

DARLASTON NORTH/BENTLEY/DARLASTON SOUTH AREA PANEL

Tuesday, 8 July, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

at Darlaston Town Hall, Victoria Road, Darlaston

Present

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

In Attendance

Lyndon Parkes - Area Manager
Dr. Rischie - Clinical Commissioning Group

52/14

Apology

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

53/14

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March, 2014, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Panel be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

54/14

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

55/14

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

56/14

Funding Report

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) reported the receipt of an additional funding application from Moxley People's Centre to fund a junior summer programme during the school summer holidays in the sum of £600. The report had been received outside of normal timescales and could be considered at an alternative special meeting. The Panel agreed to consider this request along with the two applications contained in the report.

Lyndon Parkes enlarged upon the report and explained the projects contained therein.

Referring to the Family Fun Days proposed for 12th July and 13th December, 2014, Councillor Burley questioned whether the 13th December date was correct. Lyndon Parkes agreed to check on the proposed date for the Christmas Family Fun Day and it was,

Resolved

That the project applications contained in the report, and the request for funding for school summer holiday events by Moxley People's Centre in the sum of £600, be approved.

57/14

Area Manager's Report

The report of the Area Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel.

Councillor Underhill referred to the "no cold calling zone" being set up in the Bentley area and indicated that residents fully supported the scheme. She added that residents were delighted that their concerns had been listened to and activated. Lyndon Parkes reported that "No cold calling" signs were being prepared and would be erected shortly. Councillor Burley commented that as a result on the success of this pilot scheme it would probably be rolled out across other parts of the Borough.

Lyndon Parkes drew the Panel's attention to the problem of "car cruising" in Moxley and reported that over 200 cars were involved. West Midlands Police were working with the Community Safety Team to introduce a Black Country area wide injunction which could lead to seizure of vehicles. Aldi car park in Moxley was a particular "hot spot" and following representations from Council officers and locally Elected Members, Aldi had agreed to re-instate security on the car park.

After further discussion it was,

Resolved

That the report be noted.

58/14

Topics for discussion at future meetings

Councillor Burley asked if there were any matters which should be discussed at future meetings of the Panel. Lyndon Parkes referred to the closures of Bentley Mill Way and Bentley Road South to enable improvements and development to take place.

Councillor Chambers referred to the upgrading of Junction 10 of the M6 motorway. It was suggested that the schemes should be discussed at the September meeting of the Panel which could be held at Bentley Pavilion or the Church on the Corner, Church Hall.

The Area Manager commented that another question time event might lead to a greater public interest and the Safer Walsall Partnership could be invited to the November meeting.

Councillor Underhill asked if participatory budgeting (verge parking) would be included for discussion by the Panel. Lyndon Parkes indicated that this was still to be determined.

Resolved

- (1) That the improvements to Bentley Mill Way and Bentley Road South and the upgrade to Junction 10 of the M6 motorway be considered at the September meeting of the Panel;
- (2) That the meeting be held at the Church on the Corner, Church Hall or, if the Hall is unavailable, at Bentley Pavilion.

59/14

Update on flood risk management

The report of the Head of Engineering and Transportation to Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 3 April, 2014 was submitted:-

(see annexed)

After a brief discussion it was,

Resolved

That the report be noted.

Emergency and Urgent Care Consultation

A consultation document prepared by Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Dr. Rischie (Clinical Commissioning Group) enlarged upon the consultation document for the benefit of the Panel and explained the reasons for the review. He stated that A&E services at the Manor Hospital were under intense pressure and it had been hoped that the provision of the Walk-In Centre in the Town Centre would help to relieve some of that pressure. However, because of the re-development of the Town Centre, the Walk-in Centre would have to be relocated. There were three options to be considered for the Walk-In Centre - a new Town Centre location; an out of town location in the north of the Borough or relocation to the Manor Hospital to merge with the Emergency and Urgent Care Centre already operating from the hospital. The Panel felt that a new Town Centre location would be desirable as it was central and could be accessed easily by public transport.

Dr. Rischie referred to the duplication of services which would arise from a Walk-In Centre in the Town Centre and having the Emergency and Urgent Care Centre at the hospital. He continued that the consultation period would end on 14 August, 2014 and whichever option was chosen, would proceed.

Members referred to the problem of getting an appointment with their GP. It could take up to three weeks to get an appointment to see your own doctor. However, if you were prepared to see any doctor then an appointment could often be had on the same day.

Councillor Underhill commented that she was not aware of the Emergency and Urgent Care Centre at the Manor Hospital. Dr. Rischie agreed that communication had been a significant problem in the past.

Councillor Burley felt that if Option 3 was chosen (Walk-In Centre at the Manor Hospital) then it would increase pressure at the Manor Hospital again. She felt that a Town Centre site would be best and asked if a Town Centre site would be open 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. rather than 24 hours. Dr. Rischie replied that only the Emergency and Urgent Care Centre at the Manor Hospital would be 24 hour. Two 24 hour services in such close proximity would not be sustainable.

After further discussion it was,

Resolved

- (1) That the consultation document be noted;

- (2) That Option 1 - move the Walk-In Centre to a new Town Centre location - be supported.

61/14

Gulley maintenance in Walsall

The report of the Group Manager - Engineering and Transportation, was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

62/14

Area Community Plan Refresh

A report was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and asked if there were any additions or amendments to the draft document.

Councillor Chambers felt that investment into Bentley West playing fields (bullet point 2) should include a reference to the new buildings. The final bullet point with regard to Bentley should include a reference to Darlaston Jet.

Councillor Burley felt that a reference to Neighbourhood Watch should be included in the document.

Lyndon Parkes agreed to include the suggestions in the draft document and it was,

Resolved

That the draft Darlaston/Bentley Area Community Plan, as amended, be supported.

63/14

Dates and venues for future meetings

The dates and venues for future meetings of the Panel were submitted.

Resolved

That the dates and future venues of meetings be noted, subject to the meeting on 15th September, 2014 being held at the Church on the Corner or Bentley Pavilion.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman

Date