

ALDRIDGE AND BEACON AREA PANEL

Tuesday, 30 September, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

**at Aldridge Youth Theatre, Noddy Park Road, Aldridge, Walsall,
WS9 8NQ**

Present

Councillor Towe (Chairman)
Councillor Andrew
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Murray
Councillor Sears
Councillor Wilson

In attendance

Neighbourhood Manager

68/14

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 Rochelle, Bird, Clarke, Douglas-Maul and Flower.

Councillor Andrew raised his concerns about what the future held for Neighbourhood Partnerships and the Area Panel under the new administration. He stated that the Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel had an excellent Area Management Team. There were 2 Neighbourhood Managers who would be returning to their substantive posts at NHS and the new Administration would not be replacing them. Councillor Andrew stated that he was concerned how this would impact on the excellent services provided to the area.

In view of this, Councillor Andrew asked for an update on what plans / what direction the new Administration had for Area Partnerships in the future.

In addition, Councillor Andrew raised concern that proposals were in place to use Starting Point agency staff as temporary replacements for the vacant positions within the Neighbourhood Management Team.

The Chair reiterated Councillor Andrew's comments and advised that the Area Panel Team had undertaken a lot of excellent work in the areas supported by the Panel. A significant amount of local people and community groups had benefited tremendously from the work of the Team and the Panel. Furthermore, he stated that if jobs existed, they should be filled on a permanent basis, not temporarily.

Councillor Hughes advised that it was too easy for the Panel to take a parochial view on the situation. Members were aware of the excellent work undertaken in the areas covered by this Panel. However, they did not know if other areas worked as well or if they were as successful.

The Area Manager clarified that the view of other Area Managers was that their Area Panels worked well. Furthermore, he advised that there was new ASB legislation coming into force next month and that this work would be rolled out through the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team rather than through the police.

Councillor Murray sought the Panel's view on calling for the relevant Cabinet Member to issue a response in relation to the new Administration's intentions for the Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel and Neighbourhood Partnerships as a whole.

Members were in support of this course of action.

Resolved that the relevant Cabinet Member be asked to provide a response on the new Administration's plans for the Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel and Neighbourhood Partnerships as a whole.

69/14

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July, 2014, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

70/14

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

71/14

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.

72/14

Election of representative to the Local Police and Crime Board

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Chair sought nominations to the position of representative on the Local Police and Crime Board.

Mr A.C. advised that he would be happy to extend his term and represent the Area Panel on the Board for a second year.

The Chair thanked Mr A.C. for his acceptance to continue his role and for the work he had undertaken in the previous year on the Board.

The Chair called for a verbal update item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting so that Mr A.C. could provide the Panel with feedback from the Board.

Resolved that: -

1. Mr A.C. be elected to represent the Area Panel on the Local Police and Crime Board for the 2014/15 Municipal Year;
2. That an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to receive a verbal update on the Local Police and Crime Board.

73/14

Area Manager Report

A presentation was delivered.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report, which had a new format / layout, and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

In relation to 4.2 of the report, the Area Manager responded to a question from a Member and agreed to chase up what had happened to meeting reminders in relation to the Aldridge Business Partnership.

In relation to 2.10 of the report, the Area Manager responded to a question from a Member and advised that he understood that the matter would be going to Court next week.

In relation to 3.4 of the report, the Area Manager advised that he was due to hold a meeting on Thursday to ensure that the Aldridge Family Fit 'n' Fun Day was still ok to proceed as planned. In addition he advised that he would keep the Ward Councillors abreast of the situation.

Resolved that the report be noted.

74/14

Funding report

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein. In doing so, the Area Manager advised that the funding application in relation to 'Teens and Toddlers Youth Development Programme' was required to be withdrawn due to the fact that satisfactory details / evidence had still not been received.

Resolved that the following funding applications be approved for the amounts as set out: -

Funding Application	Amount (£s)
Sports Project for Walsall Wood Youth Club	1,370
Aldridge Festivities	760
The Cottage Garden	1,500
The Pioneer Magazine Advertising	990
A Bird in the Hand	531
Walsall Wood WW1 Commemoration Event	80

75/14

Dates and venues for future meetings

The Panel noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 2 December, 2014, at St. John's Church.

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.40 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: