

Brownhills. Pelsall, Rushall & Shelfield Area Panel

Monday 29 June 2015 at 6.00 pm

**Brownhills Community Association, Chester Road North, Pelsall Road,
Brownhills, WS8 7JW**

Present:

Councillor G. Perry (Chair)
Councillor S.R. Craddock (Vice Chair)
Councillor C. E. Clews
Councillor K. Ferguson
Councillor M.A. Longhi
Councillor L.J. Rattigan
Councillor S. Wade
Councillor R.V. Worrall

Officers in attendance:

Laura Terry – Area Manager
Beverley Mycock – Committee Business & Governance Manager
Steve Gittins – Deputy Community Safety Manager
Dave Atkins – Community Safety Officer

Due to the number of observers present at the Area Panel Meeting, the Chair requested that everyone introduced themselves. Mr. Poxon, a local resident, requested feedback in relation to the distribution of Agenda papers. The Area Manager reported that the Scrutiny Working Group had discussed concerns raised in relation to the rules of procedure for Area Panels, and it had resolved that no changes would be suggested for update of the Constitution.

Apologies:

There were no apologies.

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|--------|--|
| 113/15 | Monday 30 March 2015 – Mr. Poxon, a former co-opted member reported that he had submitted his resignation as local Policing & Crime Board representative, and that this had been omitted from the Minutes. |
| 114/15 | Thursday 16 April 2015 – Special Area Panel Meeting |

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2015 and the special meeting held on 16 April 2015, copies having previously been circulated to each member of the Area Panel, be approved and signed by the Chairman as correct records, subject to the above-noted addition.

115/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for the duration of the meeting.

116/15 Local Government Access to Information Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

117/15 Highways Maintenance Prioritisation

This item was deferred until the next Area Panel meeting.

118/15 CCTV Briefing

The report of the Deputy Community Safety Manager, was submitted
(see annexed)

Steve Gittins, Deputy Community Safety Manager, and Dave Atkins, Community Safety Officer advised they were seeking the views of the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall / Shelfield Area Panel on the location and effectiveness of fixed CCTV cameras within its area partnership, and also on the effectiveness of the current redeployable camera stock, in order to inform an options review of the CCTV infrastructure within Walsall to be undertaken in the near future.

The officers gave a detailed presentation which included the following:-

- Walsall Council's CCTV services monitors 91 fixed cameras located around the borough.
- There are 28 Domehawk and Apache mobile cameras for use borough-wide, plus a small number of covert cameras used to tackle specific issues, i.e. fly tipping – these cameras cost approximately £1,500 per year but are approaching the end of their working life and therefore upgrades are required.
- A specialist consultant to be commissioned to undertake evaluation of the current infrastructure and equipment to produce

options for the best way forward.

- Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Shelfield have 11 fixed CCTV cameras located in and around Brownhills town centre – over a three year period from June 2012 to June 2015, the cameras captured 409 incidents (3%) of the borough total.
- The top three offences recorded within the Brownhills camera cluster analysis were:-

1st - Suspicion (69 incidents)

2nd – Missing person (59 incidents)

3rd– Public Order (43 incidents)

There then followed a period of comments and questioning, which included:-

- Operation of the large number of cameras within the control room.
The control room is monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days per year with a minimum of one person. Any options proposed by the consultant may include the need for additional staff.
- The camera picture quality is poor in some cases.
Static cameras are set at distance and can only be zoomed into an incident if an operative is aware of an incident taking place; the Domehawk cameras do not have the ability to zoom into a subject, they only produce a panoramic view.
- Is there capacity to purchase additional cameras if some are not fit for purpose?
It is unlikely additional fixed cameras will be purchased but may be the possibility for more mobile cameras, albeit this may not happen in the near future due to costs, another area to be considered by the consultant.
- Could Council look into other organisational set-ups, i.e. Centro, WHG
Procurement dictates marketing has to be carried out – this could be considered by the consultant.

Steve Gittins concluded the presentation by thanking the Area Panel for their views and comments, and stated that all the feedback he had received from Area Panel meetings would be collated.

The Chair thanked Steve Gittins and Dave Atkins for their informative presentation and stated that the Area Panel Members cared about the issues raised and he hoped all comments would be fed into the

evaluation.

119/15 **Area Manager Report**

The Report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

The Area Manager introduced the Report and a number of comments were raised, which included:-

Paragraph 7.2 – Community Hubs

Councillor Worrall enquired on the current position and for confirmation of the existence of Community Hubs in both Moxley and Ryecroft. The Area Manager stated that Area Panels were awaiting steer on the project, and she confirmed that the community hubs within Moxley and Ryecroft were a separate initiative.

Paragraph 6.3 – Holland Park

Mr. Poxon, a local resident, praised the outdoor gym equipment within the park.

Paragraph 3.2 – Appearance of Town Centre

Mr. Birch, a local resident, enquired why a fence had been erected in front of and was now hiding the trees planted by the Mayor. In response, Councillor Craddock reported that the head of Regeneration, Development & Delivery was investigating the issue further. The Area Manager added that a site visit had taken place and further investigations were taking place over land ownership and deeds etc.

Councillor Wade referred to Silver Court Parade and reported that the issue between the Council and the owner was ongoing and that the Council was in the process of producing a viable plan. The Chair requested the item to be included on the agenda for the next Area Panel meeting, and that relevant officers and/or the portfolio holder for Economy, Infrastructure and Development be invited to provide an update to the Area Panel.

Councillor Worrall conveyed his congratulations to the Canal Festival organisers.

Paragraph 3.1 – Brownhills Town Centre Partnership

The Area Manager to ascertain who is currently facilitating this work.

Resolved

That the Report be noted.

120/15

Funding Report

The joint report of the Area Manager and Partnership Manager was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Chair proposed that the Area Panel funding be allocated on a ward by ward basis, which would equate to £10,000 to each ward plus a £10,000 floating budget for use on area-wide initiatives and one off emergency spends on partnership activity.

The Area Manager enlarged upon the report. She gave details of the late reports that were approved in financial year 2014/15, but which were not able to be completed in that financial year, and therefore a request was made to carry forward the funds for the projects to be completed during the current financial year.

Councillor Worrall and Councillor Rattigan both commented on the successful Spring into Action for a Blooming Good Summer project, which had promoted community spirit and had created attractive town and village centres.

The Area Manager requested the Area Panel to consider eight applications totalling £7,989 put forward for approval, which would leave a total of £30,011 for allocation for the remainder of the financial year.

i) Avenues Community Association – Music Workshop Project

A basic music project to provide taster sessions for local young people, teaching the reading of music, and skills in playing the guitar and keyboard.

The Area Panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £800 requested by Avenues Community Association for music taster sessions be approved.

ii) Autumn Close Residents' Association – Community outing for Elderly Local Residents

An organised trip to stimulate minds and encourage social interaction with mainly elderly and/or disabled members of the association.

The Area Panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £901.40 requested by the Autumn Close Residents' Association be approved for the community outing for elderly local residents.

iii) **Community Safety Team – Church Road, Pelsall Gate**

The Area Manager reported that the area had experienced a number of fires, anti social behaviour and fly tipping, and the project would provide a gate on council land to restrict access to the rear of properties in Church Road, Pelsall.

The Area Panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £320 requested by the Community Safety Team be approved for the provision of a gate at Church Road, Pelsall.

iv) **Youth Support Service- targeted youth service summary programme**

The Area Manager reported that NACRO had withdrawn services run from the Brownhills hub and therefore the Council's youth services would run a 4/5 week summer programme from Brownhills hub and Pelsall Youth Club, to include centre and street based provision, a number of area trips plus a community celebration day.

The Area Panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £1,210 requested by the Youth Support Service be approved for the provision of a targeted youth service summer programme.

v) **Area Partnership – communication activity**

The Area Manager reported that the funding would purchase thematic material for distribution across the partnership, based upon intelligence and local concerns.

The area panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £2,000 requested by the Area Partnership for the purchase of thematic material for distribution around the Area Partnership be approved.

vi) Area Partnerships – Positive Activities and Role Model Engagement

The Area Manager reported that the project would include safety chats around arson, dangers of playing around expanses of water – in particular the canals, with the opportunity for young people to access free activities and outdoor game activities on Pelsall North Common including the reach up tower to complement a fire appliance, in conjunction with youth support services, West Midlands Fire Service and WMBC Clean & Green Services. The project would run during the last week of July and the first week of August and it was hoped it would be duplicated for next year.

The Area Panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £276 requested by the Area Partnership for the Positive Activities and Role Model Engagement project be approved.

vii) West Midlands Police – Property Marking with Selecta dna

The Area Manager reported that there had been a recent increase in burglaries, and that based on Police intelligence, thieves were not stealing property if the owners had used Smartwater to mark the property. The Area Manager stated that the funding would enable the Police to attend vulnerable properties to apply the Smartwater and to produce a map for reference.

The Area Panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £1,482.50 requested by West Midlands Police for the Property Marking with Selecta dna project be approved.

viii) Pelsall Community Centre – Building a Brighter, Sustainable Community Centre

A project to enable the replacement of loose, dangerous floor tiles as part of a wider replacement programme to ensure safer accessibility to the centre.

The Area Panel **moved:**

That funding in the sum of £1,000 requested by Pelsall Community Centre for the Building a Brighter, sustainable Community Centre project be approved.

Resolved

Members considered the report and Councillor Perry **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Craddock:

- i) That the projects contained within paragraph 3.1 of the report (see annexed) be carried forward for completion within the 2015/16 financial year
- ii) That the eight project applications as set out in appendix 1 of the report (see annexed) be approved as set out
- iii) That Area Panel funding be allocated on a ward by ward basis, which would equate to £10,000 to each ward plus a £10,000 floating budget for use on area-wide initiatives and one off emergency spends on partnership activity, notwithstanding funding already allocated in this financial year

Committee All Area Panel members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations.

121/15 Election of Local Policing & Crime Board Representative.

The Chair nominated Councillor Craddock to represent the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield Area Panel

Councillor Clews then volunteered for the position and it was **moved** by Councillor Perry and **seconded** by Councillor Craddock:-

Resolved

That Councillor Clews be the nominated community representative of Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Shelfield Area Panel on the Local Policing & Crime Board for the municipal year 2015/16.

122/15 Dates and venues for future meetings

The Chair informed the Area Panel of a change of venue for the next Area Panel which was scheduled for Monday 28 September 2015, and would now be held at Manor Farm Community Association, King George Crescent, Rushall, WS4 1EU.

Termination of meeting:

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.00pm

Chair.....

Date.....