

## NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

Company Number 4582937  
A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England

### Minutes of a Housing and Environment Theme meeting held at the Blakenall Village Centre on the 15th February 2007 at 7.00pm

#### In attendance

Alan Venables - Chair/ Patch 17 Representative  
Roy Jones - Vice Chair/ Patch 13 Representative  
Stan Lyons - Patch 16 Representative  
Charlie Robertson - Patch 14 Representative  
Bill Smith - Local Trader Representative  
Mick Taylor - Patch 4 Representative  
Cliff Webb - Patch 18 Representative  
Margaret Rowley - Patch 20 Representative  
Vicky Hodson - Patch 1 Representative  
Jean Mooore - Patch 2 Representative

#### Officers

Steve Pooni - Housing and Environment Theme Manager  
James Kelly - Interim Programme Manager  
Claire Bissell - Administrator

#### Partners

Joanne Nugent - Walsall MBC  
Maxine Turley - Walsall MBC

#### 1. Apologies

Agenda item		Action
2.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3.	<b>Matters arising</b> BS requested a timescale for the Granite Sets to be replaced at Bloxwich Market, MT said she did not know about this and would take this back to AW.  CR reported that work on Leamore Park had now begun.	
4.	<b>Update of Approved Projects</b>  <u>Blakenall Phase II, Leamore Centre and Small Shops Parade.</u>  <u>Indemnity Agreements/ Maintenance Agreements</u> MT reported that these were an issue for all of the improvement projects taking place on private land. She reported that this issue had been raised by both the NDC appraiser and WMBC solicitors.  MT reported that the legal department at WMBC had now drawn	

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<p>up formal contracts for the private land owners which include the condition that they maintain their area until 2011.</p> <p>The group were informed that the following issues may arise as a result of the contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Some of the land owners may not agree to the contacts as it may reduce their property value and make it difficult to sell.</li><li>- Some of the land owners may agree and some may not.</li></ul> <p>SP reported that PR had made a decision to go ahead with the Indemnity Agreements and to see how they progress and if required he will make a definite decision once responses have been received.</p> <p>MT also pointed out that the Indemnity Agreement would also allow and cover WMBC contactors going onto private land.</p> <p><u>Blakenall Heath Phase II</u> MT presented a verbal update of this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The tenders for this project are due back on Monday 19th February 2007 and MT will then discuss this with Steve Lewis on 20th February 2007 to gain approval. MT reported that she would contact SP with any extra information for the Theme group.</li><li>- A submission to the DAC, the Church body that approves works to church buildings was made, and amendments that they suggested were incorporated into the plans.</li><li>- MT pointed out that there was only one Indemnity Agreement that needed to be signed this year for this project and this was for the New Inns pub and this will be going out on Monday 19th February 2007.</li></ul> <p><u>Blakenall Village Phase I</u> MT delivered a verbal update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MT reported that the Local Centres Steering group had decided that the clock should be located on the archway and the steering group have decided the design for this.</li><li>- It was reported that this was being paid for with council capital and that there would be an under spend as the clock had cost less than expected. The steering group had asked MT to find out if this under spend could be carried over to the next financial year and she reported that this would be possible.</li><li>- MT reported that the Steering group had also agreed the under spend should be used to make the peace tree a more prominent feature and the initial designs had now gone to</li></ul>	
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	<p>tender.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MT reported that the steering group had also suggested under spend be spent on a project similar to the Arts Feature project in Bloxwich.</li><li>- MT also informed the group that there were three outstanding snagging issues that WMBC would now be dealing with themselves rather than Barhale and would be not paying them the retention money to this amount.</li><li>- CW asked what the current position with the bollards was and MT reported that she was awaiting confirmation of the location but that they would be in place by the end of the financial year.</li><li>- The group were informed that the damaged street sign would need to be dealt with by Street Pride.</li></ul> <p><u>Small Shops</u> MT reported that the main issue with this project was the Indemnity Agreements as already mentioned. MT requested that AW speak to BS regarding liaising with owners.</p> <p><u>Leamore Shops</u> MT reported that a contractor had now been appointed and there would be a pre-start meeting with the contractor next week. MT reported that work due this financial year would be completed. MT informed the group that the Leamore forum were aware of the work taking place. MT said she would keep contact with the Theme group through SP and would be organising press and publicity through Andy Bradley.</p> <p>MT reported that the only issue for this was that separate contactors were being used for the colonnade work and the landscape work, but that any health and safety issues as a result of this would be resolved.</p> <p><u>Bloxwich Centre Arts Project</u> A written report had been submitted by AW and the group were invited to comment or to ask any questions with regards to this project. BS reported that he was pleased with the work on this project and requested that a display of the artist's sketches be put in the BVC atrium.</p> <p><u>BLEAP</u> The group referred to the written report submitted and were invited to comment.</p> <p>JJ reported that the parking places had been done at Lancaster Place but that they were still awaiting the bollards.</p>	
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	<p>SL asked what has been done about the disabled ramp at Woodhall House. JN reported that WHG would now be funding this so the BLEAP money would be used on a more deliverable aspect of the project.</p> <p>The group had a lengthy debate about the Abbots Place element of the BLEAP project. AV reported that the residents of Abbots place had been told that the improvements would take place and had been let down as no action had been taken.</p> <p>JN explained that after the last Theme meeting she had spoke to the engineer and as there had been no plans drawn up this would not be deliverable this financial year. JN informed the group that she did not know how the BLEAP work had been prioritised.</p> <p>AV also informed the group that the residents had received eviction letters from the neighbourhood office for parking their cars on the road, JN said she would speak to the neighbourhood office about how they were dealing with this.</p> <p>The group agreed that as this would not be delivered as part of BLEAP, it should be a priority. It was suggested that this could be set up as a small project for next financial year or a time and cost variation on BLEAP could be used, but this would need to be dealt with before the project finishes.</p> <p>It was agreed that SP would investigate the options.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Homebuy Update</b>                  SP delivered a verbal report on this.</p> <p>He reported that five applications had been completed as part of Phase I and that mail shots for Phase II including registration dates and open day information would go out this week.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Performance Management Review</b>                  SP reported that after the theme discussed it at the last theme group, a detailed report had gone to the last Board Meeting and PMF stuff is currently being finalised by Paul Rowlands.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Environmental Sustainability Strategy</b>                  JK informed the group that he was currently working on an environmental sustainability strategy and invited the group to put forward ideas to contribute to this. The following suggestions were put forward by the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ND: NH should use recycled paper</li> <li>- Cycle paths in the New Deal footprint</li> <li>- Make use of green space in New Deal area.</li> <li>- Encourage compost bins a home</li> <li>- Look into alternative energy for new projects</li> <li>- Sustainable building designs</li> <li>- BVC tenants to save electricity</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create awareness of energy grants available</li> <li>- Cut food miles</li> <li>- Reduction in the use of peat free products and pesticides</li> <li>- Encourage use of household recycling boxes</li> <li>- Car Sharing</li> <li>- Bike to Work- could be tied in with cycle week (18th - 24th June 2007)</li> <li>- Alternative Energy Lessons in schools</li> <li>- Eco -Homes</li> <li>- Air Quality Testing</li> <li>- Water saving schemes</li> </ul> <p>JK agreed that he would also contact the rest of the board members for further input.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>New Deal Road Sweeper</b>                  A request was received from a Resident for the New Deal Road Sweeper to sweep the grounds of Smith and Thomas House. This is the responsibility of WHG, however they are currently undergoing a transition of contactors and so this is not been done and this is having a knock on effect on the surrounding area.</p> <p>SP informed the group that he had spoke to Tim Wakelin and he had had agreed to sweeping this area, but SP informed group to be mindful that whilst the road sweeper was cleaning this location it would have less time at other locations.</p> <p>The group discussed this issue at length including the issue that the Road Sweeper should only be cleaning public highways and not private land.</p> <p>After discussion the group agreed for the road sweeper to go to this location once every fortnight as a temporary measure until the end of March.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><u>Leamore Park</u>                  CR informed the group that this project was now moving quickly. Moody's have been awarded the contract and are now clearing the site.</p> <p><u>BVC parking</u>                  The group were informed that options were being investigated by Mike Brice around the parking issue at the BVC.</p> <p><u>Dolphin Close Homeless Shelter</u>                  CW reported that travellers at this shelter had been using the electrical supply for this building without authorisation.</p>	

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<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Thursday 11th April 2007 at 7.00pm at Blakenall Village Centre	
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