

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Thursday, 2 October, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor E.B. Russell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D.A. Anson
Councillor M. Arif
Councillor A. Ditta
Councillor R.A. Martin
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor M. Nazir
Councillor G. Sohal
Councillor H.S. Sarohi

Officers in attendance

John Roseblade - Group Manager/Highways and Transportation
Denise Perry - Area Manager
Craig Goodall - Committee Business and Governance Manager

66/14 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B.V. McCracken and V. Whyte.

67/14 Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 8 July, 2014, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

68/14 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor R.A. Martin declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8 - Funding Report and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on the funding application which she held the interest in.

69/14 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

It was noted that there were no items to be considered in private session.

70/14 **Update on Walsall Council's Gully Cleaning Programme**

The meeting considered the gully cleansing project that was currently taking place across the Borough.

The Group Manager, Highways and Environment, explained that the Council was currently undertaking to clean each of the Borough's 32,000 gullies. This programme of cyclic cleaning compared to previous reactive cleaning was a more cost effective method of maintaining the Borough's gullies. As part of the cyclic cleaning comprehensive data and mapping information was being recorded. This data would be used to identify high priority areas and inform future cleaning cycles. The Panel received a presentation on the computer system which the Council used to monitor and record information on gullies (annexed).

The following are the principle points from the ensuing discussion:-

- The meeting discussed problem areas, in particular, areas of Walsall South which suffered from leaf fall and from flooding. The Group Manager explained that as part of the mapping and data

analysis undertaken through the programme, it was now possible to target these areas when problems could be anticipated;

- There were some areas which would take some time to resolve due to problems that would involve engineering work and engaging partners such as Severn Trent to undertake drain and pipe maintenance and replacement.

Members suggested it would be helpful if all Members were notified when they could expect to see the gully maintenance team in their areas.

Following a question from a Member, the Group Manager explained that there had been a trial with plastic gully covers but there had also been some design improvements to metal gullies; particularly around re-designing the hinges to make it more difficult for them to be stolen.

Members pointed out a number of problem areas to the Group Manager that required attention.

Following a question, the Group Manager agreed to double check the scheduling of gully cleansing maintenance and circulate it to Members.

Resolved:

That the Group Manager, Highways and Transportation, undertake the following:-

- (a) contact Councillor Ditta regarding issues with gullies in the Palfrey Ward;**
- (b) e-mail all Ward Councillors with gully maintenance cleaning schedule dates in their areas;**
- (c) double check the gully maintenance schedule and forward it to Councillors.**

71/14

Election of representative to the Local Police and Crime Board

Resolved:

That Councillor A. Ditta be appointed as the Walsall South Area Panel community representative on the Local Police and Crime Board for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

72/14

Area Manager's Report

The Panel considered the latest report from the Area Manager on progress to achieve the Area Panel's priorities.

The Area Manager introduced the report (annexed).

Following a question, the Area Manager explained that Walsall Housing Group would be carrying out the tree maintenance on the Orlando Estate, Caldmore.

The meeting discussed the lack of CCTV provision for the Walsall South area. The Panel debated the advantages and disadvantages of leasing and buying CCTV cameras and noted that short term CCTV hire was available from WHG. After a long debate, Members of the Panel agreed that as part of any funding received in the 2015/16 Municipal Year, CCTV provision be prioritised for a substantial funding allocation. It was suggested that the Panel could consider partnership working with local voluntary and community sector groups in order to leverage in additional funding.

A Member of the Panel thanked Mike Abel and his team for an enjoyable event as part of the Pocket Places Project.

73/14

Funding Report

The meeting considered funding applications.

Speed reduction - West Bromwich Road

The Area Manager introduced the application. Members spoke in support of the application explaining that additional speed bumps would increase road safety in the area.

It was **moved** by Councillor Arif and **seconded** by Councillor Nazir:-

That the speed reduction in West Bromwich Road
Project be awarded £2,000.

The Motion having been put to the vote, was declared **carried**.

Bath Road/Little London Security Improvements

The Area Manager introduced the project.

A Member spoke in support of the project noting the concern of local residents.

It was **moved** by Councillor Nawaz and **seconded** by Councillor Arif:-

That the Bath Road/Little London Security Improvements
Project be awarded £2,100.

The Motion having been put to the vote, was declared **carried**.

Archery Club for Palfrey

The Area Manager introduced the project.

The Chairman spoke in support.

It was **moved** by Councillor Nazir and **seconded** by Councillor Ditta:-

That the Archery Club Palfrey Project receive £2,000.

The Motion having been put to the vote, was declared **carried**.

Park Hall Open Space

Councillor R.A. Martin, having earlier declared a pecuniary interest, left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting on this funding application.

The Area Manager introduced the project.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Nawaz:-

That £300 be awarded to the Park Hall Open Space Project.

The Motion having been put to the vote, was declared **carried**.

Councillor R.A. Martin rejoined the meeting at this point.

Maths Class

The Area Manager introduced the project highlighting that there was a need for some clarification with the project applicants regarding the proposal to purchase IT equipment and a projector. The reason for this

was because the project had already been awarded funding from another source.

The Chair spoke in support of the application and noted the importance of helping people from disadvantaged backgrounds and that the tuition would be available to all members of the local community. After a discussion, the Panel asked the Area Manager to seek clarification from the applicant regarding the need for equipment. Members were under the impression that there could be more than one class operating at one time, therefore, additional IT and presentation equipment was required.

It was **moved** by Councillor Nawaz and **seconded** by Councillor Hussain:-

That £1,990 be awarded to the Maths Class Project.

The Motion having been put to the vote, was declared **carried**.

Hi's n Lows Cleanup

The Area Manager introduced the project.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Arif:-

That £2,500 be awarded to the Hi's n Lows Cleanup Project.

Resolved:

That:

- (1) £2,000 be awarded to the speed reduction in West Bromwich Road Project;**

- (2) £2,100 be awarded to the Bath Road/Little London Security Improvements Project;**
- (3) £2,000 be awarded to the Archery Club Palfrey Project;**
- (4) £300 be awarded to the Park Hall Open Space Project;**
- (5) £1,990 be awarded to the Maths Class Project;**
- (6) £2,500 be awarded to the Hi's n Lows Cleanup Project.**

74/14

Dates and venues for future meetings

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 15 December, 2014 in the Council House, Walsall.

Termination of meeting

The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: