

## **ALDRIDGE AND BEACON AREA PANEL**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at the St John's Church, Walsall Wood, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor Towe (Chairman)  
Councillor Rochelle (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Bird (arrived at 6.38pm)  
Councillor Clarke  
Councillor Douglas-Maul  
Councillor Hughes  
Councillor Murray  
Councillor Sears  
Councillor Wilson

### **In attendance**

Area Manager  
Group Manager, Highways and Environment  
Deputy Community Safety Manager  
Community Safety Officer  
Partnership Manager

105/15

### **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those who were present.

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillors Andrew and Kudhail.

Mr A.C. advised that a number of the Local Police and Crime Boards had amalgamated and the new Board was yet to meet.

106/15

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, were submitted.

(see annexed)

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, copies having previously been circulated to each Member, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject Minute No. 96/15 being amended to read Inspector Amos and Sergeant Payne.

In relation to Minute No. 103/15 (Area Manager Report), the Chair asked that the Area Manager pick up the last paragraph in relation to

WHG allowing community use at the Lancaster Avenue venue and feed back to Members.

107/15      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

108/15      **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items on the agenda which required the exclusion of the public under this Act.

109/15      **Highways Maintenance Prioritisation**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Group Manager, Highways and Environment, presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Members considered the report which sought Members' local knowledge on which roads should be prioritised in next year's Programme. A collaborative approach from Members was required and they were urged to liaise with one another across wards and Panel areas to ensure that funds were utilised as efficiently and pragmatically as possible.

Arising from a number of questions by Members, the Group Manager, Highways and Environment, advised that the money awarded to the Council by Government under the Challenge Fund was specifically reserved for major / main road projects and could not be used outside of those constraints.

In relation to another discussion arising from questioning by Members, the Group Manager, Highways and Environment, informed the Panel of the different types of temporary road resurfacing and speed bumps utilised within the borough and the different criteria used to determine which would be most cost effective and efficient in each individual case.

It was also reported that not all pot holes were the Council's responsibility. Some fell under the jurisdiction of utility companies and the process for repairing such pot holes was explained.

The Chair urged all Members to liaise with one another and feedback directly to the Group Manager, Highways and Environment, in terms of their proposed prioritisations under the Programme for next year.

**Resolved that: -**

1. the report be noted;
2. the Group Manager, Highways and Environment, forwards a lists (in Excel) to Members, once the Portfolio Holder has given his approval to this year's Programme, advising them which roads have been prioritised Under this year's Programme; which roads have been prioritised under the money received from Central Government (Challenge Fund - which is reserved for main roads only); and a list of roads in the area where there are proposals to temporarily resurface to enable Members to respond effectively to complaints and queries from their constituents.
3. Members liaise with one another across wards and Panel Areas to consider the proposals and advise the Group Manager, Highways and Environment, directly of any Roads they would wish to prioritise under the Programme for next year, thus enabling the Group Manager, Highways and Environment, to investigate and provide information to Members, in the list outlined above, on the potential financial impact of the proposals.

110/15

### **CCTV Camera Locations**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Deputy Community Safety Manager and the Community Safety Officer presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The Panel considered the report which sought Members' views on the effectiveness of the current stock of CCTV equipment and associated system utilised within the Borough. In addition, the Officer advised that Members' local knowledge would be paramount in terms of establishing the most effective placement and particular 'hot-spot' / areas of concern.

Arising from discussions on this item, The Leader advised that the administration had made a commitment to update the Council's current stock of CCTV equipment. He advised that he would be contacting the Executive Director – Resources and the Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection Resources / Economy and Environment and request that they submit a report to Cabinet / CMT (Corporate Management Team) to consider this matter further. In addition he stated that The Police and Crime Commissioner as well as local businesses and partner ought to contribute to the overall cost as the CCTV system benefited them as well. Furthermore, he advised that this was currently funded from the Area Partnership's budget, but it was a 'core function'. In view of this, it would be centrally funded in the future.

In addition, Members advised that, whatever the Council decided on this issue, the replacement stock must be future proof, up to current specifications and standards, linkable / compatible with other systems and the systems of partners / business within the Town Centre and wireless. Consideration would also need to be given to whether purchasing or leasing would be the most cost effective / efficient option for the Council in terms of ensuring that the system does not become outdated.

**Resolved** that: -

1. Officers note the Panel's views on the Council's current stock of CCTV cameras;
2. Councillor Bird liaises with the Executive Director – Resources and the Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection Resources / Economy and Environment and request that a report on the proposals to replace the Council's current CCTV stock be presented to the next available meeting of Cabinet / CMT.

#### 111/15      **Election of Representative to the Local Police and Crime Board**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Panel were advised that Mr A.C.'s Term of Office had expired and he was no longer eligible to represent the Panel on the Local Police and Crime Board. Mr A.C. thanked the Panel for allowing him to represent them on the Board and stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed his tenure.

The Chair and Members thanked Mr A.C. for representing the Panel on the Board.

The Chair advised that Mr P.R. had volunteered to represent the Panel on the Board for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

**Resolved** that Mr P.R. be appointed to represent the Panel on the Local Police and Crime Board for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

#### 112/15      **Area Manager Report**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Members considered the report which provided an update on work undertaken within the area.

In relation to 5.5 [Library Summer Activities] of the report, Councillor Wilson questioned if this particular information had been advertised as he could not recall being informed about it. The Area Manager agreed to feedback to the Libraries on this matter. The Chair advised that such activities / events must be promoted to maximise their effectiveness.

In addition, the Area Manager sought guidance from Members in terms of the Appendix to the report [Engagement Plan]. The Leader advised that there were two community hubs which had been trialled and the Ryecroft one, in particular, had been a great success. In view of this, a report was currently being drawn up to establish how to roll out similar programmes in other areas. The Leader advised that he hoped to be in a position where he could provide the Area Manager with some feedback / direction on this matter in the near future.

In response to a question from Members, the Area Manager sought approval to advertise the Panel meetings in the future. All Members advised that it was imperative the Panel meetings were advertised to convey what work was being discussed / undertaken by the Panel to the public. The Chair, therefore, instructed that Panel Meetings be advertised accordingly from now onwards.

The Chair then raised the issue of the Pioneer news paper and advised that it had been a big success in his ward. He sought support from Members to continue to utilise the paper to advertise the Panel and what work it had undertaken / issues it was due to discuss. It was also suggested that minutes of the Panel could be published in the paper to help demonstrate to the public what the Panel does.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

133/15

## **Funding Report**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Members considered the report which included a number of applications.

In particular, Members were minded to approve the Castlefort JMI School application in principle, subject to the Area Manager establishing whether or not this could be funded from within existing budgets in Children's Services. Should Children's Services not be able

to fund subsidise the funding on this application, then approval be delegated to the Area Manager to fund it from the Panel's budget.

**Resolved** that: -

1. the Aldridge Youth Theatre application be agreed to the sum of £750;
2. the St Anne's Church application be agreed to the sum of £1,500;
3. the All Saint's Parish and Aldridge Methodist Churches application be agreed to the sum of £600;
4. the Collingwood Centre application be agreed to the sum of £2,611;
5. the Castlefort JMI School application be agreed in principle to the sum of £1,985, subject to the Area Manager establishing whether or not this could be funded from within existing budgets in Children's' Services;
6. the Aldridge Methodist Church application be agreed to the sum of £250;
7. the All saints Parish Church application be agreed to the sum of £5,000;
8. the Streetly Association application be agreed to the sum of £704.

In relation to Minute No. 103/15 (Funding Report – Streetly Library Community Garden Funding Application) it was reported that the Council had significantly underestimated the amount of work required in order to properly fund the project. The Council had originally quoted £1675 for which the Panel had agreed funding for. However, it had since come to light that the amount required was more likely to be in the region of £6,000.

Members discussed the project and were minded to still provide funding for it as the project had not changed and the Council had miscalculated the funding required. However, the Panel tasked the Area Manager to investigate if the quote could be revisited to establish if the could cost be brought down to a more reasonable amount; and / or, investigate whether funding from elsewhere could be identified to make up the difference and, if not, that the Area Manager be delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair, to make up the difference from the Panel's budget.

In addition, Councillor Bird requested the Area Manager to ensure that the VAT of any money paid to Solihull to undertake the work be claimed back by the Council.

**Resolved** that, in relation to the Streetly Library Community Garden Project: -

1. the Area Manager investigate if the quote could be revised to a more reasonable amount; and / or

2. in the event that an alternative funding source cannot be identified for the project, the Area Manager be delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair, to cover the funding shortfall from the Panel's budget.

### **Termination of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.07 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....