

DARLASTON NORTH/BENTLEY/DARLASTON SOUTH AREA PANEL

Monday, 15 September, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

at Bentley Leisure Pavilion, Bentley Road North, Walsall

Present

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

In Attendance

Lyndon Parkes - Area Manager
Megan Stynes - Communities and Public Protection Support Officer

69/14

Apology

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

70/14

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 8 and 23 July, 2014 (Special), copies having previously been circulated to each Member of the Panel be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

71/14

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

72/14

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

73/14

Darlaston Access Project

Stuart Everton (Darlaston Strategic Development Area Manager - Highways) made a PowerPoint presentation with the aid of slides:-

(see annexed)

He explained the proposed road improvements at Bentley Road South; Bentley Mill Way; Darlaston Road/Pleck Road junction and Wallows Lane junction, Walsall. He drew the meeting's attention to key closure dates and timescales for the various road closures involved with the scheme.

Residents in attendance expressed concern that both Bentley Road South and Bentley Mill Way would be closed at the same time making it extremely difficult to get around the Bentley area of Darlaston. Stuart Everton explained the reasons behind both roads being closed together. There were a number of other questions and answers given, after which it was,

Resolved

That the presentation on the Darlaston Access Project be noted.

Councillor Burley hoped that residents had found the presentation useful and suggested that a similar exercise should be carried out in six months time when work had been progressing so that if residents had any concerns, then they could be aired.

74/14

Funding Report

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) enlarged upon the report and explained the projects contained therein.

Teens and Toddlers Youth Development Programme

The Area Manager reported that funding in the sum of £838.00 had been requested. Matchfunding of £3,510.08 was to be provided by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £838.00 be approved.

Darlaston Festivities

The Area Manager reported that the Fun Day would bring together residents, businesses and Community Organisations. A stage would be based in King Street providing a base for local entertainments and acts. Funding was requested in the sum of £1,095.00. He added that matchfunding was likely from local businesses.

Councillor Burley referred to the timescale. Lyndon Parkes replied that a specific date would be provided once funding had been finalised.

Members felt that the project should be approved provided the date proposed did not clash with other organisation's events over the Christmas period and some matchfunding was included.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £1,095.00 be approved, subject to the date proposed not clashing with other events over the Christmas period and some matchfunding being provided.

Rowlands Close security improvements

The Area Manager reported that the scheme involved the installation of measures to restrict access to the rear of properties in Rowlands Close and Stroud Avenue, in particular to reduce access by pedestrians and motor vehicles. Funding in the sum of £760.00 was requested. Matchfunding of £760.00 was to be provided by WHG.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £760.00 be approved.

Darlaston Winter Lighting Scheme

The Area Manager reported that the scheme would provide up-to-date LED technology equipment to be used to illuminate trees throughout Darlaston Town Centre. This would create an enticing atmosphere to uplift the Town Centre and improve the night time economy during the dark winter months. It would also add to the town's festive lighting during the Christmas period and support a deprived area in creating ambience lighting to attract visitors and help towards the regeneration of the Town Centre and neighbouring areas. Funding in the sum of £2,000.00 was requested. Matchfunding in the sum of £2,500.00 from Darlaston Town Centre Partnership; £3,000.00 from WHG and £1,000.00 from Accord Housing had been confirmed and a further £14,678.00 business sponsorship and grant funding was ongoing but remained to be confirmed.

Councillor Underhill referred to the fact that smaller businesses in Darlaston had been hit hard by the recession and would find it difficult to sponsor the scheme. However, large multi-national organisations and supermarket chains should be encouraged to support the project.

Councillor Burley asked if Darlaston Town Hall and King Street could be included in the areas to be lit. After further discussion it was,

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £2,000.00 be approved, provided that business sponsorship and grant funding is confirmed and that Darlaston Town Hall and King Street be included in the scheme if possible.

75/14

Area Manager's Report

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Lyndon Parkes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and drew attention to the following matters:-

- Cold calling zone - Bentley area
- Car cruising - Moxley area
- Old Hall People's Partnership - "Aiming High" Project
- Citydeal initiative
- A "listening event" which took place on 30 August for the community in Rough Hay and was delivered as part of Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group's 'Connecting Communities' initiative

After discussion it was,

Resolved

That the Area Manager's report be noted.

76/14

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.

77/14

Lyndon Parkes - Area Manager

Councillor Burley reported that this would be Lyndon's last meeting as Area Manager as he was leaving the Authority to return to Walsall Housing Group. She thanked him for his work on behalf of the Panel and wished him well for the future. Lyndon Parkes responded and it was,

Resolved

That the verbal comments be noted.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.

Chairman

Date