

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Sheffield Area Panel

Monday 28 September 2015 at 6.00 pm

**At Manor Farm Community Association, King George Crescent, Rushall,
Walsall**

Present:

Councillor G. Perry (Chair)
Councillor S.R. Craddock (Vice-Chair)
Councillor K. Ferguson
Councillor M.A. Longhi
Councillor L.J. Rattigan
Councillor S. Wade

Officers in attendance:

Laura Terry – Area Manager
Beverley Mycock – Committee Business & Governance Manager

Others in attendance:

Councillor A. Andrew – Portfolio holder, Economy, Infrastructure & Development
Michael Brereton – Planning, Monitoring & Delivery Officer
Dawn Sherwood – Principal Regeneration Officer
John Roseblade – Group Manager, Highways & Environment
Shawn Fleet – Team Leader, Development Management

Due to the number of observers present at the Area Panel meeting, the Chair requested that everyone introduced themselves.

123/15 **Apologies:**

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

124/15 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2015 were submitted.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2015, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

125/15 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Craddock declared an interest in an application within the Funding Report as he is a Director of Brownhills Community Association.

Councillor Rattigan declared an interest in an application within the Funding Report as she is Chair of Friends of High Heath Park.

126/15 **Local Government Access to Information Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be discussed in private session

The Chairman informed the meeting there would be a change to the Agenda order and that item 8 would be the next item heard.

127/15 **Ravenscourt Shopping Precinct**

The Portfolio Holder for Economy, Infrastructure and Development gave a verbal update to the meeting in relation to the issues around the Ravenscourt Shopping Precinct. He reported that a new agent was now involved with the site and they would be taking charge of all issues. The Portfolio Holder also reported that talks were taking place with a national company, but he was not in a position for further information to be made public, but that the agents were currently liaising with Planning Officers and a planning application should be forthcoming over the next few months.

The Chair reminded Members that those on Planning Committee needed to remain open minded.

The Team Leader for Development Management reported that there would be public consultation exercises taking place once Planning had received an application.

The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder and the Team Leader, Development Management for their verbal update on the site.

Councillor Wade arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

Walsall's Local Plan

The report of the Planning, Monitoring & Delivery Officer was submitted (see annexed)

The Planning, Monitoring & Delivery Officer presented the report and explained that the Council was undertaking a consultation on 3 important planning documents which would help to deliver the approach to regeneration, growth and environmental protection as set out in the Black Country Core Strategy. The 3 planning documents were:

- Site Allocation Development Plan document (SAD) – to allocate sites for development for housing (general and permanent gypsy and travellers' sites), employment and other uses.
- Area Action Plan – regeneration framework specifically for the Town Centre.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – replacing section 106 levy, which will be open and transparent without affecting viability and development taking place.

He informed the meeting that the full documents are available on line and could be accessed within libraries

The Principal Regeneration Officer elaborated on appendix 2 of the report and highlighted issues pertinent to Brownhills, Pelsall and Rushall,/Shelfield wards, some of which included:-

- Only 8 possible sites identified equating to approximately 360 new homes
- Open spaces had been identified to be saved – no green belt land to be released
- Safeguard the alignment of the former railway line (greenery alongside to be protected)
- Minerals – government policy re: extraction of minerals and therefore Stubbers Green will continue plus Atlas Quarry will expand to provide more clay.
- Brownhills Common and Yorks Bridge – identified for coal and clay, although further evidence required to define them as designated areas.

Arising from a number of questions which included queries around mineral extraction at Brownhills Common, gypsy sites in the area, and Ibstock Brickworks, the Principal Regeneration Officer advised that a report would be taken to the Corporate & Public Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to minerals planning permission at Brownhills Common; no gypsy or travellers' sites have been identified

within the local wards and that there would be proposals to extend Ibstock Brickworks' existing quarry.

The Planning, Monitoring & Delivery Officer asked Members and residents to forward as many views and suggestions as possible through the consultation which would run until 2 November 2015.

Resolved

That the presentation on the consultation on the 3 planning documents be noted.

129/15

Highways Maintenance Prioritisation

The report of the Group Manager, Highways & Environment was submitted

(see annexed)

The Group Manager, Highways & Environment enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and drew Members' attention to Appendix 1 (The Highway Maintenance Scoring Criteria) and to the identified highway maintenance schemes within the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Shelfied wards.

The Group Manager, Highways & Environment explained that available budgets meant it would not be possible to undertake all the maintenance schemes within the next three years, and as a consequence a new robust and transparent prioritisation system had been agreed which sought Members' local knowledge on which roads within their wards should be prioritised in next year's programme (2016/2017). He informed the Area Panel that each Ward would be awarded 50 points and it would be down to the Ward Members within each Ward to discuss further to ensure that funds were utilised efficiently.

Arising from a number of questions by Members and residents, the Group Manager, Highways & Environment advised that whilst the allocation of points would be a recognition of support to pertinent schemes, there could be no guarantees that maintenance would be carried out, but officers would have a better idea of the allocation of maintenance work programme by the end of the calendar year. In response to a further query, the Group Manager, Highways & Environment, stated that both major and individual trunk roads were considered as strategic routes and were therefore allocated additional Government funding.

The Group Manager, Highways & Environment asked the Panel to determine how their points should be allocated by February 2016 so they could be included within the 2016/17 programme.

Resolved

That:-

- i) The report and identified schemes be noted
- ii) Members liaise with one another across Wards and provide the Group Manager, Highways & Environment with their scoring prior to February of each year.

Councillor Wade left at this juncture of the meeting and did not return.

130/15

Public Participation

The report of the Head of Democratic Services was submitted

(see annexed)

The Chair presented the report which contained suggestions for a way forward in order to encourage greater meaningful public involvement in the work of the Area Panels. The introduction of a public forum at the start of the meeting would allow the item to be included on the agenda and minuted.

A nomination had been received by Councillor Wade to appoint Mr. Barry Poxon as a Co-opted Member. The Chair requested other nominations to be forwarded to the Area Manager, subject to Council approval.

Resolved

That:-

- i) All Area Panels introduce a public forum to take place at the commencement of the panel meeting
- ii) Each Area Panel have the discretion to appoint one Co-opted Member per Ward subject to Council approval
- iii) Mr. Barry Poxon be nominated for the remainder of the municipal year subject to Council approval.

131/15

Funding Report

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and stated that previously approved applications plus new applications for consideration had been broken down into wards, as requested at the Area Panel meeting of 29 June 2015.

The Area Manager requested the Area Panel to consider 14 applications totalling £9,989.90. put forward for approval as follows:-

- 1) **Brownhills Town Centre Partnership – Brownhills Christmas Market Event** – Community fun day and Christmas Market with activities planned for all ages to be agreed in the sum of £2,000.
- 2) **Community Safety W.M.B.C. – Parking restrictions to Pelsall Common** – Preventative measures to improve the safety of users of the site, preventing unlawful access to the common and ensuring safe flow of traffic to be agreed in the sum of £2,059.84

The friends of Pelsall Common to be kept informed

- 3) **Brownhills Community Association – Small Arts Venue** – contribution to develop small Arts Venue which would include conversion of the hall into a music venue for young performers to enable them to perform productions to be agreed in the sum of £2,500.
- 4) **Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust – Teens & Toddlers Youth Development Programme** – 18 week course aiming to reduce teen pregnancy among the most vulnerable cohort. The Area Manager reported that teenage pregnancy within the respective Area Panel Wards was the highest in the area and that the application should be considered within the crosscutting category. She added that the course had proven to have had a successful track record in other areas. The application to be agreed in the sum of £1,270.
- 5) **Ogley Hay Nursery School – Growing and Learning together** – Empowering families in the community and supporting parents to develop skills which will assist their children as they continue through school to be agreed in the sum of £1,442 to purchase essential equipment.
- 6) **Friends of High Heath Park – Friends of High Heath Christmas Event** – Christmas celebration event for the local community with schools from Shelfield invited to sing carols. Funding requested for the events trailer in the sum of £110.

- 7) **Rushall Community Centre c/o Manor Farm C.A. – the Feel Good Factor Health Initiative for Older People** – promoting and delivering fitness, e.g. walking football plus lifestyle activities in Rushall by health champions who will advise and empower groups to continue with the lifestyle change once funding has ended to be agreed in the sum of £3,500.
- 8) **Manor Farm Community Association – The Thursday Fun Club Special Needs Activity Project** - to provide equipment (including pool and darts) for people with mental health, physical and learning difficulties to help them be more active, express themselves and improve self esteem to be agreed in the sum of £1,250.
- 9) **Elmwood School – Parental Engagement** – project to enable partnership working with parents and children to teach the basic skills required in completing application forms and employment documentation, including online applications in the sum of £2,500.

The Chair requested the application to be deferred until the next meeting to allow a representative to attend to provide further information.

- 10) **Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club** – improving skills and confidence through sport – providing equipment to ensure safe and controlled environment to develop sporting skills to be agreed in the sum of £1,500.
- 11) **Rushall Development Group – Children’s Story/Craft sessions** to purchase craft equipment to encourage children of all ages to access the library on a monthly basis in the sum of £152.
- 12) **Walsall Council Clean & Green Services – Pelsall Frost Fair** – a community cohesion event in December with family activities, local crafts and stalls to be agreed in the sum of £1,000.
- 13) **Fordbrook Bowling Club – replacement indoor bowls carpet** – to be agreed in the sum of £650.
- 14) **St .Michael & all Angels Church – Christmas tableau/ Christmas Tree Festival** – to provide funding for materials to make costumes for the Christmas Tree Festival production of the Christmas Story to be agreed in the sum of £275.

Members considered the project applications within the report and it was

Resolved

That :-

- 1) Brownhills Town Centre Partnership – Brownhills Christmas Market Event be agreed in the sum of £2,000
- 2) Community Safety WMBC – parking restrictions to Pelsall Common be agreed in the sum of £2,059.84
- 3) Brownhills Community Association – Small Arts Venue be agreed in the sum of £2,500.
- 4) Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust – Teens & Toddlers Youth Development Programme be agreed in the sum of £1270
- 5) Ogle Hay Nursery School – Growing and learning together be agreed in the sum of £1,442
- 6) Friends of High Heath Park – Friends of High Heath Christmas Event be agreed in the sum of £110
- 7) Rushall Community Centre c/o Manor Farm CA – The Feel Good Factor Health Initiative for Older People be agreed in the sum of £3,500
- 8) Manor Farm Community Association – The Thursday Fun Club Special Needs Activities Project be agreed in the sum of £1,250
- 9) Elmwood School – Parental Engagement – this application be deferred to the next meeting in order to invite the applicants to the meeting to provide further information.
- 10) Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club – Improving skills & confidence through sport be agreed in the sum of £1,500
- 11) Rushall Development Group – Children’s Story/craft sessions be agreed in the sum of £152.
- 12) Walsall Council Clean & Green Services – Pelsall Frost Fair be agreed in the sum of £1,000
- 13) Fordbrook Bowling Club – replacement indoor bowls carpet be agreed in the sum of £650
- 14) St. Michael & all Angels Church – Christmas Tableau/Christmas Tree Festival be agreed in the sum of £275.

132/15

Area Manager Report

The report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

The Area Manager introduced the report and a number of comments were raised which included:-

Paragraph 3.1 – Brownhills Town Centre Partnership

Following a query at the last Area Panel meeting the Area Manager informed the meeting that the new Town Centre Officer was Diane Mansell, who is part of the economic regeneration team.

Paragraph 3.2 – Appearance of town centre

The Chair informed the meeting that he had been involved with the recent litter picking events and he raised concern about the amount of litter on the frontage of the Silver Court flats and the untidy state of the bushes around Silver Court.

Paragraph 5.1 – CCTV for Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Sheffield

The Area Manager drew Members' and residents' attention to the contact details included within the report and she urged them to share the details and to report any incidences of anti-social behaviour. If incidents are not reported, there will be no justification for the location of the CCTV cameras in those areas

Paragraph 5.6 – Fly Tipping Enforcement

Councillor Ferguson reported on the large amount of flytipping being experienced in Coppice Lane Walsall Wood

Resolved

That the Area Manager report be noted

133/15

Dates and venues for future meetings

Monday 21 November 2015 at 6.00pm at Pelsall Village Centre

Termination of meeting

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.15 pm

Chair.....

Date.....