

ALDRIDGE AND BEACON AREA PANEL

Monday 7th April, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

at the All Saints Church, Foley Road East, Walsall

Present

Councillor Towe (Chairman)
Councillor Rochelle (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Bird
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Hughes (arrived at 6.48pm)
Councillor Murray (arrived at 6.05pm)
Councillor Sears
Councillor Wilson

In attendance

Neighbourhood Manager
Public Safety Enforcement Officer
Community Safety Officer

95/15

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 Harris.

Mr A.C. advised that the next Police and Crime Board was scheduled to meet on 21st April and he would report back at the next meeting.

96/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 9th February, 2015, and 9th March, 2015, were submitted.

(see annexed)

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 9th February, 2015, and 9th March, 2015, copies having previously been circulated to each Member, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct records, subject to Sergeant Amos being amended to read Inspector Amos in the 9th February, 2015, set.

In relation to Minute No. 88/15 (verbal update from the police), the Chair and Area Manager advised that they had been informed that they were not able to get a quote from local companies in relation to the repairs to CCTV cameras, without undertaking a proper tendering and

procurement process. In view of this the Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection would be working with Procurement and putting together a proposal.

The Chair advised that, if given approval by Cabinet, he would wish to revisit this matter at a future meeting.

97/15 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

98/15 **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.

99/15 **Environmental Crime Covert Cameras**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Public Safety Enforcement Officer presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The Panel noted the report which sought to inform Members on the history of 'Operation Capture'. In addition, the report detailed the current capability, stock, costings, project success and impact of the Environmental Crime CCTV cameras. Since 2011, there had been 7 successful prosecutions which had generated over £8000.

The Public Safety Enforcement Officer gave further details in relation to the new stock of updated CCTV cameras that were due to be purchased all of which included much better specifications in comparison to the existing older CCTV camera stock.

Councillor Bird stated that he felt there had been a lack of foresight in relation to environmental crime. The Council had the option to abolish the charge associated with the collection of bulky goods and if it were to do so, it would lead to a decrease in the amount of fly tipping in the Borough along with the associated costs. In addition, he added that the Council ought to rethink its current waste strategy and consider revising associated systems such as removing the need to book an appointment at the tip, as long as an individual could prove that they resided within the Borough.

Councillor Clarke advised that Liverpool Council had introduced a similar system as suggested by Councillor Bird which had been very successful.

Councillor Bird also referred to a growing attitude amongst the population to leave bulky items at the end of their driveway which encouraged the 'tat collectors' many of which were unregulated. He felt that an education programme to help change the way people thought and acted would be beneficial. In addition, a system which would help to identify if 'tat wagons' were licensed to collect waste would be useful. He felt that a conversation with the Police on this matter could help towards devising a useful system to which would help in this matter.

Resolved that the report be noted.

100/15 **Public Spaces Protection Order**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Community Safety Officer presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein. In particular, Members were advised that Walsall's current Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) could remain in force until 19th October, 2017, at which time it would automatically become a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

Members considered the report which sought the Panel's views on whether or not the current DPPO should be revoked and subsequently replaced with a PSPO in this area.

Members held varying views. However, the prevailing view was that the current DPPO should remain in place and that the Police should be consulted as they held data and knowledge of problem 'hotspots' areas which could help determine the relevant areas in which PSPOs could be introduced in the future. It was also considered vitally important that the Police be consulted on any such proposals as it would be their responsibility to manage and they had to target their resources accordingly in view of budget restraints.

The Chair advised that Members could also help provide information on where existing problems and 'hotspots' were in their wards.

Resolved that the views of the Area Panel be noted and that an update report on this matter be presented at a future meeting.

101/15 **Community Hubs**

Paperwork was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the paperwork and highlighted the salient points contained therein, including that the proposals did not relate to physical buildings, as such, it was more around identifying, connecting and improving the existing and potential networks. Helping to provide information about, and access to, Council Services at a local level would be key to the success of the Community Hubs project.

Councillor Bird advised that he had already spoken directly with the Community Hubs Project Lead Officer and had advised him of what his Group would wish to do with the project.

The Chair advised that more work needed to be undertaken on this matter to bring community groups together to help provide and deliver services at a local level.

Councillor Hughes stated that he was pleased to learn that nothing would be happening on this matter until after the election when the control of the Council had been decided.

Councillor Clarke stated that there was a network of over 44,000 volunteers within the Borough. However, they needed to be identified and brought together.

Councillor Rochelle advised that the Aldridge Village Partnership, which had been very successful, had been started by a Council Officer, and there could, perhaps, be scope for other partnerships to be formed in a similar manner with the help of Council Officers.

Resolved that this matter be revisited after the elections in May, 2015.

102/15

Area Manager Report

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on work undertaken within the area.

In relation to 7.2 of the report, the Chair requested a copy of the information pack and requested Members to advise the Area Manager if they also wished to receive a copy.

In relation to 4.10 of the report, the Area Manger advised that the injunction had now been granted.

Resolved that the report be noted.

103/15 **Funding Report**

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

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

Members considered the report which included a number of applications.

In particular, a discussion ensued in relation to the Aldridge and Beacon Big Clean Up application. Members felt that this work should be undertaken as part of the Council's normal duties and should not have to be subsidised from the Area Panel's budget.

Councillor Bird asked that it be investigated whether the proposals in relation to the Streetly Library Community Garden application required Planning Permission.

Resolved that: -

1. the Brownhills and Oak Park Bowls Club application be agreed to the sum of £2995.68;
2. the Pheasey Fit 'n' Fun Day application be agreed to the sum of £1500;
3. the Oak Park Fit 'n' Fun Day application be agreed to the sum of £1500;
4. the Streetly Fit 'n' Fun Day application be agreed to the sum of £1500;
5. the Aldridge and Beacon Big Clean Up application be refused;
6. the Streetly Library Community Garden application be agreed to the sum of £1675.

Councillor Wilson requested the Area Manager to look at arranging a Fit 'n' Fun Day in the Aldridge area.

Councillor Wilson also asked the Area Manager to ensure that WHG allows Community use in relation to the funding previously granted for Lancaster Avenue application.

104/15 **Chair's Appreciation**

The Chair thanked all Officers for their hard work during the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.06 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: