

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

**Minutes of a Housing & Environment meeting
held at the Blakenall Village Centre
on Thursday 7th June 2007 at 7.00 p.m.**

In attendance

Alan Venables - Patch Representative 14/Chair
John Jones - Patch Representative 3
Mick Taylor - Patch Representative 4
Roy Jones - Patch Representative 13
Charlie Robertson - Patch Representative 14
Stan Lyons - Patch Representative 16
Cliff Webb - Patch Representative 18
Doug Gill - Patch Representative 21
Bill Smith - Trader Stakeholder

Officers

Steve Pooni - Housing & Environment Manager
Diane Jones - Theme Administrator

Partners

Julia Morris - Neighbourhood Nature
Maxine Turley - Walsall Council

1. Apologies

James Kelly - Interim Programme Manager
Manvinder Sehmbi - Community Development Worker

Agenda item		Action
1.	Introduction AV welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Declarations of Interest None.	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting Amendments to the previous meetings were: Julia Morris – Neighbourhood Nature . Time of Meetings. - after much discussion by the theme regarding starting times of the Housing & Environment theme meeting it was the Chair’s decision, due to chair’s personal circumstances on a Thursday, to commence the Housing & Environment theme meetings at 7.00 p.m. The meetings were then agreed as a true record; proposed; Doug	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

	Gill, seconded: Cliff Webb.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>CW asked about an update on the road sweeper. SP gave him a brief update on the Special Road Sweeper meeting held 9th May, from the minutes which had been sent out. CW asked why the land and car park in Booth Close was not swept. SP/MT responded that this was WHG land. The group agreed that this was WHG responsibility and WHG should be contacted. DG asked if a formal letter to WHG could be sent on behalf of the theme group.</p> <p>SP will speak to PR about the theme concerns and ask if he could mention them to Peter Brown when he has his monthly meeting with him.</p> <p>Abbots Place – SP confirmed that he had not yet raised this with Louise and he was waiting for Quarter 1 to finish so could determine if there was any slippage from approved projects for funding. MT informed the group that capacity is an issue and designs need to be put in place as soon as possible as Walsall MBC would struggle to deliver on any more projects this year. MT did point out that as Bleep has now come to an end fees will be charged for these services. SP will also speak to WHG about Abbots Place and see what plans they may have as well.</p> <p>SL asked about the disabled access at Woodhall House, once again SP pointed out that this was a WHG issue and should be addressed to them. SP to contact WHG and inform SL.</p> <p>There is a Bloxwich Arts meeting on Tuesday, 12th June with Alex Whomsley, so the theme will be updated at the next meeting about the issues with Bloxwich market.</p> <p>Dolphin Close – this has now been addressed and there are no travellers on site.</p> <p>Bus Shelter. next to BiC – MT is working with Centro and has secured funding from LTP as well as a contribution from Centro to refurbish this vandalised bus shelter. After consulting with the local councillors it was agreed that a cantilever bus shelter would be put up. The current shelter will be removed and a temporary bus stop sign will be erected. MTP has no influence with Centro on when the new shelter will be erected and she is doing what she can to get this issue resolved quickly. CW asked if the shelter</p>	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

	<p>could be removed permanently as it is too close to the new houses that are been built. MT suggested that this wasn't being investigated at the moment and reminded Theme that Planning Permission for the shelter was given before the housing permission and therefore would have been taken into account when determining the housing application The shelter is more convenient for residents to continue to shop in Blakenall centre.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update of approved projects A verbal update was given by Maxine as she had been on holiday and was unable to present a written report.</p> <p>Blakenall - Last years work is now completed apart from the snagging. Practical completion will be issued when all the snagging issues have been resolved to WMBC's satisfaction.</p> <p>New Inns frontage tarmac has been patched on 17th May to the landlady satisfaction.</p> <p>Church wall is completed and English Heritage is very pleased with the standard of work.</p> <p>Island at end of Blakenall Heath – the original idea was to plant a tree in the middle but due to underground cables this was not possible, so the tree has been planted on the common ground near to the island.</p> <p>Colonnade - MT is writing to Mr Bradley next week to set up a visit to give visual survey of the parade of shops and get his and the tenants agreement before work commences.</p> <p>Road Junction – Peggy's and the Brewery objected to the plans. MT has now had the plans re-designed and she will visit the tenants and get their agreement before the design is released.</p> <p>Improvements to Blakenall Garage frontage – a meeting is to be arranged with the owners to discuss this in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>Blakenall CA – have asked MT to see what can be achieved for their corner as it is now very attractive.</p> <p>MT has met with Capita and local councillors about getting 4 quotes for the outstanding snagging costs before the work can be completed. Work should than be carried out at the end of July.</p>	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

	<p>The resin of gravel in front of the nursery is being looked at and the Council landscaper is getting quotes for replacing it with a safer material, probably tarmac.</p> <p>Leamore – the 1st phase has now been completed apart from some very minor points. Issues from the tenants were passed to the Forum who then talked to MT and the contractors to get it resolved. This worked out very well for everyone all round. Everyone is pleased and grateful with the result.</p> <p>Work to complete indemnity agreements of the second phase of Leamore local centre which relates to the improvements to shops is progressing. Design should be ready w/c 16th July 2007.</p> <p>In relation to the parking bays and highway improvements which are part of the second phase of improvements to Leamore Local Centre this is being coordinated by Stuart Freeman (Highways), Stuart will come to speak to the theme about the works. . Stuart Freeman has previously spoken to the theme on the red route. Consultation to take place 3rd week in August on the improvement work.</p> <p>Small Shops – all comments of every owner/tenant have been put in a matrix. A letter to be sent to all tenants and owners for a meeting to discuss the plan and sign legal indemnities.</p> <p>Bleap – Walker Place – landscaping and line markings to be completed. Drop kerbs will only apply to households that already had one before.</p>	
6.	<p>Homebuy 2nd phase has taken place, 5 applications were received, 3 are proceeding, 1 is still deciding and the last one is being processed by Mercian as the information on the application required further clarification.</p>	
7.	<p>Living Street Masterplan BS proposed it should be in writing. There is a meeting between Paul Rowlands and Steve Lewis, after which SP will bring it back to the theme. The original master plan concept came from the Taylor Young report.</p>	
8.	<p>Environmental Sustainability James Kelly unfortunately was unable to attend this meeting so</p>	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

	<p>this item will be carried forward to the next meeting. There will be a consultation event with Board members on 3 July after which a draft strategy will be completed and brought to the theme meeting in August for endorsement to the Board.</p>	
9.	<p>NDC Network A paper was circulated by DG providing information of The Climate change forum of the NDC Network.</p> <p>DG informed the group that to join the network scheme fully would cost £1,500 but this would give access to workshops and research that may be completed in the area.</p>	
10.	<p>Any Other Business CW asked if the road sweeper could sweep the Blakenall CA car park before the judging of Blakenall in Bloom. Julia Morris to provide dates to SP and he will ask Tim about getting it done.</p> <p>RJ asked if all reports could be sent out with the meeting papers as verbal reports take such a long time. SP explained that this is usually done but it was a one off as Maxine had been on holiday when the papers were sent out.</p> <p>The theme asked if a representative of WHG could attend the theme meetings. SP would make enquiries.</p>	
11.	<p>Date of Future Meetings Thursday 2nd August 2007 Thursday 4th October 2007 Thursday 6th December 2007</p>	