

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM

Tuesday, 1st April 2008, at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Chairman) and Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths

Parish	Representative(s)
Alvechurch	Mr. J. Cypher
Barnt Green	Mrs. J. M. Jagger (Chairman) Mr. R. Westbury (Executive Officer) Mr. D. A. Gilburn
Belbroughton	Mr. J. Bradley (Chairman) Mr. C. R. Scurrall
Clent	Mrs. P. A. Harris (Clerk)
Cofton Hackett	Mr. B. Hodgson (Clerk) Mr. B. Bridgewater
Hagley	Mr. S. R. Colella (Chairman)
Hunnington	Mr. J. Peeney (Chairman) Mrs. R. Mullett (Clerk)
Lickey End	Mr. C. W. Bateman
Romsley	Mr. I. A. Hodgetts (Chairman)
Stoke	Mrs. T. Roll (Chairman)
Wythall	Mr. L. J. Turner

In attendance: Mr. R. Levett (County Association of Local Councils)

Observers: Councillors Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E. and Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP

Officers: Mr. P. Street, Mr. H. Bennett, Mrs. C. L. Felton, Mr. M. Bell, and Mr. A. C. Stephens

1. **APOLOGIES**

Parish	Representative
Alvechurch	Mrs. Y. Goode
Belbroughton	Mrs. C. Limm (Clerk)
Beoley	Miss P. Harrison (Clerk)
Clent	Mr. E. Sheppard
Dodford with Grafton	Mr. V. Dawson (Chairman) Mrs. C. Limm (Clerk)
Finstall	Mrs. S. Reynolds (Clerk)
Lickey and Blackwell	Mrs. J. A. Casey (Clerk)
Stoke	Mr. P. Callaway (Clerk)
Tutnall and Cobley	Mrs. H. Davies (Clerk)
Wythall	Miss P. Harrison (Clerk) Mrs. S. J. Baxter

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Councils' Forum held on 8th January 2008 were submitted. With the exception of the deletion of "Councillor R. Hollingworth" from the list of apologies, it was **AGREED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

The Chairman referred to the Parish Seminar which had been planned following discussions at the last meeting. He stated that four meetings would take place in the next two months or so, as soon as the availability of the 'facilitators' to attend had been arranged.

3. **LITTER COLLECTION - MINIMUM STANDARDS / "ZONING" POLICY**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. M. Bell, the Head of Street Scene and Waste Management, addressed the meeting and spoke on the issues relating to the policy and standards used by the Council in respect of litter collection throughout the District.

He explained how the "zoning" policy had been developed, and stated that the standards for litter collection used by the Council were publicly available on the DEFRA website. Mr. Bell outlined how the processes were put into place concerning the standards being applied to the zones and invited suggestions concerning how the policy could be adapted within individual parishes in order to deal with areas which may fall within the various zones. It was **AGREED** that suggestions be fed back from the parishes via communication with their relevant local Ward Councillor(s).

After answering a number of questions from members of the Forum, the Chairman thanked Mr. Bell for his presentation.

4. **ADOPTION OF PARISH PLANS**

Mr. H. Bennett, the Assistant Chief Executive, addressed the meeting and explained the Council's proposed approach in respect of the integration and adoption of Parish Plans within the district-wide Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Local Development Framework (LDF).

He referred to the report circulated with the agenda for the meeting and outlined the key stages in the process, including an extensive consultation procedure, as well as indicating who the different partners to be involved were.

Members of the Forum expressed concern that the new LSP/LDF process would remove the need for those Parish Plans (and Village Design Statements) which had already been produced, and any others which may be in the course of preparation. However, Mr. Bennett confirmed that Parish Plans would remain a valuable element in the

work of the Local Development Framework and would remain a feature of the work undertaken by the LSP.

After answering a number of questions from members of the Forum, the Chairman thanked Mr. Bennett for his presentation.

5. **NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA COMMITTEES**

The Chairman invited Mr. Bennett to address the Forum to give a brief presentation in respect of the Neighbourhood Area Committees (NACs).

Mr. Bennett outlined the introduction of the two Neighbourhood Area Committee 'pilots' in Rubery and Alvechurch, which had been established in January 2007, in response to the Government's drive to increase partnership and community working.

He stated that the NACs comprised Parish, District and County elected Members, together with senior officers and interested residents. It was hoped that the NAC's would build on the success of Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and feed into the Local Strategic Partnership. He added that the two 'pilots' had been set up individually, with their own nominal budget, and initial feedback had been largely positive.

The Forum was informed that proposals were underway to extend the scheme by increasing the budgets provided to both 'pilots', resolve known issues which have emerged during the first year of operation and to set up a further NAC in the Hagley (and rural) area.

After responding to several questions, the Chairman thanked Mr. Bennett for his presentation.

6. **REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE RELATING TO THE NEW LOCAL ASSESSMENT REGIME - UPDATE**

Mrs. C. Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, addressed the Forum and explained that the Regulations and Guidance relating to the new Local Assessment Regime, under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, had not yet been published.

She reported that it was anticipated the Regulations and Guidance would be published within the month and that the Parish Clerks would be informed in due course.

7. **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ACCESS TO AGENDAS, REPORTS AND MINUTES**

Mr. A. C. Stephens, Committee Services Officer, informed the Forum of the new arrangements for the publication of Council and Committee

agendas, reports and minutes, together with other relevant Council information, on the Council's website.

He added that it was possible for users of the relevant part of the website to subscribe to free updates relating to the publication of Council and Committee documents and issues within Ward areas of particular interest.

This was noted.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman