

## **NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL MEETING**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at 6.00pm**

**Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Walsall, WS3 1LZ**

### **Present**

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick (Chair)  
Councillor K. Phillips  
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick  
Councillor C. Jones  
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick  
Councillor T. Jukes  
Councillor I. Robertson  
Mr Pat Dean

### **Officers**

Paul Gordon – Head of Business Change  
Neil Picken - Senior Committee Business & Governance Manager  
Vanessa Croft – Area Manager  
Alistair Jenkins – Community Protection Officer

30/16

### **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were received from Councillors L. Jeavons and A. Young.

31/16

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

32/16

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

33/16

### **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February, 2016.

### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February, 2016, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

34/16      **Public Question Time**

No questions had been received.

35/16      **Site Allocation Document (SAD) and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) consultation**

The Panel considered a report [annexed] detailing the latest consultation on three documents including the Site Allocation Development and Publication Draft, Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan Publication Draft; and Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule.

It was highlighted that the consultation period commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 and would end on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016. It was anticipated that the documents would be adopted late in 2016 or early, 2017.

Members were informed that the plan in terms of the North Walsall Area had remained largely unchanged since the provisional document was produced.

It was stated that a number of sites had been identified for gypsy and traveller sites and confirmed that dolphin close was one of those sites.

A discussion ensued as to the potential effectiveness of the community infrastructure levy and whether it would be an improvement on the 106 agreements. Officers advised that the 106 agreement could be bureaucratic whereas the new community infrastructure levy appeared to be a fairer way of charging developers. Funds received could also be pooled together.

Members of the Panel emphasised the importance of retaining funding for schools within the area in which the development was taking place as this would cater for additional demand for places.

In response to a question, officers confirmed that considerable consultation was taking place including manning market stalls and leafleting.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

36/16      **Theme: Fly Tipping and CCTV cameras**

The Community Protection Officer addressed the Panel providing a verbal update on the initiatives undertaken to tackle fly tipping in Walsall.

Members were advised that within the last 18 months, 9 cases had been taken to court with fines issued of up to £1,500.00. The use of surveillance cameras had been invaluable to identify and prosecute

perpetrators. There were a further 27 cases which would go to court in due course.

Members sought clarity on the sites at which surveillance equipment was deployed. The Community Protection Officer reported that there were many sites across the borough, however, some sites suffered more than others such as Coppice Lane.

Members of the Panel reported good relationships with Clean and Green who reacted swiftly when they reported issues.

A discussion followed on dumped cars. Officers advised that this could be addressed and stated that there were 27 cases which were being worked on.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

37/16

**Area Manager's Report**

Members considered the report [annexed] which set out some of the work undertaken within the North Walsall Area Partnership area.

In relation to cameras to tackle fly tipping it was reported that the number of cameras had reduced to 3 as parts from two camera had been used to produce one working camera.

Members noted that vehicle related offences had increased

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

38/16

**Funding Report**

Members considered the report [annexed] noting that there were no applications for consideration.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

39/16

**Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be agreed by Council in May, 2016.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6.54 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....