

NORTHWICH & RURAL NORTH AREA PARTNERSHIP BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2011, 2.00pm

**CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION, UNIT 3, GADBROOK PARK, RUDHEATH,
NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE, CW9 7LL**

1. In Attendance

Chris Rowbottom	-	Weaver Vale Housing Trust (Chair)
Mark Simmons	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Fiona Dunning	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
James Ollier	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Mark Palethorpe	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Catherine Fox	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Pat Johnson	-	WCPCT
Barry Rose	-	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Services
Amanda Scarratt	-	Cheshire Voluntary Action
Councillor Helen Weltmen	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Insp. Paul Loughlin	-	Cheshire Police
Terry O'Neill	-	Parish Council Representative

Apologies

Derek Bowden	-	Northwich Town Council
Jane Branson	-	CECPCT
Councillor Julia Tickridge	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Alison Armstong	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Steve Newson	-	Cheshire West & Chester Council

2. Updates on sub-groups

2i. Regeneration

Catherine Fox gave an update on the work of the Weaver Valley Team. This included a presentation on the proposals for: the Barons Quay site; the Memorial Centre site; public realm improvements and other support for the town centre.

The APB were welcoming of the proposals for Barons Quay but were concerned about the existing shopping areas of Witton Street and Weaver Square. It was explained that funding from Barons Quay s106 payments would be used to support public realm improvements along Witton Street. The first phase of public realm improvement work for Witton Street funded through the

Weaver Valley programme is planned for spring 2012. In addition Jenny Howard in the Weaver Valley team is working with independent retailers in the town to promote markets and hold events. This includes Weaver Square which is owned by a separate company who manage and let units in the centre.

Three options for the proposed new Memorial Centre were also discussed. The APB expressed a desire to see a pool as part of the new centre and the view that the new centre should be able to cater for persons for all people and meet DDA+ standards. The group were not keen for the library to be moved from its current location, though it was felt it could attract people into the new centre. Option B was the preferred option which includes a new pool, dry leisure, replacement for the memorial hall, dance studio and a café.

The development of the Marina site is currently being led by the joint venture between BLOC and British waterways (H20). Proposals for a mixed use commercial, leisure and residential development are being developed and should be in the public domain later in the year.

2ii. Health and Wellbeing

The teenage pregnancy issues that are present in Weaverham and Rudheath are showing a difference in age ranges. Within Weaverham, teenage pregnancy is occurring in the late teen years whilst in Rudheath problems are starting at a much younger age. With this difference in issues, the two areas will have a separate concentration of partners to tackle the issues including increase young people activities and raise aspirations.

The free Teenage Pregnancy mobile phone application is hopefully to be launched this October.

Courtesy of the WCPCT, 3 new exercise classes will be running in the area and a food worker been contracted to start work on healthy eating on a budget.

Barry Rose will investigate getting some slow cookers to give out to families to link into the food worker.

A family cycle ride is being held on Sunday mornings at Vickers Way Park. The circuit is 1.35km that circles the playing field, travels along the River Dane and Vickers Way. The town Council has agreed to open up the shop during the time of the cycling and for the first 6 weeks there will be a bike maintenance shop there to give advice on maintaining bicycles.

2iii. Economy and Education

‘Work Clubs’ are being deployed into Northwich, with one in The Zone at Northwich Station. Work clubs will be used as part of the ‘Ready To Work

Strategy' approach. Further work clubs will be considered for other areas of Northwich & Rural North.

The implementation of Employment Charters and Labour Market Agreements for new business developments is underway and working to get local workers the right skills to do local jobs.

The Think Family model was presented to the APB which is a partnership approach to working with families.

AGREED: The board endorsed the Think Family Approach.

2iv. Environment and Transport

Five Train Stations in the proximity of Northwich have undergone a Crime Reduction and Environmental Visual Audit survey to improve the appearance and safety of the stations. It is the first time that a detailed survey on a variety of topics has been taken on the stations. From these an action plan has been developed and is now underway.

AGREED: The board approved the train station action plan. The board asked to consider the other two train stations within the APB, Frodsham and Helsby,

ACTION: Surveys to be carried out at the stations of Frodsham and Helsby.

2v. Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Plan has been updated to include the Marketing & Communications (M&C) work for which a draft M&C plan has been developed. The calendar of events for the 2012 is under development and shall be ready by October.

The draft Tracker Survey was presented to the APB and they were asked to make decisions on several questions that should be used within the survey. The Tracker Survey will be used for 18 months to gauge resident's perceptions.

AGREED: The board finalised the questions on the tracker survey

AGREED: The Marketing and Communications Work plan for the next 12 months was agreed by the board

AGREED: A date for the Volunteer Day was set for October 27th (since the meeting this has been re-arranged for 25th Nov)

2vi. Neighbourhood Management

The Big Lottery consultation Phase 1 is ready to be signed off by Big Local. The outcomes of the public consultation will be published to the community in due course. The Interim board is ready to step back and have the community reps take over.

2vii. Community Safety

Pub Watch is healthy with many licensees attending meetings. This has had a big impact on violence and ASB within the Town Centre.

Consultation is currently taking place for the APB wide DPPO which will set down a strict line of what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour.

There are issues at the Greenbank Shops with 3-4 calls a night being made for ASB. The area is currently third highest for repeat calls. There is an increase in arson in the area that could be a problem in the run up to bonfire night.

3. Funding

Application has been received for £2830 from the Environment and Transport group to run a family cycle ride incorporating bicycle mechanics in a 6 week intensive course and to lead the cycle rides. The money will cover other overheads.

4. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Northwich & Rural North Area Partnership Board will be held on Wednesday 7th December 2011; Weaver Vale Housing Trust.