



Walsall Area Partnerships

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall – Sheffield Area Partnership Area Panel

04, July 2016

DRAFT REPORT

Working title; Ward Action Forums (Localised Action Plans and Ward-based Forums)

1. Purpose;

This report sets out a proposed model to work closer with communities at a ward level, following discussions at the previous Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall – Sheffield Area Partnership Area Panel meetings in municipal year 2015-16.

2. Recommendations;

The Area Panel is requested to;

- i) Consider further, the previous discussions regarding localised ward based forums to sit beneath the Area Panel structure.
- ii) Consider the draft vision detailed in section 4.

3. Overview;

Area Panels currently operate at Area Partnership level, for our area this incorporates the three wards of Brownhills, Pelsall, and Rushall-Sheffield. As a formal committee of the Council, Area Panels will continue and in addition to this previous discussions at our Area Panel have suggested drilling down further to operate local ward forums to effectively engage with communities would enhance participation and provide a greater focus and response to localised concerns.

In line with the Councils Constitution, a governance framework around the area panels was put in place to ensure consistency across the borough whilst also allowing for the flexibility for local determination on the detail of how each area will operate on the ground.

4. Vision;

The Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall- Sheffield Area Panel will remain the same in its current guise, operating at area partnership level across the three ward areas, taking decisions on Area Partnership funding and providing an overarching mechanism for Councillors, Officers and the Community to come together and discuss strategic topics and issues of concern impacting upon the partnership, including consultations.

In addition to the Area Panel, it is proposed that three ward forums are developed to identify and begin to address community priorities. The vision would be to work at ward level outside of the Area Panel meetings to deliver;



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- More responsive actions as a result of local intelligence;
- Effective identification and delivery of local interventions and greater community influence;
- Greater local community consultation opportunities for the Council and its partners;
- Effective mechanisms at ward level to enable effective information sharing on community aspirations between Communities, Councillors and Officers

Local ward forums would be driven by local elected members supported by the area partnership and would consist of people from the local communities across the area. It will bring together a wide group of interested individuals, representatives of community and voluntary groups, service providers, local businesses and elected ward members etc. on a regular basis (frequency to be determined locally) throughout the year to highlight issues and priorities as they arise and to agree actions to address these priorities. This information will then form the basis of the action plan for the area. The Area Panel will review progress on the action plan and improvements to the local area.

Each of the wards could identify through local conversation the top three to five themes within which community priorities would be identified, working to develop action plans for each of the key themes. A draft action plan attached at appendix 1 demonstrates how this could look.

The priorities identified by each ward are expected to show a wide range of issues across the area partnership, as would be expected given the difference in our neighbourhoods. There are however also expected to be a number of consistent priorities which emerge across all wards which will require a more strategic response and will be discussed through the existing area panel.

Task and finish groups - could be set up to focus on relevant action to address priority issues for the area. These groups can involve individual residents, Service Provider staff and others who may not necessarily be involved in either the Area Partnership or the ward forums but have a specific interest in the particular task group subject.

The Ward Action Plan - will be used to influence service providers to deliver against an agreed set of targets which reflect both neighbourhood priorities and contribute to borough wide priorities included in the Walsall Plan;

- Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work.
- Improving health including well being and independence for older people
- Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities – Reducing levels of crime and providing the right environment for people to live in.
- Improving Safeguarding and the Learning and Life Chances for Children and Young People. Recognising that a person's early years crucially help determine what kind of future they have and ensuring they are appropriately supported into adulthood.



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Appendix 1.

Partnership Action Plan ; Pelsall Ward 2016 / 17

OVERVIEW:

Community Issue	Overview
1.1 Crime and Fear of Crime	Local social media threads have seen an increasing number of residents express concern about the perceived levels of crime in Pelsall. Local intelligence from police suggests that we are not seeing an increase in crime in this location however there have been instances where specific crimes have spiked.
1.1.1 Vehicle Crime	The area has seen items taken from vehicles parked on driveways, some were unsecured, others were not. In some instances the property taken was visible from outside of the vehicle.
1.1.2 Burglary Other Building	Throughout the early part of 2016, over a period of approximately three days an increase in shed break ins was reported. This activity was specific to particular estates and has not occurred to the same levels as previous since the weekend of increased activity.
1.1.3 Drugs	Residents and community members are reporting a concern around the use of psychoactive substances, cannabis growth and dealing within our community.
1.2 ASB and Fear of ASB	Historically there are areas within the ward which see an increase in ASB at key times throughout the year. Various tools are used to reduce this type of activity from low level signage through to increased police presence when available.
1.2.2 Areas of concern;	Repeat locations for ASB in our community are a concern for the community, businesses and partners when incidents take place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pelsall Village Centre 	Young people in the area listening to music, discarding litter, gathering in large numbers, damaging property within the



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	centre is a concern for users, staff and managers of the facility and also to those residents who are in the immediate vicinity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street 	Groups of young people are the main concern in this location, gathering around the door ways to shops, dropping litter in the area, creating an environment that may be intimidating for others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Rail line 	Use of mini motos, lighting secondary fires, increased litter and indecent exposures have been cited as the main issues of concern in this location.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Lane – Mini Motos 	Reports of bikes accessing the common and canal area via Wood Lane
1.3	A variety of vehicle related issues have arisen in the locality, including parking on pavements, speeding vehicles, delivery vehicles parking in pedestrian areas, school related issues, congestion caused by on street parking
Vehicle issues	
1.3.1 Speeding / perceived speeding	Reports from residents see concerns regarding the speed of vehicles using some roads within the ward is perceived to be outside of the speed permitted in the location. Activity has been undertaken boroughwide but a local information campaign is called for by a number of residents.
1.3.2 Parking concerns - Village	Parking is a continual problem as car use continues to thrive, concerns include pavement parking, parking in disabled bays by those not permitted to do so, cars using the edge of the common as unofficial parking (also picked up at 1.4.1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking concerns - St Michaels School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion in neighbouring streets • Parking in restricted areas • Drop off in restricted areas • Community tensions • Safety for pupils, staff, parents, carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Concerns – Pelsall Village School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion in neighbouring streets • Parking in restricted areas • Drop off in restricted areas • Community tensions



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety for pupils, staff, parents, carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking concerns - Ryders Hayes School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion in neighbouring streets • Parking in restricted areas • Drop off in restricted areas • Community tensions • Safety for pupils, staff, parents, carers
1.4 Environmental Crime and preservation	<p>Protection and preservation of our open spaces is an important part of village life, the use of the commonland for parking and other activities such as mini moto use is not permitted.</p> <p>Incidents of flytipping are rare but a specific location near to the canal does see a series of incidents throughout the year with flytipped materials, along with activity of this nature in Slacky Lane. Although the Slacky Lane site is slightly outside of the Pelsall ward we will be working with the North Walsall Area Partnership to progress with actions in the area.</p>
1.4.1 Protection of Common Land from vehicular erosion	Vehicles are parking throughout the area on the edge of commonland, this is not permitted and measures have already been taken in some locations to prevent this activity taking place. Further work is to be done to continue to preserve our open spaces.
1.4.2 Flytipping	Actively encouraging reporting is essential. We need to deter this activity from impacting upon our community and aim to catch perpetrators of this in our ward.
1.4.3 Litter and general detritus	Litter picks have been essential in improving the general appearance of the village and estates within the ward. A variety of litter is found throughout the area and although this village is certainly cleaner than other places the local pride in the appearance of this location is an important factor for many people.



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ACTION PLAN;

[this section will provide greater detail regarding the community issues above. Providing the work plan for improvement and action for the ward and will provide a reference point for the Area Partnership to focus upon and monitor / drive progress forward]

Community Issue	Overview	Action / Output	Lead Officer (s)	Outcome