

ALDRIDGE AND BEACON AREA PANEL

Monday 9th March, 2015 at 11.00 a.m.

at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Towe (Chairman)
Councillor Andrew
Councillor Bird (arrived at 11.05am)
Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor Harris
Councillor Sears

In attendance

Neighbourhood Manager

91/15 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those who were present.

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

92/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

93/15 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items on the agenda which required the exclusion of the public under this Act.

94/15 Verbal Update from the Police

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Members considered the report which proposed to provide funding for three applications during the current budget (2014/15), and one application from next year's budget (2015/16), subject to funds being available.

In relation to the WHG application, Members held a debate on the level of contribution being requested. Having considered the matter, Members decided to agree the full amount requested. However, Members also requested that the Area Panel logo be utilised so it could be seen that the Panel had made a contribution towards this project.

Arising from discussions on the Aldridge by the Sea application, Members requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel detailing the existing stock of CCTV cameras, how and where they were deployed (subject to confidentiality), how successful they were at catching the perpetrators of fly tipping and what the process was for prosecuting such offenders. It was agreed that a representative from Environmental Health would be invited to prepare a report and attend the next meeting of the Panel to address these matters.

Furthermore, Members requested the Area Manager to investigate if some of the bigger companies such as Costa Coffee and Wetherspoons were making a contribution towards the Aldridge by the Sea event.

Resolved that: -

1. the following projects be funded from the current budget (2014/15) for the amounts identified: -
 - * Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre – Replacement of Electric Cooker - £649;
 - WHG: Lancaster Avenue – Aldridge Community Room - £745;
 - Aldridge North Neighbourhood Watch – Environment Camera - £200.

2. the following project be funded from next year's budget (2015/16), subject to funds being available, for the amount identified: -
 - Aldridge Village Partnership – Aldridge Easter Event; Aldridge by the Sea – £1495.

Members requested the Area Manager to ensure that, in future, any funding agreed by the Panel be advertised and branded as such, where possible. This would help make the Panel attributable with the support it provided to community organisations in the area and the projects it had funded.

In addition, the Panel requested the Area Manager to investigate the feasibility of utilising the remainder of the current year's budget (2014/15), which was approximately £140, for advertising what projects the Panel had agreed to fund. Any proposals of such would be subject to formal approval by the Panel.

(* Councillor Bird arrived at 11.05am and took no part in the decision on the first application in relation to Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre)

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 11.23 a.m.

Chairman:

Date: