

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Shelfield Area Panel

Tuesday 28th January, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Rushall Community Association, Springfields, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1JT

Present

Councillor G Perry (Chair)
Councillor R V Worrall (Vice-Chair)
Councillor O. D. Bennett
Councillor B Cassidy
Councillor M. Longhi
Councillor L J Rattigan
Councillor S Wade

Mr. N. Bassi, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mr. D. Birch MBE, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mr. G. Bradley, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mr. R. Carpenter, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mr. F. Hodgkinson, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mr. S. Mayou, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mrs. D. Mundy, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mr. B. Poxon, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)
Mr. I. Roberts, Co-opted Member	(non-voting)

Officers in attendance

Jo Lowndes – Community Partnership Manager
Beverley Mycock – Committee Business and Governance Manager

41/14 Introductions and Apologies

Each Member of the Area Panel and the Officers present introduced themselves.

Apologies had been received for Ranjit Kaur, Area Manager and Mrs. J Davies, Co-opted Member.

42/14 Minutes of the meetings held on 4th November 2013 and 2nd December 2013

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 4th November 2013 and 2nd December 2013, a copy of each having been previously been circulated to each Member of the Area Panel, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

43/14 Declarations of Interest

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

44/14 Local Government Access to Information Act, 1985 (as amended)

The meeting noted there were no items on the agenda which required the exclusion of the public under this Act.

45/14 whg Garage sites

The Chair informed the Area Panel that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

He reported that whg had stated the report was confidential and should not be in the public domain. It was agreed that discussions would take place to ascertain the reason for its confidentiality.

Resolved

That the Area Manager liaise with whg in relation to access to information.

46/14 Update on Local Policing and Crime Board

The Chair gave a verbal update on the Local Policing and Crime Board meeting that he had attended in his role as the Area Panel's nominated Member representative for the Municipal year 2013/14.

He reported that two items had been discussed

1. Walsall Local Police Plan, of which a presentation would be made at the next agenda item;
2. An update on the Community Payback Scheme.

The Chair requested that the Area Panel consider the funding of a Community Payback Scheme in the next financial year 2014/15.

Resolved

That the Area Panel consider the funding of a Community Payback Scheme in the next financial year 2014/15.

47/14 Walsall Local Policing Plan 2014/15 Update

Inspector Keane presented the report of the Chief Superintendent of Walsall Local Policing Unit as submitted

(see annexed)

She reported that a consultation process was taking place to provide input for the 2014/15 Walsall Local Police Plan through:

- Intelligence nationally
- Intelligence from the West Midlands perspective
- The strategic assessments of community safety needs
- Financial prospects for West Midlands Police
- Views of local people through a number of mediums, including canvassing, liaising with victims of crime, public engagement through surveys, social media and meetings targeted at victims, businesses, young people and partners.

Inspector Keane highlighted that the four highest local concerns within the current 2013/14 Walsall Local Policing Plan were:

- Reduce crime and increase justice outcomes
- Address issues of use of anti-social behaviour (not as high locally as other parts of Walsall)
- Drug dealing and misuse (does happen locally and also results in burglary to fund the habit)
- Anti-social use of vehicles including speed and inconsiderable parking

She informed the Area Panel that as a result of extensive surveys and consultations carried out to date for the 2014/15 Walsall Local Policing Plan, a particular focus will be included around burglary.

There then followed a period of questioning by the Area Panel to Inspector Keane which included:

- **Whether there is a Cyber Crime Unit in Walsall?**

There is a high tech unit but difficult to police cyber crime at times with different levels of free speech and interpretation, and police have to weigh up and focus on which crimes are most important at the time.

- **Is the Payback Scheme successful?**

The Chair requested that a speaker be invited to the next Area Panel to explain the scheme in more detail.

- **How had the consultation taken place?**

Most information had been taken over the telephone, online surveys and community meetings.

Inspector Keane reported she would email the Area Manager in relation to what ways the Police had used to notify the public of the consultation.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Keane for her informative presentation and he informed the Area Panel that the next meeting would focus on crime and community safety.

48/14 **Funding Report**

The funding report was submitted

(see annexed)

A Co-opted Member enquired whether the project entitled 'Silver Street Improvements', that had been approved in the last financial year 2012/13 but carried forward to 2013/14 for completion, had yet been completed. In response, the Chairman stated that he would obtain further details from the Area Manager and request that the information be brought to the next meeting.

The Chairman then requested Members to consider the two funding applications as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Perry **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Cassidy:

- i. That £18,213.53 be allocated towards the Rushall Playing Fields Long Term Improvement Master plan;
- ii. That £700.00 be allocated towards the Forest School – Pupil Parent Partnership.

Resolved (unanimous)

- i. That £18,213.53 be allocated towards the Rushall Playing Fields Long Term Improvement Master plan;
- ii. That £700.00 be allocated towards the Forest School – Pupil Parent Partnership.

49/14 **Area Manager Update**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

The Chair presented the report. No discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

50/14 **Dates and venues for Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, & Sheffield Area Panel meetings**

Members noted the date of the Area Panel meeting was 31st March, 2014 and the venue would be Sheffield Community Academy, Broad Lane, High Heath, Pelsall.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m.

Chair:.....

Date:.....