

## **ALDRIDGE AND BEACON AREA PANEL**

**Tuesday, 2 December, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.**

**at St. John's Parish Church, High Street, Walsall Wood, Walsall,  
WS9 9LP**

### **Present**

Councillor Towe (Chairman)  
Councillor Rochelle (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Murray  
Councillor Wilson

### **In attendance**

Neighbourhood Manager  
Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection

76/14

### **Welcome and Apologies**

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

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Andrew, Bird, Clarke, Flower and Sears.

77/14

### **Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Chair invited the Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection to update the Panel in relation to the latest position regarding Minute No. 68/14 [Welcome and Apologies; Future of Area Partnerships].

The Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection provided the Panel with a brief outline of the work she had undertaken and what she had reviewed since coming to the Council. She advised that she was currently in the process of producing a Delivery Plan which she would submit to a future meeting for consideration.

The Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection also gave an assurance that there was a future for Area Partnerships going forward.

The Chair thanked the Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection for her update and stated that the Panel was pleased with its Area Manager and how the Aldridge and Beacon Area Partnership had operated. He looked forward to receiving her report at a future meeting.

Further to Minute No. 64/14 (Urgent and Emergency Care Consultation) a member of the public queried what the outcome of the Consultation had been. The Chair asked the Area Manager to contact the Head of the Joint Commissioning Unit so that he could contact the questioner directly with the answer. He also requested that Members be informed of the outcome of the consultation.

78/14      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

79/14      **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.

80/14      **Verbal Update in relation to the Local Police and Crime Board**

The Area Panel's representative on the Local Police and Crime Board, Mr A.C., addressed the Panel on the issues discussed at the most recent meetings of the Board.

In particular, he raised the following matters: -

- The Police are trying to improve their communication with local residents and a questionnaire had been issued to help them determine the best / most preferred methods of communication. The Chair and other Members were not aware of the questionnaire mentioned by Mr A.C. In view of this, the Chair agreed to contact the relevant Sergeant and get the Area Manager to circulate a copy of the questionnaire to Members;
- It appeared that the crime levels in the area were dropping. However, this also appeared to coincide with the public failing to report crime in the first place which emphasised the importance of reporting crime;
- It was reported that a pilot was being trialled in the Darlaston area to have 'no go' areas for 'cold callers'. The Chair requested the Area Manager to investigate who was running this trial and how successful it had been, with the possibility to trial the same scheme in this area;
- Documents disclosed at the Board meetings were confidential and Mr A.C. was only at liberty to share information with the Area Manager. The Chair agreed to speak with the relevant Sergeant as it was important that Members received information pertaining

to their wards so that they could serve their constituents more effectively and efficiently;

- An update was given on the closure of Police Stations within the area;
- The Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection advised that she had recently attended a budget meeting from the Police and Crime Commissioner and stated that she would send Members a briefing note on what had been disclosed at that meeting.

Following further discussions, the Chair agreed that the relevant Sergeant be invited to the next meeting to address the Panel on local policing issues affecting the area.

#### 81/14 **Funding report**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

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

Councillor Murray requested that future Funding Reports contain more detail to enable Members to identify what the money being requested was for and for which organisation etc....

**Resolved** that the funding applications be approved for the amounts as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Murray left the meeting following the conclusion of this item.

#### 82/14 **Area Manager Report**

A presentation was delivered:-

(see annexed)

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

In relation to 4.10 of the report, the Area Manager advised that 'cruising' which had recently received a lot of media attention, was now being addressed across the whole of the Black Country by way of a High Court Injunction. Councillor Wilson advised that Wolverhampton Council was looking into providing people who wish to 'cruise' a place to meet rather than pushing the problem on to another area. In view of this, he suggested that the Area Manager may wish to investigate and either look at the feasibility of providing something similar in Walsall, or

so that advice could be given to residents of Walsall in relation to where they could go in Wolverhampton.

In relation to 5.4 of the report, Councillor Wilson advised that weekends would be better for such events as Councillors could not always attend on weekdays. The Area Manager advised that these events were usually held at weekends. However, due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, the event had to be rescheduled to a weekday on this particular occasion.

In relation to 7.5 of the report, the Area Manager assured the Panel that £500 of the £1000 awarded would be clawed back.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

83/14

**Dates and venues for future meetings**

The Panel noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 9 February, 2015, at Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre.

**Termination of meeting**

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

Chairman: .....

Date: .....