

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Tuesday, 10 February, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor E.B. Russell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M. Arif
Councillor R.A. Martin
Councillor A.A Nawaz
Councillor M. Nazir
Councillor G.S. Sohal
Councillor V. White

Officers in attendance

Kate Bowers, Interim Head of Communities & Public Protection
Denise Perry - Area Manager
Megan Powles – Area Support Officer
Matt Underhill - Committee Business & Governance Manager

Invitees

Representatives of Caldmore Community Garden

83/14

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anson and Councillor Sarohi.

84/14

Minutes

Resolved:

The minutes were amended to reflect the correct spelling of Councillor Nawaz's name at page 5.

That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 15 December, 2014, as amended, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

Declarations of Interest

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of interest</u>	<u>Item</u>
Councillor Arif	Non-pecuniary	Item 7- Funding Report
Councillor Whyte	Non-pecuniary	Item 7 - Funding Report

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

It was noted that there were no items to be considered in private session.

Area Manager's Report

All Panel Members expressed thanks to the Area Manager who will be moving to a different area of Walsall following a restructure. The Chair explained that Walsall South was a challenging area and was very grateful for the help and support the Area Manager had provided. A Panel Member explained that the Area Manager had worked very hard in Walsall South. Other Members agreed and noted the tremendous contribution the Area Manager had made in Walsall South. Panel Members pointed out that the Area Manager lived in the area and this had helped her in identifying local issues and being able to effectively tackle them, as well as helping build local capacity. A number of Panel Members spoke of how the Area Manager had been very supportive and helpful when they were newly elected councillors. Panel Members wished the Area Manager well and looked forward to being able to call upon her skills and experience in the future.

In response to a Panel query the Area Manager agreed to confirm the contact details for the Sports Development Team. (The contact number is 01922 658080). It was also explained that use of the new Sweat gym was through fee paying membership only.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

88/14

Caldmore Community Garden: Outdoor Cinema Equipment Consultation

The representatives of the Caldmore Community Garden (CCG) explained that the garden was a multi-cultural community facility run by the community. In addition, the CCG grow their own food which is sold locally. It was explained that the intention would be to operate the cinema once a month. It was also explained that the CCG had established good relations with local neighbours and ensured that issues such as noise were properly managed. It was further explained that a number of successful events have been held at the CCG, including a bonfire night event in 2014 which was attended by 200 people. Other events include open days and cultural days which have benefitted the local community. The objective is for the cinema to showcase different language films which reflect the different groups in the local community, from Eastern Europe to Bangladesh. The hope is that the programme of films will encourage further engagement across the community. It was also explained that the garden has a fence providing a secure area for children and enabling families to attend events.

A Panel Member expressed the view that the CCG was very effective at involving all sections of the community. A further Panel Member expressed the view that the CCG was a good community resource and it would be important to encourage this type of work. She noted the range of community activities offered at the CCG, including gardening, music and arts. A further Panel Member explained that he had previously been concerned by issues such as noise that may have resulted from the operation of the cinema. However, based on the guidance provided he was now largely reassured. He also explained that he also better understood the vision for the CCG and the cinema. A Panel Member estimated that funding of around £50k had been received to date to assist the CCG in becoming a success. Supporters of the CCG also included

whg and Caldmore Accord Housing. A further Panel Member explained that the CCG also worked with the local school and she was aware of the group's commitment to education.

The Chair thanked the representatives from the CCG for attending the meeting.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

89/14

Funding Report

In relation to Bath Road/ Little London Security Improvements, Members approved an extension of the deadline for the completion of the installation of the set of gates to enable the necessary indemnity paperwork to be completed. It was agreed that the deadline would be extended to 31 March 2015.

It was **moved** by the Chair and **seconded** by Councillor Nawaz:-

That the deadline for completion of the Bath Road/ Little London Security Improvements be extended to 31 March 2015.

The motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

Caldmore Outdoor Cinema

The Chair noted that the Panel seemed to be in agreement regarding the merits of the project and the benefit to the community.

Councillors' Arif and Whyte, having declared an interest, left the room for the duration of the vote.

It was **moved** by Councillor Russell and **seconded** by Councillor Nawaz:-

That the Caldmore Outdoor Cinema be awarded
£1,849.90

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**. The representatives of the CCG were invited to a future Panel meeting to advise them on the progress of the project.

A suggestion was made by the Interim Head of Communities & Public Protection that any balance of funding be considered for a Big Spring Clean event in South Walsall. It was explained that the Head of Street Pride had agreed to support an initiative across each of the Area Partnerships. This would take the form of a week of activity in each of the Area Partnership areas with community organisations asked for their views and support in identifying and tackling local issues. e.g. graffiti; litter. It was agreed in principal that the Panel would support this initiative, with a special meeting held to approve the allocation of funding if necessary.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

90/14

Dates and venues for future meetings

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 7 April, 2015 in the Council House, Walsall.

Termination of meeting

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: