

## **Shell Corner Partnership Annual General Meeting for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

### **The report of the Chair**

During the course of the last year the partnership has continued to serve and represent people living and working in the Shell Corner area with the principle aim of taking steps towards the achievement of regeneration for the local community.

Whilst the last year has been a challenging one in many ways some significant progress has been made.

The partnership continues to support the development of the Children's Centre at Olive Hill Primary School and in particular by the presence of the partnership chairperson on the Children's Centre Partnership Board.

The partnership supported the consultation process for the regeneration of the area initiated by Dudley MBC and was delighted when a ten year plan for the regeneration of the area was adopted in December 2008. During this period the resurfacing of Church Street was also completed after pressure from the partnership.

The partnership website at [www.shellcornerpartnership.co.uk](http://www.shellcornerpartnership.co.uk) continues to develop and we are very grateful to Sean Kenyon for providing such a professional service which also now includes advertisements by local small businesses.

The partnership was also very active in opposing the closure of Long Lane Post Office and whilst this campaign was ultimately unsuccessful the cause did have the effect of drawing the community together in a positive way.

The partnership has joined DOSTI a network of voluntary organisations within Dudley MBC and has received financial and training support as a result. I am excited about this development and the current training with officers that is looking at the effectiveness of the partnership in influencing and promoting change within the community.

An away day event facilitated by the Black Country Housing Association was held to review the forward planning of the partnership, but there is further work to do in this area.

I am delighted to report that during the year three new officers were recruited to serve the partnership including two young people from the Greenhill Youth Centre in Long Lane. This is an exciting development which means that young people in the area will have a greater voice and input towards future changes.

During the year under review John D'Espiney one of our elected officers sadly died and I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to John for his contribution during his years of service and to express our condolences to his wife and family.

On a happier note we were delighted when Jennie our secretary gave birth to Josie and relieved when Jennie agreed to continue to serve as secretary to the partnership.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all the partnership officers, Olive Hill Primary School and others who have supported the work of the partnership over the last year.

Reverend Mike Sermon, Chair of the Shell Corner Partnership

### **Moving Forward 2009/2010**

The partnership action plan has been redrawn to reflect the current priorities and work of the partnership although the basic aims remain the same.

In the area of regeneration a small group has formed to progress the design and installation of street signs welcoming people to Shell Corner. It is hoped that the design process will include a competition involving local schools. If anyone is interested in joining this group please let us know.

The training of partnership officers remains a priority and we intend to continue to draw on the expertise of DOSTI to complete the training course on influencing change that we are part way through.

The recruitment of two young people as officers is an important step forward and the partnership will be looking at ways to work more closely with local young people and especially those associated with the Greenhill Youth Centre. Last autumn young people were involved in bulb planting on Long Lane and we hope that other initiatives like this will be possible during the year ahead.

The partnership is keen to continue the development of the website to tell the story of the local community, to advertise local businesses and to highlight forthcoming events as this remains our main method of communication with the wider community.

We will continue to monitor progress under the regeneration strategy document adopted by Dudley MBC in December 2008 and press for continuing investment in our local community. However, the ability of the partnership to contribute to this process of regeneration depends upon offers of help and the involvement of members of the community. My thanks go to everyone who is currently involved in supporting the work of the partnership and for anyone who is new to the area or now has some time available do please consider joining us. We are currently in the process of reviewing our membership list and if you would like to become a member do visit our website or contact Jennie our secretary.

Reverend Mike Sermon, Chair of the Shell Corner Partnership