

**Bromsgrove Partnership Board**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Liz	Altay	Worcestershire PCT
Tony	Beirne	Bromsgrove District Council
Hugh	Bennett	Bromsgrove District Council
Louise	Berry	Bromsgrove District Council
Mike	Brown	Bromsgrove District Housing Trust
Maggie	Bryan	Worcestershire County Council
John	Cypher	Parish Councils Representative
Mike	Dunphy	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr	Hollingworth	Bromsgrove District Council
Roger		
Mike	McCarthy	NEW College
Cllr Ed	Moore	Worcestershire County Council
Elaine	Mortimore	Bromsgrove Youth Homelessness Forum
Richard	Savory	Bromsgrove District Council
Dave	Shaw	West Mercia Police
Ann	Sowton	Bromsgrove & Redditch Network
Phil	Street	Bromsgrove District Council
Mark	Weaver	Independent (Chair)

**Item 1 APOLOGIES**

Sue	Baxter	Parish Councils Representative
Kevin	Dicks	Bromsgrove District Council
Rachel	Jones	Worcs. Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
Tony	Love	West Mercia Police

**ACTION**

**Item 2 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

MW welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Item 3 MINUTES OF MEETING 7TH AUGUST 2008 & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes were approved as a true record.

**Matters Arising**

Climate Change – HB will be putting forward a budget bid to appoint an officer to move this agenda forward. BDHT had withdrawn the offer of part funding the post as the work will have a focus on private housing.

Local Area Agreement Reward – HB had written to the Chair of the Worcestershire Partnership asking that consideration be

given to district LSPs being allocated some of the reward target from LAA 1.

Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy – MB had suggested that work be done to map the obstacles in attaining targets. HB reported that Brian Nicholls (Improvement Manager based in HB's team) was currently fully occupied with other work, but would factor into his schedule in the future.

Olympics – KD to feed back to the next meeting.

Kevin Dicks

#### Item 4

#### **THEME GROUP PRESENTATION: OLDER PEOPLE**

The theme group was set up during the revision of the SCS in 2007. The group first met in October 2007 and is now a vibrant, well attended meeting. Three priorities were agreed for the High Level Action Plan: Older people and communication, access to services and information and advice.

Older People's Directory – partners will maintain their own information but share regularly, honing down to individual services. The Red Directory is produced and circulated by a free newspaper. AS is actively encouraging groups to put information into the directory. AS to discuss with Anne-Marie Darroch (BDC Communications Manager) about getting the directory circulated to a wider audience, or through Together Bromsgrove.

Ann Sowton

Access to Services – a mapping exercise has been undertaken, which will need to link to the older people's focus groups that were held over the summer. Consultation was done on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 (National Older People's Day), which was paid for by the LSP. AS had also attended the CDRP away day in July and also made links with Emma Barton, the Health Improvement Practitioner. EB will lead on older people and alcohol and an awareness day will be held in early 2009 for mental health (which sits under the remit of the Health & Well Being Theme Group with EB being the link). AS aims to have older people's issues on each theme group agenda during the next year.

Communication- Thinking about how we communicate and different ways of doing so. AS is recruiting champions to consult with (2 to date) to help with networking and letting other older people know what is happening in the district (eg in day centres etc). Links are made to national, regional and local campaigns – e.g. falls prevention and the DWP pensioner poverty campaign. AS would like to do some work with older people around these issues in the district's hotspots.

BBC 70 Not Out Campaign – AS would like to do some intergenerational project work on the back of this campaign to share skills, and help to keep older people full of energy and vitality, and valued as part of the community.

Don't Stop Me Now - HB discussed the recently published Audit Commission report, which has implications for BDC. A scrutiny exercise is to be carried out which will need to link to the theme group; however, funding is an issue and it is hard to turn ideas into reality without some pump priming from the LSP partner organisations.

HB discussed a budget bid for an intergenerational project, but felt that it may not be approved. AS to discuss potential funding with Mike Brown. There is also £1K available via the PCT LSP funding.

Ann Sowton

PS noted that BDC is looking to extend and develop its Lifeline service, which helps older people to live independently. Worcestershire also has University of the Third Age. He felt that there may be an opportunity to link schools to seniors' groups in order to break down some of the barriers.

**Item 5**

**PERFORMANCE UPDATES:**

**Community Improvement Plan**

The exception report for April – August 2008 was presented.

- Town Centre – 3.3.1 – Marks & Spencer had pulled out of negotiations due to the economic climate and therefore a tender for the land sale has been sent out via OJEU to seek a new developer.
- Railway Station – 10.1.1 – Funding gap of approximately £6.7 million. Discussions being held to try to resolve the issue.

**Key Deliverables**

91% of the key deliverables were on target to August 2008.

**Item 6**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP, CHAIR & GOVERNANCE**

**Board Membership** – RH asked whether the Fire & Rescue Service should be invited to join the Board. HB suggested that the blue light services were represented by the Police and that the Fire & Rescue Service could sit on appropriate theme groups, e.g. CDRP, Town Centre etc. HB emphasised that it was important to keep the Board relatively small. This approach was accepted.

**Chair** – MW had stated his intention to step down as Chair at the February 2009 meeting. It was agreed that a commercial sector representative is still required. RH had spoken to someone who may be interested. RH to bring his CV to the December Board meeting.

**Governance** - The White Paper “Communities in Control” indicates that the Leader of the Council should now act as the Board Chair, and therefore it was proposed that RH fulfils that role. RH thanked MW for his contribution to the Board.

Roger  
Hollingworth

**Item 7**

**TOWN CENTRE**

Plans for the redevelopment sit within the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy.

Richard Savory informed the Board that he had been in post since April 2008, (joint BDC/WCC funded post) and had focused on defining what the regeneration programme is and what it means; getting mandates from partners to execute the project; and had worked on a public consultation to define the programme in the light of what residents said.

A Project Initiation Document had been approved, and the project has elected sponsorship by Councillors Roger Hollingworth and Dr George Lord. PS is the project owner.

The consultation had been successful, with approximately 1,000 responses received. The project is moving towards the delivery, design and development phase and RS is keen to have full engagement with stakeholders.

There will be a project forum and all theme group chairs will be invited to join to ensure all needs are recognised/met, as individual theme group activities will contribute towards a successful regeneration programme.

RS was discussing the possibility of having a regeneration project presence in the town centre (e.g. a shop) with the Regional Development Agency. RS will also explore the possibility of using part of the market hall.

The regeneration will potentially create a new 'blue light' area, civic centre, retail outlets on Windsor Street and an older people's care village.

RS noted that the project is a huge partnership effort, which is starting to move apace.

**Item 8**

**NEW COLLEGE – PRESENTATION**

MMcC talked about the work of the college and the services it provides. (Presentation slides circulated with agenda).

The College received "Outstanding Provider" status from Ofsted and host the only Harley Davidson training facility in Europe.

AS to talk to McC about potential activities for older people.

Ann Sowton

**Item 9**

**CORE STRATEGY**

The draft strategy had been circulated. The new planning system is meant to be more responsive and sets out a 20 year spatial vision. All policies should dovetail in future at national, regional

and local level. There are 15 policies in the strategy. Some of the main ones are: climate change; distribution of housing (potentially the most controversial policy); high quality employment distribution; retail offer and the town centre; transport; biodiversity; and accommodation for gypsies, travellers and show people.

There will be a consultation period from November 2008 – January 2009 with a health warning about the housing issues, followed by an examination in public to test the achievability and sustainability of the strategy. Timescales will, however, be dependent on the Regional Spatial Strategy. The LSP will be consulted on the strategy.

**Item 10**     **WORCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Sustainable Community Strategy – Approved by WCC Full Council in mid-September and had been through BDC's democratic process.

Learning to Deliver –A risk and reward assessment had been carried out on each LAA indicator, leading to a proposal that the project focus on NI 186 (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) and NI 187 (fuel poverty). The proposal builds on an existing project in Wychavon and will produce a thermal imaging heat loss picture of the county to identify houses that are not energy efficient. The information will then be overlaid with the locations of elderly and other vulnerable residents. The proposal was endorsed by the Worcestershire Partnership Management Group on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Item 11**     **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

A theme group to consider economic regeneration, in particular getting people off benefits and into work, will be convened, to be chaired by Marie Green of BDHT.

**Item 12**     **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

RH discussed the South Market Housing Area and £38 million that is potentially available for affordable housing. Ten councils in the SMHA are working together to develop a strategy to hopefully secure the funds.

HB thanked McC for the hospitality shown by NEW College to the LSP.

On behalf of the Board, HB thanked LB for her hard work over the last 3 years with the LSP and wished her well in her new post.

**Item 13**     **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2.00pm, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008.