

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

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.  
Pelsall Village Centre, High Street, Pelsall, WS3 4BQ**

### **Present**

Councillor G. Perry (Chair)  
Councillor B. Cassidy (Vice Chair)  
Councillor O. D. Bennett  
Councillor S. R. Craddock  
Councillor M. A. Longhi  
Councillor S. Wade  
Councillor R. V. Worrall

### **Officers in attendance**

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

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

### **92/15 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Clews and Councillor Rattigan.

### **93/15 Minutes**

At this juncture of the meeting, a resident queried why he no longer received agenda papers for the Area Panel meetings and the Vice Chair also enquired why regular attendees of Area Panel meetings did not receive agenda papers. The Chair reported that Area Panel meetings were constituted meetings of the Council and therefore had to follow the Council's Constitutional Rules of Procedure. He added that changes to the constitution would have to be approved at a full Council meeting.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **94/15 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest for the duration of the meeting.

## 95/15 Local Government Access to Information Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

## 96/15 Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

A joint ASB verbal presentation was delivered by Steve Gittins, Deputy Community Safety Manager and Dave Atkins, Community Safety Officer from Walsall Council and Nitish Patel, Community Safety Manager and Dawn Parsons Community Safety Officer from whg.

Steve Gittins commenced the presentation by providing an overview of Walsall Council's service, which included the following:-

- 4 x Officers cover each area
- High risk cases are investigated and an Action Plan compiled
- All ASB is mapped around the borough to direct activity, which has increased by 14.6% following previous years of reductions.
- Within the area, Police data indicated an increase of 21% (up to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014) and an increase from 479 to 583 cases (up to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015)
- All repeat incidents must be reported to the Police and a crime number obtained

Members asked a number of questions and sought clarification on a number of issues. In response to the monitoring of ASB, Steve Gittins reported that recent amendments to the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, in force since 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014, had allowed for more effective tools to be used, for example the Community Trigger. The Community Trigger is a mechanism that allows for individuals to request a case review of the way in which their ASB complaint is being dealt with. He informed the meeting that the triggers for requesting an ASB case review are:-

- One individual having made three separate complaints of ASB in the last six months to either the Council, Police or registered housing provider
- One incident of crime motivated by hate (due to race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity) made in the last six months where it was felt that no action had been taken
- Where five individuals in the local community have complained separately to the Council, Police or registered housing provider in the last six months about the same incidents of ASB and it was felt that no action had been taken

Nitish Patel from whg then presented an overview of whg's ASB services which included:-

- That the service was formed in November 2011 and currently includes 11x Community Safety Officers, 2x Support Officers and 1 x Technical Officer for covert and CCTV operation
- The CCTV control room is based in Hatherton Street – all blocks of flats contain CCTV cameras and information is captured in high resolution
- An out of hours patrol service responds to issues/complaints
- Emphasis was placed on reporting all incidents of ASB to prevent possible escalation
- The whg 24 hour contact number is 0300 555 6666 and all complaints will be logged and actioned once they have been categorised accordingly as a 1, 2 or 3 priority
- Whg has reported a borough increase in ASB over the last three years which now stands at 2971 complaints this year and that customer satisfaction with whg was currently at 96%
- Borough wide resolved cases – 96% resolved at an early intervention stage, 4% of cases unresolved, 5% of cases taken to court

A member of the public reported ongoing problems around the garages within Spring Close, Rushall and Sheffield Park.

The Chairman thanked both Walsall Council and whg Officers for their very informative presentation.

## 97/15 Funding Report

The funding report was submitted

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and informed Members that the Area Panel had a total of £7,756.69 to approve project applications for the remainder of the financial year.

The Area Manager then asked Members to consider the funding application request for £3,000 as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report entitled 'Cyber Bullying Project', which had been submitted by Ormiston Sheffield Academy. The project would enable pupils to produce an anti-cyber bullying DVD which would then be distributed by the Police to all schools borough wide.

Councillor Cassidy queried the amount requested as she felt it was a large amount of money for a project whose outcome would ultimately be shared amongst all schools within the borough as opposed to explicitly for schools within the Area Panel area. The Area Manager confirmed that funding would be specific to the DVD production only and that the Police would provide a borough wide distribution of the DVD before the end of March 2015.

Councillor Longhi enquired if all Area Panels could be asked to contribute towards the project. The Area Manager confirmed that the other Area Panels could have been asked to contribute had time permitted but the request for

funding had been made too late into the financial year and therefore a request for match funding from other Area Panels was not feasible.

The Chair enquired whether unspent funding could be ring fenced. The Area Manager confirmed that unspent money could not be ring fenced or carried forward into the next financial year but that should any funding applications be received by Officers, they could be recommended to a special meeting of the Area Panel before the end of the financial year.

The Chair emphasised that funding applicants should be invited to attend the respective Area Panel meetings in order to answer any queries the Area Panel Members may have. Both Councillor Worrall and Councillor wished to see a breakdown of the latest request for funding.

Councillor Perry **Moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Longhi:-

To defer the item until the next meeting in order to invite the applicant to attend to provide clarification of the project.

All Members voted in favour of the Motion.

**Resolved (unanimously)**

To defer the item until the next meeting in order to invite the applicant to attend to provide clarification of the project.

**98/15 Area Manager Report**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented her report and highlighted Appendix 1. She explained the Appendix was a breakdown of all funding applications approved since 2010, as requested, and that all applications had been categorised into their respective Ward or into a cross cutting category. The breakdown of funding since 2010 was as follows:-

• Brownhills	-	£ 30,969.21
• Pelsall	-	£ 25,436.44
• Rushall/Shelfield	-	£ 33,752.56
• Cross cutting	-	<u>£ 44,079.50</u>
• <b>Totalling</b>	-	<b><u>£134,237.71</u></b>

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## 99/15 **Dates and Venues for Future Meetings**

The next Area Panel meeting to be held on Monday 30 March 2015 at Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy, Broadway, High Heath, Pelsall, WS4 1BQ

**Termination of meeting**

*The meeting terminated at 7.23 p.m.*

Chair:.....

Date:.....