

**Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership**  
**Tuesday 15 February 2005 at 6.30pm.**

**Present:**

J Blakey, K Calvert, R Cowen, P Dawe, J Gray, Judith Kane, R Millerchip, S Millerchip, G Patterson, J Patterson, A Richardson, Maureen Robinson, S Thompson, M Syer, W Tickell, C Whitfield, D Whittaker

In attendance: L Boyd, M Ridley, B Spears

**Apologies for absence:**

J Beck, J Blackburn, A Blakey, F Brettwood, N Dixon, K Haigh, L Hinton, Maggie Robinson, S Robinson, W Temporal, S Thackeray, C Thompson, J Thompson, R Walsh

**Minutes of the last meeting, 18 January, 2005:**

Under 'Apologies for absence' it was necessary to include L Hinton. The amended minutes were agreed. Proposed by J Patterson, and seconded by J Blakey.

**Matters Arising:**

Maggie Robinson, S Robinson and S Thackeray were asked to be added to the Apologies for absence.

**The Partnership welcomed Mr. Brian Spears**

Mr. Spears Chief Executive for the City of Durham spoke at some length on the Regeneration issues.

He began by saying that one of the biggest issues during Regeneration was always 'where was the money to be spent and how much money was available'. He told us that £1m was 'ringfenced' for spending in Bowburn and never before has this happened where money was ringfenced for a village. He explained the Council would consult with the Master Planner about spending and then with the groups within the Partnership.

After the SHIP bid was acquired the government had asked for some of the profits to be paid back. The council worked very hard on this and got round it by offering to provide conservation and play areas.

The money gained from other phases will be paid into a central fund, The Flourishing Villages Community Fund, and Bowburn along with all other communities can apply for funding.

Mr. Spears also took questions from the floor. On the question of 'How much money would be coming into Bowburn?' he repeated that '£1m was ringfenced over 3 years'. Mr. Spears made it known that the assets of the villages in Durham City belonged to the City Council and have always been shared across the district, so the land assets are moved to areas where funding is needed. For example the bungalows in Jones Court were subsidised by the villages of Witton

Gilbert and Pity Me. The issues of input to The Master Plan have to be taken up with the Master Planner. It is up to the Partnership to make sure that the village's requirements are on the Plan. Any group can apply to the Flourishing Villages Community Fund for money. It will be to the benefit of a community group to go through the Partnership for funding, but it is not necessary.

In answer to a comment about the fact that villagers were under the impression that the Partnership was formed to spend the money on the village's requirements, Mr. Spears apologised for this misunderstanding, and wanted the meeting to know that this had never been said.

This section of the meeting finished at 8.10pm and the usual monthly meeting resumed at 8.20pm.

### **Reports:**

Treasurer: No bills have been received. There is £2189 in the bank.

12 Villages/SRB6 Representative: Lyn Boyd talked about the Yellow Document, which is a working draft document containing all the bids from the groups. Lyn apologised for missing out Parkhill on the printed sheet but their bid was presented at the meeting. The bids will now have to be updated. Fiona needs specifications and proper costings. It is not clearly defined how to apply to the Flourishing Villages Fund but we will find out about forms and the proper criteria. She also stated that Brian Spears made a good point that if the bids came through the Partnership they would be looked on more favourably.

Jan Blakey reported that Broadband is being brought to the 12 Villages on 10 March 2005 and the Community Centre could have a connection. There was a letter from D Hamilton on a taster session about local history. Workshops will cost £400. The date of the Digital photography course is being revised. There is going to be a Meet the Funders Day in Bowburn. It is open to everybody. Drystone walling in Q Hill need volunteers.

A new book of courses is available from the SRB6 office. Contact Kelly 0191 301 8753.

### **Group Reports:**

Centenary Group: They have not met yet and need a leader and volunteers.

Banner Group: Members of the Banner Group are going to Mansfield on 16 February to collect the 1959 Banner.

The 1919 Banner has been presented to Mike Syer. The next step is to get the conservators' costing for repairs.

A Brass Band concert is to take place on Friday, 25 February 2005. The proceeds will go towards the cost of repairing and conserving the Banners.

History Group: There is to be a publication celebrating the Centenary of Bowburn in 2006 and the group needs photos and documents etc.

BVC: A special edition of the Interchange will be given out at the weekend and the next full edition should be ready for March.

**Tsunami Appeal:**

The event is organised. Representatives from the Red Cross will be in attendance. The flyers are going out with the Interchange. The Business flyers are being distributed and posters were available for anyone to display.

**Any Other Business:**

Mike would like the closure of the Communal Rooms at Lawson Rd and Bede Terrace on the Agenda for March.

An email was asked to be sent to PC Cockburn concerning the lack of policing in David Terrace.

A letter will be sent to Brian Spears thanking him for his attendance at tonight's meeting.

Mike will look into the matter of Charitable Status for the PARC group.

**Date of next meetings:**

Future meetings will be held on the third **Tuesday** of each month;  
**15 March**, 19 April.

The Annual General Meeting is planned for 17 May.

The Partnership welcomes your attendance at every meeting, which is open to all. Please bring a companion.

A lot is going on that everyone needs to know about.

Copies of the minutes are in:  
Community Centre, Library, PO and Surgery