

**DARLASTON NORTH/BENTLEY/DARLASTON SOUTH
AREA PANEL**

Wednesday, 15 July 2015 at 6.00 pm

at Darlaston Methodist Church, Slater Street, Darlaston

Present:

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

In attendance:

Nicola Holmes – Area Manager
Steve Gittins – Deputy Community Safety Officer
Jo Lowndes – Area Partnership Manager
John Roseblade – Group Manager, Highways & Environment

Apology:

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

103/15

Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2015, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Panel, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the addition of an apology for non-attendance from Councillor James.

104/15

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Burley and Chambers declared interests in items in the funding report but stated they had received dispensations to be able to discuss and vote upon those matters.

105/15

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

Highways Maintenance Prioritisation

A report of the Group Manager, Highways & Environment, was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Roseblade enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and drew attention to the priority ranking.

Mr. Roseblade asked the Panel to determine how their points should be allocated by February 2016 so that they could be included in the 2016/17 programme. A list of schemes to be carried out during 2015/16 would be supplied to members shortly.

Councillor Chambers referred to the Old Hall estate where some roads and footpaths were owned by the Council and other roads and footpaths were owned by WHG. He asked if Officers could liaise with their counterparts at WHG to ensure repair works were co-ordinated. Mr. Roseblade replied that this was done as it helped to provide economy of scale. He added that the West Midlands had submitted a bid to Defra via the Challenge Fund which had resulted in £14m of additional funding for West Midlands roads. Walsall's share was £5.7M over the next three years to be spent on strategic routes only. Councillor Underhill referred to the poor state of repair of Poplar Avenue and Kent Road. She asked if it could be re-surfaced rather than repaired. Councillor Chambers agreed that it was one of the worst road surfaces in Darlaston.

Councillor Burley suggested that the matter should be considered again at the September meeting of the Panel when the 50 points per ward could be allocated.

Councillor Underhill reported that footpaths on the Old Hall Estate needed attention and on certain roads they needed to be provided as residents were forced to walk in the roadway.

After further discussion it was

Resolved

- (1) That the report and identified schemes be noted:-

and
- (2) That the matter be re-considered at the September meeting of the Panel when the points would be allocated.

CCTV Camera Locations

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Steve Gittins, Deputy Community Safety Manager, enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel. He indicated that there were 91 fixed cameras within the borough and 28 deployable ones. There were also a number of covert cameras owned by the Council which were used to tackle specific issues like fly tipping. Due to advances in technology the existing CCTV infrastructure and equipment needed to be upgraded and a consultant would be employed to evaluate the existing system and suggest a way forward, which could include capital investment by the Council; commissioning a third party to manage/provide the system or entering into a shared services arrangement. He added it was estimated that fixed cameras cost approximately £1500 per annum to provide.

Mr. Gittins then drew the Panel's attention to the Walsall Intelligence Network analysis of CCTV usage and drew attention to the fact that 15,131 camera incidents had been recorded between June 2012 and June 2015, but only 1,406 downloads had been requested. He added that Darlaston had 7 fitted cameras in its area and 220 incidents had been counted. Mobile cameras had been deployed well in Darlaston to deal with crime hotspots.

Councillor Underhill asked how often CCTV footage led to a prosecution.

Mr. Gittins replied that this could not be quantified as there were a number of other variables.

Members provided Mr. Gittins with a number of locations where CCTV might prove useful.

Councillor Chambers asked if WHG had been approached to contribute to the CCTV provision. Mr. Gittins replied that WHG had their own system, mainly fixed to flats and covering the surrounding area. He added that information was shared.

Nicola Holmes (Area Manager), indicated that residents often reported petty crime or unsociable behaviour before a camera was installed, but once it was in position they ceased to report problems to the police. She indicated that people should continue to report offences to the police after a camera had been provided.

After further discussion it was

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted and the provision of CCTV cameras be supported;
- (2) That wider consultation be carried out with stakeholders on CCTV;
- (3) That a further report on CCTV be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

108/15

Election of Representatives to the local Policing & Crime Board

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Nicola Holmes (Area Manager) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel. She indicated that Councillor Burley had been the Panel's representative on the Board for the maximum of two years so a new representative would need to be appointed.

Members expressed concern that Councillor Burley should be prevented from acting as the Panel's representative for a further year, and Councillor Chambers suggested that the terms of office should be tested when appointing Councillor Burley for a further term. Jo Lowndes (Area Partnership Manager) agreed to pass on the Panel's concerns.

Councillor Burley asked whether substitutions could be made as the next meeting of the local Policing & Crime Board on 15 September 2015 clashed with a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel, of which she was a member. Jo Lowndes replied that it was her understanding that substitutions were permitted.

Resolved

- (1) That Councillor Burley be nominated as the Committee representative to represent Darlaston Area Partnership on the local Policing & Crime Board for 2015/16 municipal year;

and
- (2) That Lynne Hughes be invited to attend the next meeting of the Panel to explain the reasoning behind the two year maximum for community representatives on the Local Policing & Crime Board.

109/15

Funding Report

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Nicola Holmes) enlarged upon the report and explained the projects contained therein. In para 4.1 of the report Nicola Holmes reported that prior approval had been obtained for the summer fun day at the Pavilion which had been held on 11 July 2015. It was reported that Councillors Burley & Chambers had declared an interest in this matter because they were directors of Darlaston Town Football Club. However, both Councillors had been granted dispensations to enable them to speak and vote on the proposal. Councillor Chambers reported that although match funding was reported as nil in the report, as a volunteer he had spent many unpaid hours working towards and during the fun day. He felt that this fact should be offset against match funding.

Nicola Holmes reported that the projects proposed in Appendix 1 amounted to £8,875.00. This would give a total of £24,387.69 to be disbursed during the remainder of this financial year.

110/15

Darlaston Party in the Park

The Area Manager reported that this community event aimed to engage residents from across the area at Victoria Park attracting all ages. It would offer a range of family activities and allow partner agencies to attend and provide information about their services to residents. The funding requested was £500.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £500 for the Darlaston Party in the Park on 18 July 2015 be approved.

111/15

Darlaston Youth Club Women's Inspired Project

Resolved

That the Darlaston Youth Club Women's Inspired Project running from 18 July to 6 August 2015 in the sum of £570 be approved.

112/15 **Moxley Peoples' Centre – Moxley After School Club and Sports Programme.**

The Area Manager (Nicola Holmes) reported that the Centre hoped to engage young people every Tuesday evening between September 2015 and March 2016. The centre would also provide one hour of sport and recreational activities to 20 participants from the Asian women's community during the same period at a cost of £4,245.

Councillor Chambers referred to the fact that this would provide much needed activity in the area and would use the centre's resources more effectively. In approving the project Councillor Chambers requested that a progress report be made to the Area Panel within 3 to 6 months so that positive outputs could be seen.

Councillor Burley requested a breakdown of how and where the funding had been spent.

Resolved

That the Moxley After School Club and Sports Programme for Asian Women in the sum of £4,245 be approved subject to a progress report being made to the Panel within 3 to 6 months to confirm that positive outputs are being met.

113/15 **Boxing in Darlaston**

Councillor Burley asked if the 1st August start date was feasible. Nicola Holmes agreed to check this.

Councillor Burley asked if the project was sustainable as a similar project at the Town Hall had folded in December 2014. Nicola Holmes felt that the scheme would be sustainable as Sports & Leisure were working with the National Governing Body of Boxing to support a boxing coach who was keen to establish a new club.

Resolved

That the Boxing In Darlaston for the period 1st August 2015 to 31st March 2016 in the sum of £2,065 be approved.

114/15 **Darlaston by the Sea**

The Area Manager (Nicola Holmes) explained the project for the benefit of the Area Panel.

Councillor Burley questioned whether WHG would be providing match funding for the event as it was her understanding that the group had indicated that it would not be sponsoring events in Darlaston this year.

Nicola Holmes agreed to check whether WHG would be supporting Darlaston by the Sea from 20th – 22nd August 2015.

Councillor Chambers asked if the scheme was still viable if WHG did not support the event. He asked if a scaled-down project could be provided to ensure the event went ahead in August.

Resolved

That the Darlaston by the Sea event from 20 -22 August 2015 in the sum of £1,495 be approved.

115/15

Area Manager's Report

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (Nicola Holmes) drew the Panel's attention to paragraph 2.3 of the report regarding anti-social behaviour and community cohesion issues around Whitton Street Green space. A meeting had been held on 9 July 2015 with partner agencies where anti-social behaviour and community cohesion issues have been discussed. She also drew the Panel's attention to paragraph 2.5 of the report regarding partnership working to raise awareness of personal, home and community safety problems in Darlaston. She added that a further meeting would be held with Assa Abloy (owner of Yale Security Products) to discuss opportunities in both Darlaston and Willenhall, on 16 July 2015 at 10.00 am.

Nicola Holmes drew the Panel's attention to paragraph 3.5 of the report regarding Rough Hay Community Centre's proposal to provide youth activities throughout August from the centre. This scheme would be funded by WHG and delivered by KicFM.

Councillor Burley referred to paragraph 4.4 of the report and to the opening of the Old Hall People's Partnership Library in July 2015. This would be supported by an official launch in September 2015. Reference was made to paragraph 5.2 of the report and to the work of partner agencies in establishing a dementia programme based at Moxley People's Centre.

After further discussion it was

Resolved

That the Area Manager's Report be noted

116/15 **Area Profile**

A copy of the Darlaston Area Profile was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Area Profile be noted.

117/15 **Themed items for future meetings**

Councillor Burley suggested that a different theme should be discussed at each of the remaining Area Panel meetings during the current municipal year. After discussion it was agreed that Employment and Benefits should be discussed on 16 September 2015; Community Safety (to include a representative from the Fire Service) on 12 November 2015; Health Matters on 26 January 2016; and a mopping up exercise carried out on 22 March 2016. The Area Panel meetings to commence at 5.30 pm to deal with normal partnership business, then the open sessions to commence at 6.00 pm.

Resolved

That the programme of themes referred to above be agreed.

118/15 **Dates for future meetings**

The dates for future meetings of the Panel were submitted.

Resolved

That the dates for future meetings be noted.

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at

7.55 pm

Chair.....

Date.....