

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Monday, 10th October, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor E. Russell (Chair)
Councillor A. Ditta
Councillor H. Sarohi
Councillor N. Gultasib
Councillor G. Sohal
Councillor R. Martin
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor P. Washbrook

Officers in attendance

John Morris – Area Manager
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer
T. Baker - Police Officer
A. Paxton - Police Officer

09/16 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor S. Ditta and Councillor A. Nazir.

10/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record.

11/16 Declarations of interest

Councillor A. Ditta declared an interest as a Member of the Friends of Palfrey Park.

12/16 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

None.

13/16 Prostitution in Walsall South

The Panel were informed that this item had been received due to an increase in public concern. The Police informed the Panel that they had dedicated an extra 100 hours to identify vulnerable individuals and identify those people using sex workers. This had identified a number of vulnerable females who would be able to access a referral system in the coming months. This would provide them with support with issues like housing, mental health and drug rehabilitation. It was hoped that females could be helped without attending court. Members expressed concern that this may move the

problem on to another area. The Police representative stated that this shouldn't happen as the programme hoped to help victims to exit prostitution. If successful this programme would be rolled out across other wards. It was noted that this was a long-term strategy and it would take at least 2 years to achieve results. Members suggested that this should be communicated to the local community. The Police stated that this activity was communicated through social media.

The Panel were informed that there was zero tolerance for people who forced people into sex work. It was suggested that often those people who pushed people into prostitution and drug dealers lived within the community. The police stated that they needed support from the community to identify those individuals.

Members thanked officers for the presentation.

14/16 Funding Report

It was agreed that the funding report would be received prior to the Area Managers Report. Members attention was drawn to those projects already allocated. The Panel were informed that Palfrey had £2,775.00 funding remaining and Paddock had £3,133.00 of funding remaining.

Palfrey Park Flowers - Palfrey Park Friends & User Group

Councillor Ditta left the room whilst the funding application was discussed. The project was described. It was proposed that £600.00 was allocated to this project. The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

Councillor Ditta returned to the meeting.

Over 60's Health Club - Gujurati Senior Citizens Mandal

It was proposed that £1300.00 is allocated to the project. The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

Digital Inclusion Project - Indian Muslim Association

The project was described including the need to purchase equipment. The equipment would then assist to further develop programmes. It was proposed that £2000.00 was allocated to the project. The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

Jerome K Jerome Canoe Project - Canal River Trust

The Panel were confirmed that the Canal and River Trust aimed to promote canoeing in the North Walsall areas of the Canal network. It was proposed that £600.00 was allocated to the project. The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

Tractor Repair- Lane Avenue Allotments

A representative of the project addressed the Panel and explained that the group's tractor needed repairing. This has stopped other projects from taking place. The Panel were asked to approve a change of use to a grant awarded by the Panel to the group in the previous year.

The Clerk advised that this would need to be confirmed outside of the meeting. Subject to this Members approved the request.

Fitting a dropped kerb to Leather Museum Coach Bay - Walsall Leather Museum

Officers suggested that this application was deferred as the request included a ramp for an area of the highway which was not designed for coaches. The panel deferred this application.

St. Pauls at the Crossing Friendship Group - St Pauls Church

The Panel discussed the application. Members spoke about the importance of tackling social isolation. It was proposed that £600.00 was awarded to the Group. The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

Resolved that

The following applications were approved;

Project	Ward	Total
Palfrey Park Flowers	£300.00 (Paddock) £300.00(Palfrey)	£600.00
Over 60s Health Club	£ 500 (Paddock) £800 (Palfrey)	£1300.00
Digital Inclusion Project	£325.00 (Paddock) £1675.00 (Palfrey)	£2000.00
Jerome K Jerome Canoe Project	£600.00 (Paddock)	£600.00
Tractor Repair	£ 1,938.65 (funding from last year)	£ 1,938.65 Subject to the confirmation of financial rules.
Dropped Kerb	Deferred	
St. Paul's Friendship Group	£600.00 (Paddock)	£600.00

15/16 Area Managers Report

The Area Manager introduced the report and stated that it sought to inform Elected Members for the Walsall South Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area. Members held a discussion on working together as Elected Members to promote schemes that benefited the Walsall South Area. Regular monthly community meetings were held in Caldmore to discuss issues with the local residents and community leaders.

Members were informed that the Aspire2Engage community programme would no longer be supported by the football club. The use of social media was discussed through the use of Twitter and Facebook, and its use to promote local businesses. Members queried how this was moderated, the Area Manager agreed to discuss this with the Communications team. Fly tipping and the use of CCTV within the area was considered.

Termination of meeting

The meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: