

## **WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL**

**Thursday, 3 October, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)  
Councillor D.A. Anson  
Councillor I. Azam  
Councillor A. Ditta  
Councillor R.A. Martin  
Councillor H.S. Sarohi  
Councillor V. Whyte

### **Officers in attendance**

Denise Perry - Area Manager  
Paul Leighton - Group Manager (Road Traffic Network)  
Alex Boys - Strategic Funding Officer  
Laura Terry - Partnership Officer  
Craig Goodall - Committee Business and Governance Manager

### **Others in attendance**

Kevin Davis - Chief Executive Officer, The Vine Trust

### **17/13 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E.B. Russell, Councillor M. Arif and Councillor M. Nazir.

### **18/13 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **19/13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items on the agenda to be considered in private session.

20/13

## **Minutes**

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

21/13

## **The Goldmine Centre**

The Panel considered a presentation from Kevin Davis, Chief Executive Officer of The Vine Trust, regarding The Goldmine Centre (the Centre) located on Lower Hall Lane in Walsall town centre.

Mr. Davis explained that the Centre was located on the site of the former Shannons Mill and was officially opened by Prince Andrew in July. The Centre was the culmination of a long term vision to deliver a centre that focussed on providing to local children and young people.

The Centre was set up to deliver four themes, namely:-

- Live;
- Work;
- Play;
- Learn.

A number of facilities were delivered at the Centre to deliver these themes, including a Social Enterprise Zone, theatre, meeting rooms and the Studio School. The Studio School worked in partnership with Queen Mary's Grammar. The school was for 14 - 19 year olds and had a vocational based curriculum. There were currently 76 students on role compared to a target of 60. Key Stage 4 was over-subscribed.

Through its Social Enterprise Zone, the Centre had developed important links with local, national and international businesses through the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership. The Centre was considered an exemplar in this area.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

22/13

## **The role of the Strategic Funding Office**

The Panel considered the role of the Strategic Funding Office.

The Strategic Funding Officer explained that historically, Walsall had one of the lowest success rates in the West Midlands for attracting external

funding in excess of £100,000. It was his role to develop a strategy to increase success in this area. It was important to note that Walsall already did consistently well with regard to securing grants of less than £10,000 in the voluntary and community sector (VCS). It was not the role of the Strategic Funding Officer to assist private businesses with funding applications unless they were a partner to a benevolent organisation.

Following a series of questions, it was noted by the Panel that it was the role of Walsall Voluntary Action to assist local VCS groups with funding bids. Members felt that this should be promoted more as there was a lack of awareness in the community regarding this matter.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

23/13

### **Participatory Budgeting with Area Partnerships**

The Panel considered opportunities for participatory budgeting to provide verge parking in the Walsall South area.

The Partnership Officer set out the historical journey with regard to participatory budgeting. The role of the Panel and communities in choosing selected sites and the need to consider the viability of sites once preferred locations had been identified.

The Group Manager (Road Traffic Network) reported that the first map on the agenda listed as "P1" was showing the incorrect location. An updated location map would be made available to Members in due course. He also explained that the estimates of costs contained in the report were at least ten years old so new estimates would need to be produced if one of the three listed in the report were chosen. He explained that the money available to each area would have to cover all preparation work as well as physical works.

Members reported they regularly received complaints about parking on grass verges at their surgeries and that more parking spaces would always be welcomed. However, the small amount of money available to each area would only be able to make a very small difference.

Members suggested a number of streets for consideration in addition to the three contained in the report.

### **Resolved**

That:

(1) the following sites be considered for new verge parking provision:-

- (a) Hough Road;
- (b) Pleck Road;
- (c) Slaters Lane;
- (d) Gower Street;
- (e) Charlotte Street;
- (f) Jerome Road;
- (g) Primley Avenue;
- (h) the A34 route;
- (i) Queens Road,
- (j) Bell Road;
- (k) the area in the vicinity of the Tiger Pub.

- (2) Members not present at the meeting be contacted to enable them to identify further potential sites for verge parking;
  - (3) a map showing the correct location of "P1" be distributed to Members;
- and;
- (4) the report be noted.

24/13

### **Funding Report**

The Panel considered three funding applications.

The Area Manager introduced the following funding applications for Members to consider:-

#### *Dome Hawk Deployments*

The Area Manager reported that funding was required to maintain, repair and move the areas two dome hawk cameras. Following a question, she explained that a third camera for the area had been stolen. This camera had not been covered by insurance. The possibility of renting cameras with maintenance, repair, insurance and moving costs built in was briefly discussed.

Following a discussion the Panel agreed to fund the project.

#### *Promotion of local partner activity and advice*

The Area Manager explained that it would be helpful if the Panel could approve a small budget for her to spend at her own discretion to pay for promotional activity for local partner activity and advice.

Following a discussion the Panel agreed the expenditure.

#### *Engaging dads to be, dads and male carers*

The Area Manager explained that Palfrey Sure Start had applied for funding towards the printing of leaflets and booklets to complement a course they were running.

The Panel agreed to support the project.

### **Resolved**

That:-

- (1) £2,000 be approved to support “dome hawk deployments”;
- (2) £2,000 be approved, to be spent at the discretion of the Area Manager, to support the “promotion of local partner activity and advice”;
- and;
- (3) £200 be approved to support Palfrey Sure Start deliver “Engaging dads to be, dads and male carers”.

25/13

### **Ongoing updates on actions for the Walsall South Area Plan**

The Area Manager reported on the latest work ongoing to deliver the Walsall South Area Plan.

The Area Manager explained that it had been recently decided to retain Apache CCTV on Caldmore Green and that the second camera would soon be moving to Junction Road.

The meeting discussed the benefits of CCTV cameras and the possibility of problems returning to an area if a CCTV camera was removed. The Area Manager explained that temporary cameras did provide re-assurance to communities at difficult times. If Members felt permanent CCTV cameras would be beneficial then consideration could be given to using some of the areas project funding for additional cameras. The Panel requested the Area Manager report back on potential costs of purchasing or renting additional cameras. The prices should include the costs of regular expenditure such as maintenance, repair and moving costs.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel, the Area Manager advised that it was not suitable to deploy imitation cameras. There were legal reasons to support not doing so.

A Member of the Panel requested that Caldmore Traders Association (CTA) be included as a partner in the report presented to the Panel. The Chair of the CTA added that his group contributed to the priorities in the

Area Plan and wished to be recognised for this alongside other local community groups. The Area Manager stated she was happy to record the CTA as a partner.

A Member of the Panel noted that previously Members had been actively involved with the delivery of priorities in the Area Plan but this was no longer the case. He added that Members wanted to be involved with improving the local area.

The Area Manager suggested a Member contact the Clean and Green Service to discuss the frequency rates of street cleansing.

**Resolved**

That:

- (1) Caldmore Traders Association be included as a partner when the group is contributing to the achievement of priorities in the Area Plan;
- (2) the Area Manager prepare a report on the cost of purchasing or hiring CCTV cameras. The report should include advice on the unsuitability of using imitation cameras;  
  
and;
- (3) the report be noted.

26/13

**Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

**Termination of meeting**

The meeting closed at 7.36 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....