

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL MEETING

TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2016 at 6.00pm

**BLAKENALL VILLAGE CENTRE, THAMES ROAD, WALSALL, WS3
1LZ**

Present

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick (Chair)
Councillor M. Ward
Councillor A. Young
Councillor T. Jukes (left at 6.50 pm)
Councillor I. Robertson
Mr Pat Dean (Co-opted Member)

Officers

Vanessa Croft – Area Manager
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer
Mitchell Brookes – West Midlands Fire Service

06/16 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors J. Fitzpatrick, C. Jones, I. Robertson, and L. Jeavons.

07/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

08/16 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

09/16 Minutes

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July, 2016. The Panel were informed that there was a query regarding the cameras in Forrest Avenue. A decision had been made, based on evidence, to take the cameras down.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July, 2016, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

10/16

Fire Service – Cadet Programme

The Area Manager stated that she had invited a representative along from the Fire Service along to describe the programme to the Panel. The Fire Service representative stated that he had been asked to set up the fire cadet's programme which was aimed at 11- 16 year olds with around 20 cadets on each programme. The programme was aimed at those children displaying difficult behaviour although it was open to all. The course gave them the basic skills a Fire Fighter would need, but it also taught them to have a sense of pride and discipline. Involvement in this programme seemed to have a really positive effect on their behaviour. Work was also done with children who were not attending school and looked after children.

The Panel were introduced to one of the fire service cadet instructors and a fire service cadet. Both individuals spoke positively about the programme and how it had helped them develop personally. The course was becoming increasingly popular. In response to a question from a Member on how the courses were funding the Panel were informed that events were held to raise money.

The Fire Service representatives were thanked for their attendance.

11/16

Funding Report

The Area Manager informed the Panel that there was £10,592.35 of funding available to this Area Panel.

Safety and Security of Garage Site from Beechdale Community Housing

This was highlighted as a hotspot area for flytipping which is not a suitable location for covert cameras. Beechdale Community Housing would like to install gating which would deter public access. Members considered this application and agreed to award £1250.00.

Sparkle into Bloxwich/ Bloxwich in Bloom Winter Project

Sparkle into a Bloxwich Christmas is a community fun day that offers a range of activities to raise aspirations and civic pride for all age ranges. The In Bloom winter works relies on volunteers to deliver town centre improvements.

Members expressed concern at the cost of this project in a time of austerity. The Panel felt able to fund the 'Bloxwich in Bloom' event but not the 'Sparkle into Bloxwich'. It was agreed that the Bloxwich in Bloom project would be awarded £1250.00.

Vanessa Croft also informed Members about an application from the Fire Service for 4 banners to highlight particular safety messages. In consultation with the Chair Vanessa Croft had agreed funding of £132.36

through use of her delegated authority. Members were in agreement with this decision.

Resolved

That the funding applications be approved as set out within the minutes.

12/16

Summary of Event Planning

This report sets out a summary of event planning around fairs and circuses within Walsall Council's green spaces. The Area Manager stated that Walsall Council has a long history of hosting events across their green spaces and venues within the Walsall borough. These events are a good way to bring money into the Council and encourage cohesive communities. Walsall Council works with a variety of fairs and circuses across the borough and these operate effectively with no cause for concern.

Members considered the report (annexed) and thanked the Area Manager for the informative report.

Resolved

That the report was noted.

13/16

Area Managers Report

The Area Manager presented the report and stated that the report sought to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of work carried out in the local area.

A discussion was held on the placement of cameras and Members agreed that cameras did make a difference to resident's lives. The Panel was also informed of a Public Health event, aimed at tackling loneliness and social isolation, this may be of use to local organisations.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be 17th November 2016.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.10p.m.

Chairman:

Date: