

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Thursday, 18 July, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chairman)
Councillor E.B. Russell (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Zahid Ali
Councillor M. Arif
Councillor I. Azam
Councillor A. Ditta
Councillor Mrs. B.V. McCracken
Councillor H.S. Sarohi
Councillor V. Whyte

Officers in attendance

Denise Perry - Area Manager
Craig Goodall - Committee Business and Governance Manager

11/13

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Anson, Councillor R. Martin and Councillor M. Nazir.

12/13

Declarations of Interest

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

13/13

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

It was noted that there were no private session items on the agenda.

14/13

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 2nd July, 2013, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

Funding Report

The Panel considered project funding applications for the Walsall South area.

The Area Manager introduced the following projects:-

Extension of existing car park at Butts Primary School

The Area Manager introduced the project funding application. She explained that this project had been put forward in order to contribute to reducing the congestion with parked vehicles in the area. The project was trying to create off-street parking for staff, parents and visitors to Butts Primary School. This would relieve pressure on on-street parking. The school was funding the bulk of the project with a contribution from Walsall Housing Group and the remaining sum coming from the Walsall South Area Panel.

The meeting discussed the contribution from WHG and noted that they had also created 80 car parking spaces in the area.

Walsall Community Chaplaincy Project

The Area Manager explained that this scheme was a sub-section of a larger lottery funded project. She explained that this was a successful scheme assisting the rehabilitation of offenders. Many of whom were residents in the Walsall South area. Funding for the project expired in October, 2013 and the project was looking for continuation funding to enable it to proceed to March, 2014 whilst trying to attract additional long term funding.

The Panel were very supportive of the project. Whilst they were happy to provide the continuation funding, they expressed the wish that community safety partners should consider supporting the project in the longer term.

Smarter Sculptures 4 Teenagers

The Area Manager explained that this project was designed to engage teenagers during school holiday periods. The project was designed to attract young people to libraries to engage them in positive activities but also to engage them with the library service. There were low reading and literacy rates in the Walsall South area. Teenage membership of libraries was also traditionally low. The Area Manager explained that there had been a request from the library service to hold the project during the October half term holiday to allow more time to promote the events.

Members commented that they were very supportive of the scheme and its aims and objectives, however, they would much prefer it to take place during the summer holidays as this is when it would have the most impact.

Resolved

That:

- (1) £5,500.00 be awarded to the Butts Primary School to contribute to the extension of their existing car park;
 - (2) £2,260.00 be awarded to the Walsall Community Chaplaincy Project;
 - (3) the Area Manager encourage community safety partners to consider providing funding for the Walsall Community Chaplaincy Project from March, 2014 onwards;
- and;
- (4) £1,825.00 be awarded to the Smarter Sculptures 4 Teenagers project to take place in the summer 2013.

16/13

Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 3rd October, 2013.

Termination of meeting

The meeting closed at 6.14 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: