

**DARLASTON NORTH/BENTLEY/DARLASTON SOUTH
AREA PANEL**

Tuesday 22 March 2016 at 6.00pm

At Darlaston Methodist Church, Slater Street, Darlaston

Present:

Councillor Burley (Chair)
Councillor Chambers (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Underhill

In attendance:

Paul Gordon – Head of Business Change
Jo Lowndes – Area Partnerships
Sandy Urquhart – Principal Regeneration Officer
Neville Ball – Principal Regeneration Officer
Maurice Cryer – Darlaston Rotary
Ammr Yaqub – Darlaston Resident

Apology

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

153/16

Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January, 2016, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Panel, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

154/16

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

155/16

Funding Report

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

(see annexed)

Phoenix Group

The Area Partnership Manager reported that the funding requested (£500) would be used to provide ongoing activities for older people to attend the group on a weekly basis. It would also be used to assist the group to purchase sewing machines for members to take part in textile activities and a laptop to help the running of the group. She added that match funding in the sum of £800 would be provided.

Councillor Burley asked where the club was based. Jo Lowndes replied that the club operated from the Darlaston All Active Centre.

Resolved

That funding in the sum of £500 for the Phoenix Club be approved.

156/16

Area Manager's Report

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Partnership Manager (Jo Lowndes) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and drew attention to the salient points contained therein.

Councillor Burley expressed concern regarding the level of litter and fly tipping in Bentley and Darlaston North ward.

Councillor Chambers commented that he was aware of two fridges that had been dumped in his area. It appeared that people had no respect for their town. He felt that residents should be proud of Darlaston and work to combat the litter problem.

Resolved

That the Area Manager's report be noted.

**Walsall’s Local Plan Consultation
Site Allocation Document Publication draft
Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan publication draft and
Community Infrastructure Levy draft charging schedule**

The report of the Planning Policy Manager was submitted:-

(See annexed)

The Principal Regeneration Officer (Mr Urquhart) enlarged upon the report and reminded the Panel how consultation on the site allocation document had been carried out. He referred to the meeting in Darlaston Town Hall, when over 250 people had attended, to voice concerns at the proposals to place a traveller site in Darlaston and indicated that the sites in Bentley and Darlaston proposed for traveller families would now be allocated for general housing only.

Mr Urquhart reported that the draft plans would be referred to Council in June for ratification and would then be forwarded to government for determination by an inspector. He requested residents to comment on the plan to influence it and confirm that it was sound.

Councillor Chambers asked if traveller sites would still be needed in Walsall. The Principal Regeneration Officer (Mr Ball) replied that the government had changed the definition of what a traveller family was so fewer sites would probably be needed.

Councillor Chambers thanked officers for the work they had carried out in preparing the draft plans and it was

Resolved

That the report be noted.

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.40pm.

Chair.....

Date.....