

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Thursday 11 October, 2012 at 6.00 pm in a Conference Room at the Council House**

**Panel Members Present:** Councillor V. Woodruff (Chair)  
Councillor C. Creaney (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor I. Azam  
Councillor B. Douglas-Maul  
Councillor K. Hussain  
Councillor G. Illmann-Walker  
Councillor L. Rattigan

**Officers in Attendance:** Keith Stone - Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)  
Chris Holiday - Head of Leisure and Community  
Health  
Glyn Oliver - Engineering and Transportation Service  
Manager  
Craig Goodall - Scrutiny Officer

**Witnesses in Attendance** Dean Davies - Waterways Manager (Canal and  
Riverside Trust)  
Tony Harvey - Head of Enterprise (Canal and  
Riverside Trust)  
Ivor Caplan - Volunteer (Canal and Riverside Trust)  
Neil Wyatt - Chief Executive - The Wildlife Trust for  
Birmingham and the Black Country

### **25/12 Apologies**

There were no apologies of absence for the duration of the meeting.

### **26/12 Substitutions**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

### **27/12 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations or interests or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

## 28/12 Minutes

### Resolved

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2012, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.**

## 29/12 The Canal and Riverside Trust

The Panel considered a presentation from the Canal and Riverside Trust (CRT).

Dean Davies (Waterways Manager), Tony Harvey (Head of Enterprise) and Ivor Caplan (Local Partnership Member) gave a presentation to the Panel on the role of the CRT its work and its involvement in Walsall (annexed).

Members congratulated the CRT for their work and enthusiasm in operating and maintaining the local canal network.

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

- The CRT spent £450,000 a year collecting litter and fly tipping and a further £450,000 emptying rubbish bins in the West Midlands area. An additional £110,000 a year was spent removing floating litter and debris in the Walsall area. Members requested that the CRT meet with the Council to discuss potential ways to create efficiencies by working in partnership to tackle litter and fly tipping.
- The CRT worked with the National Cycle Network. The CRT was currently investing £900,000 to improve tow paths and access points to encourage greater cycle and pedestrian use.
- A Member reported that the local community was enthusiastic about volunteering to improve and maintain the "Bradley Arm": a section of canal in Darlaston. The CRT were enthusiastic to make links with this group of volunteers.
- It was reported that pedestrian links were needed along the canal between Moorcroft Wood and Bilston Urban Village.
- The Big Lottery was providing funding to train 18 to 24 year old apprentices. The Panel were keen these should create environmental jobs.
- It was suggested that the CRT should complete further work to increase their profile locally. It was suggested that making links with Area Partnerships would be worthwhile. The CRT explained that they were currently completing a project with the intention of increasing the number of people that played an active roll in local canal.

### Resolved

**That:**

- 1) the Canal and Riverside Trust meet with the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) to identify further opportunities for partnership working;**

**2) the Canal and Riverside Trust consider attending Area Community Meetings;**

**and;**

**3) the Canal and Riverside Trust meet with Councillor James to discuss opportunities to work with the local community on the “Bradley Arms”.**

### **30/12 Sport and Leisure Update**

The Panel received an update on the Sport and Leisure Service.

The Head of Leisure and Community Health reported that following the recommendations of the Leisure Centres Working Group in 2010 a considerable amount of work had taken place.

This had led to proposals being put together that would see the replacement of two leisure centres (Oak Park and Bloxwich). Details were still being developed at the current time and a full report would be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

A consultation on the proposals would begin during October and the current application would be submitted during December in time to meet the deadline to apply for support from Sport England. In response to a question it was confirmed that the plans included gym facilities.

Following a request from a Member it was reported that different management models would be considered as part of the proposals.

It was agreed that in addition to a report on a proposals feedback would be provided on activity regarding the recommendations of the Leisure Centres Working Group.

### **Resolved**

**1) A report be considered on the 14 November 2012 meeting of the Panel detailing:**

**(a) proposals for the future of the Sports and Leisure Service;**

**and;**

**(b) feedback on progress with regard to the recommendations made by the Leisure Centres Working Group.**

### **31/12 Police and Crime Commissioners**

Members were updated on the latest situation with regard to the election of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC).

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) highlighted activity that was taking place to assist with the transition period following the election of a PCC on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

The Police Authority Co-opted Member explained that following the election of the PCC the Police Authority would continue for a 7 day transitional period before ceasing to exist. A legacy document was being produced to assist the new PCC.

He reported that there were currently 10 candidates standing for election.

### **Resolved**

**That the report be noted.**

### **32/12 Estimated costs of road alterations at Blockall, Darlaston**

The Panel considered details on the cost of road alterations at Blockall, Darlaston, following the consideration of a petition at the last meeting.

The Engineering and Transportation Service Manager highlighted the findings of the investigation that had taken place so far. Further work was necessary to establish whether the land owner was willing to sell the land to make the alterations before full costs could be established. If this was positive further work would then be required to assess the underground utilities.

Councillor James reported that a financial contribution to the cost of the alterations was available from the Cost Cutter Store. With this in mind he requested that the investigatory work with the land owner continue to establish if the alterations were possible.

### **Resolved**

**That a further report be presented to the Panel once negotiations with the land owner and investigations regarding underground utilities have taken place.**

**33/12 Area Partnership Working Group Terms of Reference**

**Resolved**

**That terms of reference for the Area Partnership Working Group be approved.**

**34/12 Work Programme 2012/13 and Onward Plan**

**Resolved**

**That the Work Programme 2012/13 and Floor Plan be noted.**

**35/12 Date of next meeting**

It was noted that date of next meeting was 6.00 pm on the 14 November 2012.

*There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.36 pm.*

Signed:

Date: