

NEW DEAL: NEW HORIZONS
Minutes of a Housing and Environment Theme meeting
held at the Blakenall Village Centre
on Thursday 3rd July at 6.30pm

In attendance

- John Jones - Patch 3 Representative
- Mick Taylor - Patch 4 Representative
- Roy Jones - Patch 13 Representative
- Stan Lyons - Patch 16 Representative
- Cliff Webb - Patch 18 Representative
- Margaret Rowley - Patch 20 Representative
- Doug Gill - Patch 21 Representative/Chair
- Bill Smith - Local Trader /stakeholder

Officers

- Steve Pooni - Housing and Environment Theme Leader
- Mike Brice - Neighbourhood Manager
- Naomi Peters - Administrator

Partners

- Les Beeley - ECT Team Co-Ordinator

Apologies

- Manvinder Sehmbi - New Deal for Communities
- Jo Toft - New Deal for Communities

Agenda item		Action
1.	Introductions. DG introduced himself and introductions were made around the table.	
2.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Minutes of previous meeting. There were two sets of minutes to go through this meeting. 13 th March 2008 was considered a true record. 7 th May 2008, was amended due to inaccuracies, to reflect that there was no mention of Julia Morris at the last meeting regarding the Millfield woodland area, BS asked for the minutes to reflect this. BS also wanted it clarified that the minutes from the previous meeting were not dispatched as quickly as they should have been. SP explained that the documents that go out need to be verified by SMT and this causes the delay.	

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4.	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes BS wanted to convey the feedback from the small shops improvements, Selman's Hill Parade has been finished and the shop owners are very happy with the work that has been done and the transformation.</p> <p>SL wanted to know the status of the ramp outside Woodhall House, it has not been undertaken and the situation is urgent. SP explained that Rob Hughes has left WHG and Gary Brookes has now taken over, this means that the ramp has been delayed and SP will need to get in contact with Gary Brookes to discuss this. DG suggested a petition and speaking to his local councillor.</p> <p>RH is also a stakeholder on the board and now he has left his position, MB states he will speak to PR about his further continuance on New Deals board.</p> <p>BS asked why SP had not yet devised and given out the form(that should be based on the existing Street Champions form).SP said he will get this done but it had just completely slipped his mind and he will get it completed by the next theme meeting.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>MB</p> <p>SP</p>
5	<p>Project updates SP talked us through the report, as Jo Nugent was not at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Blakenall Village Phase 2</u> <u>Highway Junction</u> Works including the installation of lighting were completed in May. Local people are pleased with the new junction and any teething problems have been ironed out.</p> <p><u>Blakenall Garage</u> Work has been completed.</p> <p><u>Other Landscape works</u> Tasks have largely been completed but planting must wait until season (September).</p> <p>3 trees earmarked for Peggy's place have since died, so the work outside the shop has been somewhat delayed but will hopefully be completed and landscaped before the next theme meeting.</p> <p><u>Leamore Local Centre</u> Shop Frontage of Sugar and Spice is now complete, and the tenant is happy.</p> <p><u>Show Case Route</u> BS updated the group on the new Show Case Route and Red</p>	

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6.	<p>Route, he was informed by Stuart Evergreen at the Bloxwich Retail partnership meeting, that these plans would be going ahead early 2009, and 3.1 million could be spent on the plans, hopefully this will ensure more value for the combined monies.</p> <p>Environmental Community Team Update MB explained that due to new corporate manslaughter rules, the ECT team have not been able to drive the vans, this is now being dealt with and MB will be updating us of this.</p> <p>LB said that the team has stated to have problems with needles again, Two areas in particular by the BIC shops (Booth St) and the Butlers arms have seen increases in needles being left there. LB says Addaction have asked for the statistics on these two hotspots. There are however no new places where needles have been found.</p> <p>There has been no reports of crime apart from vehicle crime, and these have been passed on to the police. LB wanted to let everyone know that Dave Benbow has been really helpful to the ECT team and, said he was an asset.</p> <p>ASB, there has been an episode of vandalism at Bloxwich market, and graffiti in flats in Blakenall. The ECT team has removed the graffiti.</p> <p>The cycle clubs are going well, they are up at Harden Youth Club, and also have a session for older children on a Saturday morning. LB wants to get more people to these groups and is having a meeting with the Sports Strategy Manager Beth Alvey, and will update us at the next theme meeting.</p> <p>20 litterbins have now been sorted out and will be out in the next 14 days. LB also said that if they were not working in a site then they can be moved.</p> <p>Britain in Bloom Contest is being judged 21st July 10am, LB stated that his team will be out to ensure the area is spick and span. SP has also gained full assurance that Tim Wakelin will send the road sweeper and litter squad in to ensure optimum results for the competition.</p> <p>BS is disgusted at the state of Bloxwich and some other areas. He states that Bloxwich High Street is 'gold standard' and this means it should be cleaned every day. There was lots of discussion about how Street Pride are not meeting us halfway and SP suggested getting TW in to talk to the group at the next Bloxwich High Street Steering Group. This was agreed to and SP will see if TW is available, otherwise they will invite TW to the next theme meeting to discuss environmental issues.</p>	MB
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	<p>LB said that TW has always helped the ECT team, BS asked if this was due to Les's other role as a councillor. LB stated categorically that he would never use his position to get things done, and comes to the Housing and Environment Theme meeting as the ECT team Co Ordinator and that is it.</p> <p>LB then gave out handouts of projects the ECT Team had done such as Mackay Road and Church Road and detailed what had been done.</p> <p>LB had bought to the theme another garden project, a rear garden of an elderly disabled lady. This was met by debate and it was decided that if there was to be more garden work then criteria needed to be set to determine who gets the wardens expertise and time.</p> <p>It was decided to defer the decision until the next theme to consider a vote, and the wording used. MB will discuss with PR and the decision can be made next theme .</p> <p>Gardening projects are suspended until the decision.</p> <p>LB also wanted to discuss the Stony Lane site, which the ECT team had earmarked for cleaning.</p> <p>LB really wanted to do this to get his team trained up and he asked theme to seriously consider it. The Theme voted and they will allow the ECT team to smarten the area up, but want WHG to maintain the site afterwards.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>BS is concerned about WHG .</p> <p>He wants to know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why they never come to the meetings even though they are partners of New Deal. ○ Why the housing stock is so dilapidated, with steel shutters etc BS feels that it makes the area look shabby. ○ What is happening with the Barracks Lane Bovis site? ○ <p>SP said that due to the economic climate, the housing trade has slowed down and this explains the Bovis site. SP is also going to contact WHG to invite them to meetings etc but says he cannot physically force people to come, they are however always invited.</p> <p>BS would also like the minutes of the last Bloxwich High Street Steering Group to be sent out. SP said he would get this done.</p> <p>JJ wanted to talk about Street Pride. The road sweeper knocked a big bit of tree down. The neighbours rang WHG and Street Pride and neither would help. In the end, the neighbours cut it with a saw and disposed of it. JJ says this is not acceptable. LB said he would</p>	<p>SP</p>

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	<p>have come and dealt with the problem.</p> <p>JJ also mentioned that he attends an arthritis group, and there were 5-6 people in his group who hadn't heard of New Deal and they all live within the footprint area. DG said they couldn't do any more to promote New Deal, RW pointed out that they know about it now as John took them all around the BVC .</p> <p>CW is very concerned that there has been no action at all on the bollards, and trees have not been put in. CW says it is ridiculous how long this has taken and will not come to any more meetings unless things start progressing.</p> <p>SP states that WMBC still has them. SP/MB and DG will all endeavour to get this sorted before next theme meeting.</p> <p>CW says that the two vehicles that park on the corner by Peggy's Place are causing an obstruction. This is a highways issue and will be passed along to DB.</p> <p>CW also states that the paths by J and M were meant to be sealed, and gravelled over, this has not happened and CW wants to know why. SP to look into.</p> <p>SL pointed out that the recent issue of Walsall Pride is ambiguous about New Deals part in the regeneration of the area, and does not credit them and their work. MB will follow this up.</p> <p>MB wanted to let everyone know that he will be taking an hour and a half of the next theme meeting to discuss Leamore Park, the theme said this was fine.</p> <p>MB also said that the theme needs to discuss issues about the ECT team. Criteria will be discussed at the next meeting about paid work and other plans for the ECT team.</p>	<p>SP/MB /DG</p> <p>DB/SP</p> <p>SP</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date and time of the next meeting The next meeting of the Housing and Environment Theme meeting will be held on Thursday 4th September at the BVC.</p>	