reached a short listed stage which is down to the last five schemes nationally. The bid focuses on Wren's Nest Nature reserve, the local canal system and the Black Country's green corridor. In Wolverhampton the focus is on canal improvements as well as five living landmark sites. Two of these sites are in Bilston East: namely Bradley Canal Arm and Ladymoor Pool.

Mark stated that the final four national schemes would go to a nationwide televised vote which would take place in December 2007.

The decision on the final four schemes will be announced on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007.

Anwar thanked Mark for his presentation.

### **5. Gerwyn Owen – Traffic and Road Safety**

Gerwyn reported that John Partridge the former department head of Road Safety had now retired. The department has been split into two distinct sections, namely: Engineering and Education. The Engineering section is headed up by Chris Barker, the Education section is managed by Tim Philpot.

Gerwyn explained that the section had various means at their disposal to monitor traffic speeds and flow and that all measures which are put in place are evidence based. Gerwyn offered to set up speed monitoring cameras in areas of concern in Bilston East in order to inform the development of any future traffic and road safety measures.

Traffic and road safety issues arising in Bilston East were discussed.

Joan Oram outlined a speed chicane which is present in Rose St. She said that there had been several small accidents there recently including cars being forced into the barrier by oncoming traffic trying to 'jump' the chicane. Gerwyn noted this.

John relayed a message which had been passed on by Megan Fitzgerald-Plummer. She had reported that: 'highways agreed more 3 yrs ago to put yellow lines on corner of Gozzard / Oxford, police agreed, still nothing has been done.'

Megan's second point was: 'Parking in Tame & Bissel dreadful, could we knock down walls to front of flats and create parking bays? road is too narrow to take traffic, walls are used for seats by jobs.'

Gerwyn offered to report these issues back to the relevant people in the Road Safety Department.

Gerwyn also offered to provide a quarterly update report on traffic and road safety issues which effect Bilston East. Anwar also asked him if he could provide an A4 copy of the accident report map for Bilston East. **Gerwyn agreed to do this.** He also left his contact details which are: 01902 555724.

Anwar thanked Gerwyn for attending.

## 6. Orphan Sites report.

John tabled a paper which had come from Mike Costello which outlined sites in Bilston East which have no apparent ownership and which are environmentally in a poor state of repair (known as 'orphan' sites). Mike had asked that the group confirm whether those sites named in the Bilston East section were also what we considered to be our priorities.

Regarding the report It was noted that:

- Maple Lodge Grove BIE 0097 is actually in Walsall and the group understood that there are other development plans for the site.
- Harrowby Road BIE 0099 is also in Walsall and again, it is believed that the site is subject to potential regeneration by Walsall MBC.
- The group had previously undertaken their own investigation with regards to sites listed in the paper.
  - Lewis St BIE 0004 is in Wolverhampton City Council Housing Strategy ownership. It is seen as an opportunity for a developer.
  - Lunt Rd site BIE 0014 is co-owned by Housing strategy and Highways. There are currently negotiations with Heantun Housing and a potential new owner for Bilston Town Football Club with an aim of redeveloping the site.
  - Fraser St BIE 0008 is owned by Mohammed Naeem and Ajmal Shah of 126 Benton Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham. B11 1TY.
  - Addison Place BIE 0034 is the subject of the ABC regeneration project which will demolish some housing, complement this with new housing and modernise existing housing.

Apart from the above comments, the group broadly felt that the sites listed were ones which needed environmental action.

## **7. Black Country Core Strategy.**

John circulated a consultation document regarding future development plans for the Black Country. If people want more information or have comments they are asked to forward them through to Planning Policy Dept at Dudley Council.

## **8. Strategic Development of Town Centre Role**

Nick Crombie, who had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda, was not present. The item was deferred to the next meeting.

## **9. Opportunity to provide a name for the new road between Bankfield Rd and Dudley St.**

John outlined to the group that Simon Lucas had been in touch offering the opportunity to provide some suggestions for names for the new road which will connect Dudley St and Bankfield Rd.

The group agreed that this would be a good opportunity for the Bilston Memories group to provide a menu of appropriate names. **Action: Megan to be informed and the club to be asked if they would like to take up this opportunity.**

## **10. Any other business**

Joan Oram mentioned a piece of land on Humphries Crescent which has an access point which is used by people going to the nearby Asda. The access point and track are in very poor condition and need improving. Joan asked if this could be brought to the attention of Leisure Services. John responded that this had been brought to the attention of Steve Rose during an Environmental walk last December.

## **11. Dates of future meetings**

Next meeting:

**Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007 at 2.00pm at a venue in Bradley, Bilston. (venue to be confirmed with the calling notice).**