

DARLASTON NORTH/BENTLEY/DARLASTON SOUTH AREA PANEL

Wednesday, 22 January, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

at Darlaston Town Hall, Victoria Road, Darlaston

Present

Councillor Burley (Chairman)
Councillor Chambers (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Underhill

In Attendance

Lyndon Parkes - Area Manager
Andy Rust - Clinical Commissioning Group
Sergeant Lee Hale - West Midlands Police
Mr. M. Wolverson - Local resident

36/14

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor James and Inspector Lisa Robson.

37/14

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 12 November and 16 December, 2013 (special), copies having previously been circulated to each Member of the Panel be approved and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

38/14

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

39/14

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

40/14

Funding Report

The joint report of the Area Partnership Manager and Area Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and indicated that the bulk of the funding had been allocated at the last meeting of the Panel held on 16 December, 2013. He reported that there was £1,025.37 left to spend. Every effort would be made to ensure this funding was spent by 31 March, 2014.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

41/14

Ongoing updates on the actions for Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership

The report of the Area Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel. He referred to the development of the Local Area Co-ordinator role and indicated that pilot schemes would be held in the Bentley and Darlaston North and Brownhills Wards in the first instance.

Councillor Burley commented that she had reservations over the role as it might overlap with the work of the Area Managers in some respects.

Councillor Chambers asked if Members of the Area Panel could be involved in the appointment process for the post.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

42/14

Local Policing Plan

The report of the Walsall Local Police Unit Commander to the Local Policing and Crime Board was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Burley referred to the fact that Inspector Lisa Robson was leaving Darlaston to work in Birmingham. She thanked Inspector Robson for her work in Darlaston and wished her a successful future.

Sergeant Hale (West Midlands Police) reported that each Local Policing Unit produced its own Local Policing Plan and in Darlaston speeding, teenagers hanging around and burglary had been identified as the three

main concerns highlighted by respondents. The PCC had conducted its own survey across the force area and burglary, drug dealing/drug use and inconsiderate parking had been identified as the three major concerns.

Referring to drug dealing, Councillor Burley indicated that the police were informed of drug dealing being carried out but nothing seemed to happen. Sergeant Hale replied that the police used “stop and search” powers to obtain convictions for drug dealing.

Mr. Wolverson (local resident) reported that needles and drug paraphernalia had been found in his area. Sergeant Hale requested that any suspicious behaviour should be reported to the police. Mr. Wolverson stated that cars were parked near Bentley Cairn both day and night. Sergeant Hale asked if there were any barriers to prevent access to the area. Mr. Wolverson replied no. Sergeant Hale stated that the only incident he was aware of was the one concerning an abandoned car which had been reported by Mr. Wolverson himself. He added that he would ask the local Beat Officer to give the area additional attention.

Lyndon Parkes reported that the Clean and Green Team had been out and tidied the area.

Councillor Burley asked if the access road could be obstructed to restrict vehicular access and the matter be reported to the next meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Chambers referred to inconsiderate parking outside schools and, in particular, Salisbury Street and Bentley West schools. Sergeant Hale replied that if parked cars were creating an obstruction, then the police could take action.

After further discussion it was,

Resolved

- (1) That a report on restriction of vehicles using the access road to Bentley Cairn be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel;
- (2) That the Policing and Crime Board be informed that the community concerns outlined in the report are endorsed by the Darlaston Area Panel.

43/14

Police station closures

Councillor Burley referred to the fact that Walsall and Willenhall police stations were to be closed and it had been suggested that Darlaston’s local police team would operate from Bilston. She stated that residents were concerned at these proposals and felt that the Local Policing Team needed to be sited in Darlaston itself. Sergeant Hale replied that Bilston

was one option but other alternative premises were being considered, including a police presence in the Darlaston Town Hall complex.

Councillor Burley asked about recruitment. Sergeant Hale replied that additional officers would be appointed in the Walsall area.

Resolved

That the verbal report be noted.

44/14

Dates and venues for Darlaston North/Bentley/Darlaston South Area Panel meetings

It was **agreed** that the meetings of the Darlaston North/Bentley/Darlaston South Area Panel meetings be held on the following dates:-

2014

26 March

All meetings to be held at Darlaston Town Hall commencing at 5.30 p.m. or 6.00 p.m.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.35 p.m.

Chairman

Date