

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

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at Darlaston Town Hall, Victoria Road, Darlaston**

### **Present**

Councillor Burley (Chairman)  
Councillor Underhill

### **In Attendance**

Lyndon Parkes - Area Manager  
Jo Stewart – Communications  
Laura Terry – Communities and Partnerships  
Mr Wells – Local resident

22/13

### **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chambers and James.

23/13

### **Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Panel be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

24/13

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

25/13

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

26/13

### **Funding Report & On-going Updates from the Area Partnership**

The joint reports of the Area Partnership Manager were submitted:-  
(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parks) enlarged upon the funding report for the benefit of the Panel and drew the meeting's attention to appendix 1 which summarised budget applications deemed valid against Area Partnership funding criteria and referred to the Panel for approval. He continued that the proposed projects totalled £5,915.00 and added that there was currently £11,091.73 available for the Panel to distribute during the remainder of the financial year.

Members carefully considered the applications and after discussion it was

### **Resolved**

That the applications contained in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

27/13

### **Participatory Budgeting Within Area Partnerships**

The report of the Head of Communities and Partnerships was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Laura Terry (Communities and Partnerships) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel. She reported that following consultation with residents of the Bentley and Darlaston North and Darlaston South Wards six possible schemes had been identified (Paragraph 5.2 table 2 refers). She continued that the budget of £41,600 would be sufficient to complete one scheme which would provide five or six additional car parking spaces.

Councillor Burley asked if the individual locations had been costed. Laura Terry replied that parking at any of the locations listed could be provided within the £41,600 budget.

Councillor Burley asked if any of the sites were likely to be affected by unforeseen problems such as mine shafts or contaminated land. Jo Stuart (Communications) stated that preliminary investigations had shown that none of the sites listed in table 2 to the report had any problems.

Laura Terry indicated that following the consultation and voting the top two locations would be referred to the Panel for approval. If, for any reason, the first choice was not viable then the second choice would go forward to completion.

Councillor Underhill asked if any one scheme stood out from the rest. Laura Terry replied that all six had equal merit.

Councillor Underhill asked how the successful scheme would be chosen and Jo Stewart explained the selection process which would include use of social media, leafleting, drop in sessions and designated phone lines.

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) drew the Panel's attention to the fact that two of the proposed schemes were close to schools which might attract more considerable support. Jo Stewart indicated that this would be taken into consideration when the results of voting were processed.

Laura Terry stated that the consultation procedure would commence on 18<sup>th</sup> November and the results would be reported to the 16<sup>th</sup> December meeting.

After further discussion it was

### **Resolved**

That the Panel:-

- (1) notes the progress to date in relation to participatory budgeting – verge parking through the area partnership structure; and
- (2) agrees to consult and vote on the shortlisted verge parking sites in Bentley and Darlaston North and Darlaston South as identified in table 2 contained in the report now submitted.

28/13

### **Local Police and Crime Commissioning Group**

Councillor Burley referred to the establishment of the Local Police and Crime Commissioners earlier in 2013. She had attended two meetings of the group in July and October. At the most recent meeting the Chief Superintendent of Police had reported on savings to be made and had advised that Green Lane Police Station would be closing in 2014 and Bloxwich would become the main Police Station in Walsall. She had expressed concern over the closure of Darlaston Police Station and asked whether it might be reopened for local policing.

The Chief Superintendent had indicated that the Police Force would be recruiting Police Community Support Officers and Beat Bobbies and custody blocks would be provided in Perry Barr and West Bromwich. Councillor Burley reported an increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour in Darlaston Town Centre and the local beat bobby was aware of the problem. There had also been an increase in domestic violence in the area. She drew attention to the proposed changes to the Probation Service and commented on the Police Estates Review. She added that the Chief Superintendent hoped to keep local Police Officers through use of the Shared Space Initiative which could include Police Officers using the Civic Centre in Walsall as their base.

Councillor Underhill referred to the fact that the people of Darlaston felt that they were getting a raw deal because PCSO's were not viewed as real Police Officers. With Darlaston Police Station closed, Willenhall and

Green Lane Police Stations earmarked for closure she was concerned that Bloxwich Police Station would not be large enough to accommodate staff moving across.

Councillor Burley stated that she had been informed that the Darlaston team could be based in Bilston. This was unacceptable as the Darlaston team should be based in Darlaston.

After further discussion it was

**Resolved**

That the verbal report be noted.

29/13

**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:-

**2013**

16<sup>th</sup> December (Special)

**2014**

22<sup>nd</sup> January

26<sup>th</sup> March

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

**Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.

Chairman .....

Date.....