

**DARLASTON NORTH/BENTLEY/DARLASTON SOUTH
AREA PANEL**

Tuesday, 26 January 2016 at 6.00pm

at Darlaston Methodist Church, Slater Street, Darlaston

Present:

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

In attendance:

Nicola Holmes – Area Manager
Jo Lowndes – Partnership Manager
Kate Bowers – Area Partnerships
Ian Campbell – Darlaston Rotary
Patrick Johnston – Darlaston Rotary

Apology

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor James.

145/16

Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November, 2015, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Panel, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

146/16

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

147/16

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

148/16

Funding Report

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Nicola Holmes) enlarged upon the report and explained the projects contained therein.

Therapeutic Activities for All – Mindful Gifts CIC

The Area Manager explained that a range of activities would be carried out in February and March, 2016 for people with dementia and their carers from the company's new premises in King Street, Darlaston. She gave a breakdown of the costs involved and indicated that part of the funding would be used to make the premises more wheelchair friendly by providing a ramp access (£900).

Councillor Chambers referred to the fact that the funding requested (£4500) was over 10% of the total available. He asked what the balance would be used to provide. Nicola Holmes replied that the funding would provide four sessional workers; materials and a projector and screen so that films could be shown.

After further discussion it was

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £4000 for Therapeutic Activities for All – Mindful Gifts CIC be approved.

Second Chance Cancer Choir

The Area Manager reported that the funding requested (£1301) would be used to pay for the costs of rehearsal sessions for the choir which was based in Darlaston and performed across Walsall. All sessions were run by volunteers. She gave a breakdown of the costs involved.

Councillor Burley asked about match funding and Nicola Holmes drew attention to the £1700 contained in the report.

Councillor Underhill asked where the choir held their rehearsals. Nicola Holmes replied at the Olio Hub.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £1301 be approved to pay the costs of rehearsal sessions for the Second Chance Cancer Choir.

Olio Youth Club

The Area Manager explained that the funding (£930) would be used to support the youth group to purchase new equipment that will allow more activities to be provided for children and young people across

Darlaston. Sessions were provided for 7-19 year olds free of charge to help reduce anti social behaviour in the area by offering a range of engaging activities in a safe and welcoming environment which included a music studio and gym. Items to be purchased would include DJ equipment, arts and crafts and cooking materials.

Councillor Burley asked if the youth club had received funding previously. Nicola Holmes replied that, as far as she was aware, it had not.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £930 for the Olio Youth Club be approved.

Darlaston Air Cadets Youth Kit Project

The Area Manager reported that the funding in the sum of £2450 would assist in the development of the group by contributing towards the costs of activities including training courses for young people from the Darlaston area who were interested in aviation and youth activities. It would also be used to purchase new camping equipment for events which were organised on a regular basis. This would contribute towards reducing anti social behaviour in the Darlaston area. She continued that the cadet headquarters had been burgled recently and equipment stolen.

Councillor Underhill referred to the fact that a youth leader had had his car damaged whilst parked outside the premises.

Councillor Chambers referred to the fact that the cadets had been invited to attend the Party in the Park event but had not attended. He felt that the funding approval should be conditional on the cadets attending local community events.

Councillor Burley indicated that the group had been struggling to recruit young people and had lost a number of cadets to university etc.

Nicola Holmes gave a breakdown of how the funding would be spent and it was

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £2450 for the Darlaston Air Cadets Youth Kit Project be approved.

Darlaston Rotary Community Project

The Area Manager indicated that the funding in the sum of £1663 would allow the group to purchase equipment to deliver more local activities and increase membership and volunteers. The project would

support local homeless young people and others across Darlaston who found themselves in need. Work would be carried out with St Basils and Walsall street teams to raise awareness of homelessness, sexual exploitation, grooming and trafficking of young people.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £1663 for the Darlaston Rotary Community Project be approved.

Church on the Corner – IT Equipment

The Area Manager reported that funding in the sum of £628.99 would be used to purchase a new computer and printer for service users to access and to upgrade existing equipment at the church.

Councillor Chambers felt that the church should be offered £500.

Ian Campbell (Darlaston Rotary Club) stated that the organisation could help the church obtain a better deal on IT equipment.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £500 for the Church on the Corner - IT Equipment be approved.

149/16

Area Manager's Report

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Nicola Holmes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and drew attention to the salient points contained therein.

Resolved

That the Area Manager's report be noted.

150/16

Internal Assurance of Area Panel Projects

The joint report of the Partnership Manager and Head of Business Change was submitted:-

(See annexed)

The Partnership Manager (Jo Lowndes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel. She indicated that the report confirmed that

funding allocated through the Area Panel had been utilised for the purpose stated. She added that Internal Audit had confirmed that funding had been spent correctly.

After further discussion it was

Resolved

That the Panel:-

- 1. Notes the findings of the Internal Review; and
- 2. Notes that there is assurance that projects have utilised funding for the purpose for which it was allocated and that the relevant documentation has been provided by the project lead/organisation.

151/16 **Highways Maintenance Programme**

This item had been withdrawn.

152/16 **Dates for Future Meetings**

The dates for future meetings of the Panel were submitted.

Resolved

That the dates for future meetings be noted.

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.46pm.

Chair.....

Date.....