

## **Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Shelfield Area Panel**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 6.00 p.m.**

**At Pelsall Village Centre, High Street,  
Pelsall, WS3 4LX**

### **Present:**

Councillor R. Worrall (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor O. Bennett  
Councillor S. Craddock  
Councillor K. Ferguson  
Councillor L. J. Rattigan  
Councillor S. Wade

### **Officers in attendance:**

Laura Terry - Area Manager  
Paul Gordon - Head of Business Change

### **Others in attendance:**

Dan Garbett - Bloxwich Community  
Jan Davies - Brownhills Community Association Manager

Due to the number of observers present at the Area Panel Meeting, the Vice Chair requested that everyone introduced themselves.

### **170/16 Apologies:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Perry (Chair), Clews and Longhi.

### **171/16 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July, 2016 were submitted

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 copies having previously been circulated to each Member, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to a spelling error in paragraph 166/16 which should have read 'dispersed' and not dispensed.

172/16     **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

173/16     **Local Government Access to Information Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

174/16     **Void Properties Update**

A briefing paper was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Head of Business Change (Paul Gordon) and the Area Manager (Laura Terry) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Committee and updated the panel on the outcomes from the initial meeting of the Void Property Group which had taken place on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and had included the election of West Midlands Fire Service as the nominated agency to chair the group for future meetings.

Paul Gordon informed the panel that all void properties and void land sites featured on a spreadsheet and any void properties that were considered as dangerous and/or posed a risk to the community would be dealt with as a priority; non-dangerous void properties may take longer to be dealt with and for all cases it would be officers' intention to recover all costs incurred from the property owners.

Laura Terry advised the panel to email her directly ([laura.terry@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:laura.terry@walsall.gov.uk)) with any suggestions or concerns they may have in the first instance.

**Resolved**

- i) That the report be noted:

175/16     **Funding Report**

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager reported that fourteen projects had been put forward for approval as they met the necessary criteria.

Councillor Craddock expressed his concern with regards to the reduced timescale in which to consider the funding report and the funding applications.

Councillor Worrall (Vice Chair) informed the Area Panel that he had received an email from Councillor Perry (Chair) to be read out in his absence stating that he had no issues with any of the funding applications from the Pelsall ward but he had highlighted that there were a number of organisations which had submitted repeat applications and suggested that those respective organisations be part funded only. The Area Manager confirmed that although some organisations had submitted a number of applications over time, these applications were for different activities and not repeat applications.

Councillor Ferguson enquired why some applications had been submitted to the Area Panel by the local authority. In response, the Area Manager stated that the rules of funding did not prohibit any organisation from submitting an application and providing the application fitted the funding criteria, then the application would be brought to the subsequent Area Panel meeting for consideration.

Councillor Worrall referred to section 106 monies and stated Members should have an input into where section 106 monies were being spent within their respective wards. The Area Manager reminded Members that Area Panels had received a report in relation to a consultation on planning documents (30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015) which had included information pertaining to section 106 obligations. Councillor Worrall then referred to the possibility of a joint application with whg to secure fencing and gating to alleviate the long standing issue of anti-social behaviour around the garages by Rushall park. The Area Manager replied that when whg had determined how the issue could be resolved and with which agencies, ie. Highways / Parks team, then an application could be forwarded to the Area Panel by whg for up to 50% of the costs.

Discussions ensued around whether to consider all or some of the funding applications at that time and Councillor Craddock **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Bennett:-

### **Resolved**

That all funding applications be deferred to a special meeting for additional information to be provided and that applicants be invited to attend.

The Motion, having been put to the vote was declared **carried**, with all Members voting in favour.

## 176/16 **Area Manager Report**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the panel. She informed the area panel that the Clayhanger Village Association was now operating out of the Clayhanger Community Centre.

Councillor Worrall queried the usage of only one CCTV camera between the three wards and what consideration had determined that specific location (currently Victoria Road, Pelsall). The Area Manager report the CCTV camera was deployed in various locations around the three wards dependent upon the type and level of crime reported directly to the Police. The Head of Business and Change informed the area panel that five CCTV cameras would to be purchased by the Asset Strategy Group and these would be positioned around the borough on the basis of need. He also stated that he would explore the issue around the potential use of signage to act as a deterrent.

A local resident expressed concern in relation to the merging of neighbourhood police teams and stated that he was unable to contact the police on the 101 telephone number. The Area Manager confirmed that 101 and 999 were the only direct lines through to the police; 101 calls were logged and 999 was the number to call in an emergency and that both Brownhills and Pelsall would be retaining an officer to provide continuity to the areas. The Vice Chair requested the attendance of an Inspector or Superintendent to the next meeting.

### **Resolved**

- i) That the report be noted:
- ii) That a member of the Police be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the changes to policing within West Midlands Police

### **177/16 Items for future meetings**

It was agreed that the following be included on the agenda for the next Area Panel:-

- Void properties – standard agenda item
- Policing in Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Shelfield area

and that a Special Area Panel meeting be arranged to:-

- consider the funding applications deferred from 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and to include details of respective organisations funding to date, joint funding, whether local authority based
- nomination of a co-opted member

178/16     **Dates and venues for future Area Panel Meetings**

The next scheduled meeting was Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016  
commencing at 6.00pm at Rushall Community Association, Springfields,  
Rushall, WS4 1JT

**Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.25 pm

Chair .....

Dated .....