

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Shelfield Area Panel

Tuesday 12 April, 2016

At Pelsall Village Centre, High Street, Pelsall, WS3 4LX

Present:

Councillor S. Craddock (Vice Chair)
Councillor O. D. Bennett
Councillor K. Ferguson
Councillor K. J. Rattigan
Councillor R. V. Worrall

Officers in attendance:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Laura Terry | - | Area Manager |
| Beverley Mycock | - | Committee Business & Governance Manager |
| Paul Gordon | - | Head of Business Change |

Cllr Craddock in the Chair

151/16 Apologies:

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Perry (Chair), Clews and Longhi

152/16 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2016 were submitted
(see annexed)

At this juncture of the meeting, only one Member was in attendance who had a been present at the meeting of 1st February and therefore the minutes would be confirmed at a subsequent meeting

153/16 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest submitted

154/16 Local Government Access to Information Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

155/16 **Consultation on Proposed Changes to National Planning Policy**

The Chair advised the Area Panel that although the incorrect report title had been recorded on the agenda and should have read 'Walsall's Local Plan Consultation', the correct accompanying report had been submitted.

The Vice Chair then welcomed Sandy Ur and Charis, Walsall Council's Planning Policy officers to give an overview of the report.

The Planning Policy Officers advised the Area Panel of the latest stage of consultation on three planning documents that were intended to help deliver regeneration, growth and environmental protection:

- a). The Site Allocation Development Plan Document (SAD) to allocated sites for development for housing (general housing, and gypsy travellers sites), employment and other uses across the borough outside the town and district centres
- b). The Area Action Plan (AAP) for Walsall Town Centre, to allocate sites for development and proposed improvements to support the Town Centre,
- c). The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule, which would allow changes to be placed on certain types of new development and provide funding for infrastructure.

The Planning Policy Officers reported the documents had been prepared and consulted on in several stages from 7 March and that consultations would continue up to 3 May by means of social media and face to face events throughout the borough.

It was further stated there were no proposals for changes to the Green Belt Policy as that was against the Council's core strategy of using developed land in the first instance which is less intrusive and that the borough had enough capacity without imposing into Green Belt.

The Planning Policy Officers further explained the plan would carry forward the safeguarding of railway alignment.

A number of queries and concerns were raised in relation to mineral extraction within the area. In response, it was stated that current mineral extraction could not be revoked but the document would identify requirements for new and amended mineral extraction proposals and for quarry restoration to ensure any harmful effects were minimised and maximum benefits are obtained through landscaping and restoration albeit there was little interest in mineral extraction in the borough.

The Chair encouraged the attendees to make representations in writing.

The Planning Policy Officers reiterated that Walsall's Local Plan was an official consultation and if concerns were raised, the Council would respond accordingly.

Councillor Worrall expressed concerns about unremitting pressure on green belt land and enquired if the Plan would put in place measures to make it impossible to encroach Green Belt. In response, the officers stated that once approved, the Plan would protect the Green Belt but that National Policy would have to be adhered to.

The Chair thanked the Planning Policy Officers for their informative presentation.

156/16 **Funding Report**

The joint report of the Area Manager and Partnership Manager was submitted
(see annexed)

The Area Manager informed the Area Panel there were no funding applications for consideration as all but £44.55 of the funding allocation for the 2015/16 municipal year had been absorbed

Resolved

That the report be noted

157/16 **Area Manager Report**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted
(see annexed)

The Area Manager highlighted the salient points therein which included:-

Paragraph 6.33 - Rushall Rail Track, Station Road - barriers had been realigned to prevent easy cycle access.

Paragraph 6.4 - Neighbourhood Reports of Crime and ASB - the Area Manager would update Members on progress

Paragraph 6.6 - Northfields Way, Clayhanger - a Traffic Regulation Order would be moved forward and public notices would be displayed if there are no objections to the consultation.

The Area Manager responded on a number of further queries raised including:-

- Mini-motos - Police were continuing to enforce and 3 vehicles recently seized

- Stray horses have now been secured
- Brownhills bridge - the Environmental Team looking to carry out a full scale clean up to make the area acceptable

Resolved

That the report be noted

158/16 **Dates of future Area Panel Meetings**

To be approved at Council on 25 May, 2016

Termination of Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.42pm

Chair

Dated