

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

Company Number 4582937
A Company Limited by Guarantee
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Minutes of a Housing and Environment Theme meeting held at the Blakenall Village Centre on the 14th December 2006 at 6.30pm

In attendance

Alan Venables - Chair/ Patch 17 Representative
Bill Smith - Vice Chair/ Local Trader Representative
Debbie Marshall - Patch 12 Representative
Mick Taylor - Patch 4 Representative
Cliff Webb - Patch 18 Representative
Margaret Rowley - Patch 20 Representative
Raymond Pritchard - Patch 10 Representative

Officers

Steve Pooni - Housing and Environment Theme Manager
Paul Capelin - Interim Programme Manager
Mike Brice - Neighbourhood Manager
Claire Bissell - Administrator

Partners

Cllr Ian Robertson - Walsall MBC
Maxine Turley - Walsall MBC

Other Attendees

Dennis Latham

1. Apologies

Stan Lyons - Patch 16 Representative
Charlie Robertson - Patch 14 Representative
Roy Jones - Patch 13 Representative

Agenda item		Action
2.	Minutes of previous meeting The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3.	Matters arising None.	
4.	Performance Management Review PC informed the group that he had met with GOWM. PC reported that this was generally a successful theme that had made significant improvements. PC stated that house prices are a good indicator as they tend to measure peoples view of an area, he noted that they are rising faster in the Walsall New Deal area than Walsall and Nationally. The group felt that the Theme had done well and was successful	

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	<p>in setting and achieving its targets.</p> <p>PC informed the group that after discussing the theme outcomes with GOWM, that the theme should consider if they wished to retain all the current outcomes as the meaningfulness of some of them were in doubt and some were the statutory responsibility of WHG.</p> <p>PC informed the group that he had discussed taking these outcomes out with GOWM and they were fine with it.</p> <p>The group discussed all of the outcomes and agreed to remove the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average Number of weeks a property remains void (including worked for major repairs) - Average number of weeks a property remains void (excluding worked for major repairs) - Level of Dereliction <p>The group agreed for SP/ PC to undertake the necessary work to set the percentage targets for next year.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update of Approved Projects</p> <p><u>Blakenall Heath Phase II</u> MT presented a verbal update of this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A submission to the DAC, the Church body that approves works to church buildings, has been submitted and the DAC board met on the 5th December, MT was currently waiting a response. • MT reported that the element of the improvements that relates to the community focal point , Clock was discussed in detail at the local centres Steering Group meeting. MT summarised their recommendations. It was agreed on the grounds of both safety and maintenance that the two previously suggested locations should not be taken forward. MT had been tasked to investigate the viability of locating the Clock to the front of the BIC or Archway in the canopy. MT reported that initial responses from the Estates Section of the Authority suggested that the issue of maintenance would be addressed via a licensing agreement. The detail will need further work and will also need to address the 2011 NDC end date around maintenance beyond this date. • MT reported suggested timescales for the Blakenall Project. 19th Jan 07 Tender Out, Tenders returned 9th Feb 07, six weeks on site. • MT reported that the second phase of works which will be delivered during 2007/08 was progressing well. The detailed 	

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	<p>designs for the road junction were completed and the Phase Two Safety Audit completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT reported that Walsall Council was currently in conversation with WHG regarding the land transfer which is required to take the highway junction project forward. <p><u>Blakenall Village Phase I</u> MT reported the following regarding outstanding snagging issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An order had been placed for the additional bollards and they were anticipated to be delivered early January 07.2. A date was not available for the outstanding planting issues3. The issue of water overflowing the Canopy has been resolved. This was not caused by the improvements works. The issue lay with the guttering of 1 -4 Blakenall Heath being blocked.4. MT is actively chasing the contractor regarding outstanding snagging issues. <p><u>Small Shops</u> MT reported that Landscape Architects are currently working on the detailed design for the shop shops work. MT informed the group that this project would have been taken forward by Tom Brown who has now left the Authority and as yet a key officer had not been allocated to the project. BS asked if the project will reach this financial year targets. MT agreed to provide a complete update at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Leamore Shops</u> MT reported the following as guide dates for the project progress. Tender out W/C 18th Jan 07, Returned Tender 5th Feb 07. MT reported that she had work closely with members of the Leamore Forum to develop the project. MT reported that Estates had agreed to maintain the improvements. MT reported that Building Design Unit are taking forward the plans for the colonnade.</p> <p><u>Bloxwich Centre</u> MT referred the group to the previously submitted written report. In addition it was confirmed that the maintenance for the interpretation boards which will be taken forward this financial year has been secured and will be met by the local Authority. BS suggested that there was a need for short term measures to be implemented to the Granite Sets. MT to report back to AW.</p> <p><u>BLEAP</u> MT referred the group to the written report on progress submitted</p>	
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	<p>in advance of the meeting. MT informed the group that Tom Brown had left the authority and the remaining BLEAP scheme would be taken forward by Jo Nugent. JN has worked in the NDC area before and is familiar with both the Theme Members and the NDC Community.</p> <p>AV raised concerns that the report suggested that improvements to Abbots Place did not form part of works to be implemented this financial year. The Group recalled that this project had previously been prioritised and had great concerns that the residents in this area were in need of improvements. MT was not able to provide justification for the project being omitted. However, she would endeavour to speak to Officers of the authority and confirm the situation and work with NDC Officer to resolve the situation if at all possible. MT requested that it be noted that the BLEAP project had not been chosen because pressure had been placed on Officer to prioritise one project over another.</p> <p><u>Canal/ Towpath Project</u> BS spoke positively regarding the recently completed canal towpath improvements. MT will inform Officers involved.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Leamore Park Update MB delivered a verbal update on this project and reported that he was now project manager on this project.</p> <p>He reported that not much had happened in the last couple of weeks.</p> <p>Three of the tenders received were all under the approved figure and therefore can be accepted.</p> <p>An SLA needs to be drawn up with the local authority. A draft has been agreed. IR pointed out that this needs to be cast iron.</p> <p>BS asked if Leamore park had received any of the money from the council, MB reported that they received £9000 for maintenance.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Goscote Regeneration Master plan</u> The group discussed the importance of New Deals involvement in this project. The BVC will be used for one of the community consultation days.</p> <p><u>Red Route</u> WMBC will be carrying out community consultation on this in the coming months, after which the Theme will be given an update by the council red route officer.</p>	

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8.	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 11th April 2007 at 7.00pm at Blakenall Village Centre	
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