

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL MEETING

TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2016 at 6.00pm

BURROWES STREET TMO, TENANT MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTRE

Present

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick (Chair)
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Councillor C. Jones
Councillor K. Phillips
Councillor I. Robertson
Councillor M. Ward
Councillor A. Young
Mr Pat Dean

Officers

Paul Gordon – Head of Business Change
Vanessa Croft – Area Manager
Sarah Heath – Community Protection Officer
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer

01/16

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were received from Councillors L. Jeavons, B. Allen, M. Follows, L. Harrison, and T. Jukes.

Resolved

That it be recommended to Council that Mr Pat Dean is formally co-opted onto the membership of the North Walsall Area Panel.

02/16

Declarations of Interest

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick declared an interest as a Director of Bloxwich Community Partnership (Keep out of the cold).

03/16

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

04/16

Minutes

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 7th April, 2016.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th April, 2016, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

It was agreed that items 6 and 7 would be received prior to item 5.

05/16

Area Managers Report

The Area Manager presented the report and stated that the report sought to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of work carried out in the local area.

Members sought clarification on elements of the report. Members raised concern that loud music was being played at a pub in Bloxwich and questioned licensing requirements. The Community Protection Officer agreed to investigate and contact Members by e-mail.

Officers stated that cameras in Forest Avenue had identified a group of offenders and as a result the cameras would be staying in place. Cameras in Field Road had developed a fault and would need to be taken down. However a camera would be installed in Harding Road.

Members were informed that Bloxwich Fire Station had run a Cadet training programme which had received excellent feedback. It was suggested that more detailed feedback on this was received at the next meeting of the Area Panel.

Fly Tipping on the Lea was discussed along with anti social behaviour problems such as drugs, and prostitution. Members questioned how much income was received from fun fairs using the site. It was agreed that a report on this issue would be taken to a future meeting. Members also discussed anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at Buxton Close. The Area Manager agreed to circulate a letter to residents.

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick left the room whilst Members of the Panel discussed potential license applications in Blakenall. Councillor A. Young took the Chair. The Clerk advised that Members would not be able to discuss this issue as it is not on the agenda and asked Members to discuss outside of the meeting. This was agreed.

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick came back into the room and took the Chair.

Resolved that

More detailed feedback is received at the next meeting on the fire service cadet programme.

04/16

Funding Report

The Area Manager presented the report which set out project applications for consideration.

Youth ASB project 2016/17 – Area Partnerships

Members discussed the project as detailed in the report (annexed). In response to concern from Members the Community Protection Officer stated that this project had been very successful and had seen a significant reduction in crime and it was hoped that it would be rolled out across the Borough. The Panel approved the application of £2500.00

Environmental and Security Projects 2016/17 – Area Partnerships

Members spoke on the impact of previous projects and that it had changed the lives of residents.

The Panel approved the application of £3500.00

Walsall Link Line – Reaching Out

The Panel were informed that this project was aimed at helping children to understand dementia. Members expressed concern that this was a significant amount of money to allocate when there was existing work taking place in relation to dementia. The Area Manager confirmed that this was specific to children in North Walsall.

The Panel awarded £2043.00 to the project and requested feedback at its meeting in November 2016 with a further £2043.00 ring fenced for this project.

Progress to Work – Steps to Work

The Panel were informed that this project would target the 30 plus age bracket to ease the transgression into work. Members debated the application and it was proposed that 50% of the requested total was awarded.

The Panel approved the application of £1250.00. Feedback on the project was requested to the Panels November 2016 meeting. The remainder of the money requested, £1250.00, would be ring fenced.

Summer Reading Challenge

Members discussed the project as detailed in the report (annexed).The Panel approved the application of £180.00

Keep out of the Cold

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick left the room whilst discussions took place. Members discussed the project as detailed in the report (annexed).The Panel approved the application of £801.95

Jerome K Jerome Canoe Project

Members discussed the project as detailed in the report (annexed). The Panel approved the application of £590.00.

Resolved

That the funding applications be approved as set out within the minutes.

05/16

Community Protection Warnings

The 'Professional Practice Note – Guidance on the use of Community Protection Notices' was tabled (annexed). The Panel were informed that Community Protection Warnings had been used by other Councils to stop fly posting, nuisances relating to gardens, and to ensure that rubbish was cleaned up. The notices were served to an individual and not a property. However the legislation allowed them to be served on landlords who were not addressing problems at their property.

Police in Walsall were using them and notices had been issued in North Walsall. In order to use them, evidence was needed as if the notice was challenged it would not be upheld if evidence did not exist to support it.

The Panel were informed that a warning tends to work as a preventative measure and that the Council hoped to work with the Police to ensure that all processes were followed.

A discussion was held about anti-social behaviour on the Beechdale estate. Officers agreed to investigate. The Community Protection Officer encouraged the Panel to report problem behaviour and to copy her into correspondence.

Resolved that

The report was noted.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be 13th September 2016.

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

Chairman:

Date: