

## **Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall/Sheffield Area Panel**

**Monday 4 July 2016 6.00 p.m.**

**At Brownhills Community Association,  
Chester Road North/Pelsall Road,  
Brownhills, Walsall, WS8 7JW**

### **Present:**

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

### **Officers in attendance:**

Laura Terry - Area Manager  
Jo Lowndes - Area Partnerships  
Paul Gordon - Head of Business Change

### **Others in attendance:**

Dan Garbett - Bloxwich Community  
Jan Davies - Brownhills Community Association Manager

### 159/16 **Apologies:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Clews.

### 160/16 **Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were submitted

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 copies having previously been circulated to each Member, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

161/16 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

162/16 **Local Government Access to Information Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

163/16 **Void Properties Group**

A briefing paper was submitted:-

(See annexed)

The Head of Business Change (Paul Gordon) enlarged upon the briefing note for the benefit of the panel and indicated that the Council needed to take rapid action about properties which were considered dangerous. To speed up the process the Area Managers have been tasked with taking action over dangerous properties and co-ordinating any necessary action to secure sites and tidy up fly-tipping or drugs paraphernalia found on site with partner organisations and the owner/managing agents of the properties.

The Area Manager (Laura Terry) drew attention to a void property at Ravens Court, a mixed residential and commercial site. The property was open and had been used for drinking and drug taking and a lift shaft had also been accessed. Anti-social behaviour powers had been used to obtain immediate closure orders to secure doors, a lift shaft and access to the roof. This had been completed within two hours. However, the site has still attracted young people and within 24 hours the property had been breached again. The owners had now secured the building and tidied the site and a secure door had been fitted.

Councillor Perry referred to the void property group and suggested that the Fire Service should act as lead rather than Council officers. He referred to the fact that void properties had become a borough wide problem and often led to arson attacks.

Paul Gordon informed the panel that building control had not been called to attend the fire at a public house in Pelsall because the Council is only involved if six pumps or more attended the fire.

A local resident referred to the number of derelict garages throughout the borough which were the subject of arson attacks or used for drink/drug sessions. He asked if certain garage blocks could be repaired and the rest demolished to remove the problem.

Councillor Perry suggested that void properties should be included as a standard item on future agendas, and it was:

## **Resolved**

(1) That the be noted:

(2) That void properties be included as a standard item on future agendas.

### 164/16 **Youth Provider Support Update**

Dan Garbett (Bloxwich Community Partnership) informed the meeting that he had been involved in youth work for 15 years in various parts of the borough. He indicated that the re-commissioned Youth Service was working well. He reported that street based working was carried out on three evenings a week in Pelsall and Shelfield/Rushall. He added that the Area Manager would provide the service with 'hot spots' then the team would go out and interview youngsters to ascertain their wants/needs. He drew the panel's attention to the summer programme undertaken in the boroughs' parks and added that the mobile provision (move truck) was very popular and helped build rapport with youngsters.

A local resident referred to the fact that youths tended to hang around Pelsall Library especially on Mondays when it was closed. She added that they did not cause trouble but simply hung around outside talking. She asked if the Youth Service worked in the late evening and at weekends. She added that skateboarders used the paved area and the car park at the library which could lead to conflict with pedestrians and motorists using the car park. Dan replied that if sites were identified then the service would try to respond within the restrictions imposed by limited funding. After further discussion it was:

## **Resolved**

That the verbal update be noted.

### 165/16 **Funding Report**

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

(see annexed)

The Area Manager reported that twelve projects had been put forward for approval as they met the necessary criteria, if the twelve were supported in full then £30,383.50 would be allocated. The current funding allocation was £30,000.00 so - £383.50 would be available for allocation during the remainder of the year.

Councillor Rattigan declared an interest in item – 9 Friends of High Heath Park; High Heath Drainage Project and took no part in the voting on this item.

Members considered the funding applications within the report and it was:-

## **Resolved**

That:-

<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Match Funding</b>	<b>Approved/Not approved</b>
Friends of Pelsall Common: The Guide to Pelsall and its Commons	£314	£75	Approved
Brownhills Town Centre Partnership: Year Long Activity Programme	£4000	£7281	£2000 approved
Ryders Hayes School and PTA: Portable Community Games Area	£2117.50	£2117.50	Not approved
Manor Farm CA: The GOLD Club – Getting on with Learning Difficulties	£4490	£0.00	Not approved. The applicant is able to reapply in future rounds if match funding is identified.
Pelsall Cricket and Sports Club: Save our Sanctuary	£650	£67050	£325 approved
Brownhills Air Cadets: Woodlands Adventure Training Camp	£840	£0.00	Not approved
Elmwood School: Community Gym	£15000	£0.00	Not approved
Avenues Community Association: Dreams in Action	£915	£0.00	Approved
Friends of High Heath Park: High Heath Drainage Project	£2425	£2425	Agreed in principle but check whether section 106 funding also available.
Walsall Libraries: Creative Storytelling for Older People	£682	£20	Not approved
Area Partnership: Community and Partnership Evidence and Prevention Tool	£1800	£0.00	Approved
Walsall Children's Services: Sensory Session/Play and Stay 0-5 years Family Event	£1150	£1250	Approved

166/16 **Area Manager Report**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted:-

(See annexed)

The Area Manager enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the panel.

Councillor Wade referred to the Tamworth Close Action Plan which had received good results.

Councillor Craddock expressed concern that the Brownhills Local Police Team was to be disbanded and its officers dispensed across the Borough to be replaced by officers who were currently employed in Darlaston.

Councillor Perry was concerned that the new personnel would have no background knowledge of the Brownhills area which could lead to an increase in crime and anti social behaviour. He suggested that a special meeting should be arranged with West Midlands Police to discuss the matter and that the Brownhills Community Association Centre Manager and the Neighbourhood Watch representative be invited to attend.

### **Resolved**

(1) That the report be noted:

(2) That at a special meeting of the Brownhills Area Panel be arranged to discuss the changes to policing with West Midlands Police and the Brownhills Community Association Centre Manager and the Neighbourhood Watch representative be invited to attend.

#### **167/16 Ward Action Forums**

A report was submitted:-

(See annexed)

The Area Manager enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the panel.

Councillor Perry felt that the Ward forums should be supported as they could provide an input into the panel's area plan.

### **Resolved**

That the introduction of Ward Area Forums be supported.

#### **168/16 Items for future meetings**

It was agreed that the following be included on the agenda for the next area panel:-

Void Properties  
Policing in Brownhills Area Panel Area  
Derelict Garages  
Section 106 spending

169/16 **Dates and venues for future Area Panel Meetings**

**Resolved**

That the dates and venues for future area panel meetings be noted.

**Termination of Meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.50 pm

Chair .....

Dated .....