

DRAFT 20.1.06

AT A MEETING
of the
**SPECIAL COMMUNITY
ORGANISATION, LEISURE AND
CULTURE SCRUTINY AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL WORKSHOP
RE CITIZEN'S PANEL SURVEY** held at
The Council House, Walsall on
Wednesday 18 January 2006 at
6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Towe
Councillor Phillips
Councillor Ault
Councillor Beeley
Councillor Beilby
Councillor Bott

Officers in Attendance

John Pryce-Jones
Karen Adderley
Andy Mellors
Pat Warner

APOLOGIES

An apology for non attendance was submitted on behalf of councillor Woodruff.

SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions received at this meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest identified at this meeting.

MINUTES

Resolved

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 January 2006 a copy having being previously circulated to each member of the panel be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Phillips' apology for non attendance at that meeting.

CITIZEN'S PANEL SURVEY

The panel received the scoping document submitted to the last meeting together with a copy of the draft questionnaire to be circulated as part of the survey:-

(See Annexed)

Councillor Towe said at the last meeting the panel had considered the scoping document which helped them to have a view on the types of questions which could be processed as part of the survey.

He confirmed that this was an opportunity for members to review the draft questionnaire and make any suggestions for inclusion or amendment as they felt appropriate. Prior to going through the questionnaire Councillor Bott enquired whether a breakdown was available of the number of disabled and blind people who were members of the citizen's panel.

Members were advised that a breakdown was not available but that as part of the recruitment process an account was taken of the number of disabled members appointed to the Panel.

Members proceeded to go through the application form section by section.

Section 1: Satisfaction with Culture and Leisure Facilities

The questions within this section were felt to be adequate.

Section 2: Local Libraries

Question 2 within this section was felt to be adequate also.

Question 3

Members were of the view that within question 3 a question could be added in terms of the opening times of the libraries.

Members were also of the view that more information relating to the opening times of the libraries within the Borough is the type of information which local councillors should be provided with for use within their constituencies.

Question 4 – a question should be added to ask whether residents were aware of how to contact their local library.

Members were also of the view that further information could be added towards the end of the document giving contact details to enable residents to obtain more information about the library services.

Question 5 was considered and it was felt that a further question could be added to ascertain if residents would wish to see the mobile library visit their area.

In respect of question 6 members felt that it should be brought back to be part of question 5 and that this question should be broken down to enable a “yes” or “no” answer to be received for each category referred to in question 5.

Question 7, 8 and 9 within this section were felt to be adequate.

Question 10 should include “public toilets” within the list of services.

A further question should also be added:-

“Would you agree that members of the public should have an involvement in the selection of books for the library”?

Question 11 – members agreed that a number of additional questions could be included as set out below:-

1. Do you think the libraries should be more accessible to the disabled?
2. Are you aware that your library carries out activities during the holidays?
3. Do you think it is easy to join your library?
4. Do you believe your local library should be open 7 days per week?
5. If the mobile library were to be provided in your area, how likely would it be that you would use the service?
6. Do you encourage your children to use the library?

Question 12 should include an additional question such as what times would you like to see the libraries open.

Question 13 was felt to be adequate.

Panel agreed that the comments relating to the central library and set out immediately below question 13 was unnecessary and should be deleted.

Question 14 was felt to be adequate.

Local History Centre

The questions in the section could be expanded beyond 15 and 16 to include additional questions as follows:-

1. Were you aware that Walsall has a local history centre?
2. Do you know where the history centre is situated?
3. Do you know the opening times of the history centre?
4. What times would you like to see the history centre open?

Section 3: Museums and Galleries

Members felt that this section should include details of the opening times for the museums and art galleries.

Members were of the view that questions 17 to 20 were adequate.

Question 21 should be deleted.

Questions 22 to 25 were felt to be adequate. Members agreed however that additional questions could be added beyond question 25 as follows:

1. Would you like to see exhibitions in your local area?
2. How likely are you to attend?

Section 4: Concert Halls and Theatres

Members agreed that within questions 26 to 31 additional questions should be added as follows:

1. Would you like to see a theatre provision in Walsall?
2. Would you use it if it was made available?
3. Do you think the theatre facility in Walsall is adequate?

Section 5: Community Art Projects

The panel agreed that the first comment set out under this heading should read as follows:

“Forest Arts Centre is Walsall’s centre for participatory arts and culture development. It offers extensive programmes of activities and opportunities to enhance creative, leisure, health and economic aspirations.”

Members further agreed that an additional question should be added perhaps to question 34 such as “which facilities would you be interested in” – and require the facilities to be listed.

Community arts events

Question 35 was felt to be adequate.

Section 6: Information Provision

Question 37 was felt to be adequate.

Question 38 should include “Walsall Pride” in the list of media which can be used to provide information about leisure facilities in Walsall.

Questions 39 and 40 were felt to be adequate.

Members felt that this was a meaningful exercise and hoped to receive information on the outcomes at a future meeting.

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