

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

**Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Brownhills Community Association, Chester Road North/Pelsall Road,  
Brownhills, WS8 7JW**

### **Present**

Councillor G. Perry (Chair)  
Councillor B. Cassidy (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor O. D. Bennett  
Councillor C. Clews  
Councillor S. R. Craddock  
Councillor M. Longhi  
Councillor L. J. Rattigan  
Councillor S. Wade  
Councillor R. V. Worrall

### **Officers in attendance**

Ranjit Kaur – Partnership Manager  
Beverley Mycock – Committee Business and Governance Manager

Due to the number of observers present at the Area Panel meeting, the Chair requested that everyone introduce themselves.

### **73/14 Apologies**

No apologies had been received.

The Vice-Chair expressed concern that some members of the community regularly attended Area Panel meetings but were not Co-opted Members. The Committee Business and Governance Manager reported that Members had resolved at the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 not to appoint Co-opted Members for the current municipal year. The Vice-Chair stated she would write a letter to the Cabinet Member for Community Leisure and Culture requesting that the constitution of Area Panels be revisited.

### **74/14 Minutes of meeting**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **75/14 Declarations of Interest**

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

## **76/14 Local Government Access to Information Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

The Chairman reported that Agenda item number 6 relating to a presentation on Dementia would be considered before Agenda item number 5.

## **77/14 Dementia**

A Dementia awareness verbal presentation was delivered by Michael Hurt, Commissioning Manager : Older People's Mental Health and Dementia, from NHS Walsall CCG/Social Care and Inclusion – Walsall Council.

The presentation included informative facts including:-

### Statistical Information

- 1 in 4 over 65 years old, 1 in 6 over 80 years old and 15 thousand below 65 years old;
- 1627 people diagnosed with Dementia in Walsall (2013/14), with around 70 of these people having working age Dementia (Dementia under 65 years old);
- Nationally, it is thought two thirds of care home residents have Dementia but not all are cared for in a specialist Dementia registered home.

### Genetic Inheritance

- Family history and carriers of ApoE4 gene.

### Environment

- No environmental factors identified.

### Other Factors

- Down 's syndrome, severe head or whiplash injuries, boxers, people who smoke, and those who have high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels increase their risk of developing Alzheimer's.

Councillor Worrall enquired what type of support was available to the carers of people suffering from Dementia. Mr. Hurt reported that the CCG was appointing a number of new of positions (Personal Assistants) whose role would be to assist in the early intervention stages of Dementia in order to enable the individual

concerned and their family/carer to plan for the future, be aware of what and where support systems were and what benefits may be available to both the individual concerned and their carer.

The Chairman thanked Michael for his informative presentation.

#### **78/14 Update of Walsall Council's Gully Cleaning Project**

A verbal presentation was delivered by Richard Pohribnyj, Team Leader - Highway Maintenance, in relation to an ongoing gully cleaning project, being undertaken by a contractor on behalf of Walsall Council, to reform gully maintenance across the borough. He explained that the aim of the project had been to investigate and to clear all 32,000 gullies in Walsall by the end of March 2014, whilst obtaining data and highlighting problem areas, with the intention of creating an ongoing schedule of preventative gully cleaning, rather than having to react to issues once they are reported and thereby allowing the gully cleaning crew to work intensively in one area.

Mr. Pohribnyj reported that the average cost of cleaning gullies on a designated schedule of routes would be reduced to £10 per gully with around 145 scheduled gullies cleaned per day. He explained that by monitoring and scheduling regular problem area gully cleaning by the gully cleaning crew and taking preventative action, reactive response call outs to the contractor which on average cost over £100 per gully, would be greatly reduced. He stated that although there was an adopted Highway budget there were limits on where the money could be spent.

Councillor Craddock enquired if Ward Councillors could have coded gully maps of their wards to enable precise problem areas to be reported. Mr. Pohribnyj confirmed that data was available on all of the gullies in the borough and therefore when Highways received a telephone call in relation to a problem gully, officers could verify when the contractor was due in that particular area and all complaints would be logged and monitored.

The Chair requested a representative from Clean & Green to attend a future Area Panel meeting to give a general overview of Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield Wards and to answer any questions Members may have.

The Chair thanked Mr. Pohribnyj for his informative presentation.

#### **79/14 Funding Report**

The funding report was submitted

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and informed Committee there were seven summarised project applications and requested Members to consider the seven funding applications as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report.

In relation to the WW1 Memorial Improvements Pelsall Project, the Chair enquired if the chain link around the WW1 Memorial grounds could be black links as opposed to white links. The Area Manager confirmed that as the area was common land, a fence could not be erected around the respective area but the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had no issues with chain link fencing around the site. The Area Manager stated that white chain linking had been recommended for health and safety reasons as black chain link would not be visible to people walking on the Common after dark.

Councillor Rattigan enquired if the Apache camera could be installed on Rushall Park to catch motorbike riders. In response the Area Manager reported that the Apache camera was currently out of action but she would speak to Police to investigate and monitor the concerns.

Councillor Perry **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Craddock that all applications identified in Appendix 1 of the report be approved. All Members voted in favour of the Motion it was therefore

### **Resolved**

- i. That £1,176.16 be allocated towards the Teens & Toddlers Youth Development Programme with the aim of reducing teenage pregnancy by raising aspiration and self-esteem;
- ii. That £579.00 be allocated towards the Brownhills Business & Community Network Lunch Project to bring together business and community groups from the local area to promote Brownhills Community Association facilities;
- iii. That £930.00 be allocated towards the Brownhills Community Cafe Project to update the Cafe room at Brownhills Community Association;
- iv. That £2,892.00 be allocated to the Outdoor Gym Equipment Project with the aim of installing 9 separate pieces of Fresh Air Fitness outdoor gym equipment;
- v. That £809.26 be allocated towards the National Cycle Route 5 Signs Project to replace faded signs on the Sustrans National Cycle Route 5 through Pelsall which are no longer readable;
- vi. That £4,455.00 be allocated towards the WW1 Memorial Improvements Pelsall Project to improve the WW1 Memorial grounds by installing black posts with white chain link and to also mount the name plaques on rock;
- vii. That £4920.00 be allocated towards the Rushall Indoor Bowls Project to engage with senior citizens in Rushall to identify the most effective way of delivering health exercise and social opportunities to them.

### **80/14 Area Manager Report**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

### Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities Theme

At this juncture of the meeting the Chair introduced a local resident who addressed the Area Panel in relation to the CCTV Security Initiative that he and a group of residents were currently investigating following experiences of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to cars and properties around their homes. He reported that he had identified a company that could provide high quality, high definition CCTV pictures and he had made a request to the company to provide three solutions with costings.

A discussion ensued by Members which included concerns around the need to ensure the correct funding process would be adhered to and it would not be the type of project that could be carried out in only one area. The Area Manager reported that all funding applications had to be justified and evidences would be required. For example proof of crime figures from the Police, before any funding could be considered. The Area Manager enquired if the resident had made contact with Brownhills Secure House Initiative to which he replied that he had. The Area Manager stated that the resident should contact the Area Support Officer if he wished to request a funding application.

The Chair then introduced another local resident who spoke to the Area Panel in relation to ongoing anti-social behaviour problems on a plot of land at the end of Spring Close Rushall, where garages had once been sited but had since been demolished. He enquired if it would be possible for Walsall Council to move a street light to the particular problem area. Councillor Worrall stated that as Neighbourhood Services did not have any budget to move lampposts, the problems encountered were a security issue which the Area Manager could investigate. The Area Manager confirmed that she had spoken to Liz Thomas, Public Lighting PFI Manager who had confirmed that the department had only received two anti-social reports/issues from that area. The Area Manager stated she would request a costing but Liz Thomas had reported that street lighting was intended for highways and not individual areas.

The Chair added that the area in question was the responsibility of whg as landlords and that the residents should report all incidents of anti-social behaviour to the Police.

***Councillor Cassidy left at this juncture of the meeting and did not return.***

The Area Manager then presented her report and highlighted the salient points contained therein. Members were informed that Paragraph 7.6 of the report should have read “St Michaels CE Primary School, Pelsall” and not St. Francis School, Pelsall.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

#### **81/14 Election of Representative to the Local Police and Crime Board**

The Chair informed the Area Panel that he would not be able to represent the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Shelfield Area on the Local Police and Crime Board and requested a nomination.

The Chair **moved** and Councillor Worrall **seconded**:-

That Mr Brian Poxon be nominated as the Community Representative to represent the Area Partnership on the Local Police and Crime Board for the municipal year 2014/15.

#### **Resolved**

That Mr Brian Poxon be nominated as the Community Representative to represent the Area Partnership on the Local Police and Crime Board for the municipal year 2014/15.

#### **71/14 Near Neighbourhoods Programme**

The Area Manager informed the Area Panel that she had received a letter from Brownhills Local Committee:-

(see annexed)

The Chair invited Mr. D. Birch MBE, the Chairman of Brownhills Local Committee to address the Area Panel. Mr. Birch reported that Brownhills Local Committee had been informed via an email from Walsall Partnership of the availability of Near Neighbourhood funding but upon enquiring further they had been informed the programme did not extend to Brownhills and no explanation could be given.

The Area Manager confirmed that Black Country Near Neighbourhoods had asked Walsall Partnership to forward an email to all Local Committees, Community Associations etc. Walsall Partnership had not been informed the funding did not apply to all areas of Walsall.

#### **72/14 Dates and Venues for Future Meetings**

The next Area Panel meeting to be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 at Rushall Community Centre, Springfields, Rushall, WS4 1JT.

The Chairman reminded the Area Panel that it was Ranjit's last working day with Walsall Council and he thanked her for all of her help and support to Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield areas over the years. This was echoed by all Members present.

**Termination of meeting**

*The meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.*

Chair:.....

Date:.....