

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Shelfield Area Panel

Monday 4th November, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Pelsall Village Centre, High Street, Pelsall, WS4 4LX

The Chairman adjourned the start of the meeting until 6.05 p.m. to ensure the meeting was quorate.

Present

Councillor G Perry (Chair)
Councillor R V Worrall (Vice-Chair)
Councillor B Cassidy
Councillor L J Rattigan
Councillor S Wade

Officers in attendance

Ranjit Kaur – Area Manager
Laura Terry – Partnership Officer
Beverley Mycock – Committee Business and Governance Manager
Steve Pretty – Head of Engineering and Transportation

22/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D.J. Turner.

23/13 Minutes of the Meeting 30th September 2013

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2013, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

24/13 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for the duration of the meeting.

25/13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

The meeting noted there were no items that were required to be considered in private session.

The Chairman advised the meeting that item 6 of the main agenda relating to Participatory Budgeting would be considered before item 5 on the agenda.

26/13 Participatory Budgeting – Verge Parking

The Partnership Officer presented the report of the Head of Communities and Partnerships and advised the Area Panel of the background to the report in relation to the Participatory Budgeting Project around Verge Parking. She confirmed the report had identified a maximum of two verge parking schemes per Ward area within the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield Area Partnership, as requested at its meeting on 30th September 2013.

The Partnership Officer highlighted the shortlisted viable schemes, and reported that if the viable schemes were approved by the Area Panel, they would go out to public consultation for a minimum two week period through a range of media where residents would be asked to vote and indicate their preferred verge parking schemes. The Chair requested that the consultation clearly stated that there will only be one scheme out of the eight proposed that would be able to be funded, with up to six verge parking spaces.

The Partnership Officer reported that the two preferred schemes would be submitted, in case the preferred option was not viable following the necessary in-depth checks, for example:

- ground conditions;
- proximity to services (gas, water utilities);
- relevant-required permissions;
- that the scheme is fully viable;

The Head of Engineering and Transportation reported that the proposed preferred scheme would be achievable by March 2014, provided there were no issues around planning or other services. In response to whether an alternative funding scenario could be considered, for example dropped kerbs, it was reported that verge parking through participatory budgeting had been proposed and adopted by full Council in May 2013 and that any deviations to the report would have to be considered by Council.

The Partnership Officer confirmed that the consultation would take place in a number of venues including Park View Centre, Rushall Labour Club, Pelsall Village Centre and local primary schools over the next two weeks and, at Members request, she confirmed that officers would hand deliver leaflets to all homes located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed schemes.

The Area Panel felt the process had been a difficult one with negligible benefit.

Resolved (unanimous)

That

- (1) the Area Panel noted the progress to date in relation to Participatory Budgeting through the Area Partnership structure;
- (2) the Area Panel confirmed the identified verge parking schemes as set out in table 1 of the report (now submitted), and that they be consulted upon

within the community for a minimum 2 week period prior to the next Area Panel meeting on 2nd December 2013;

- (3) the Area Panel request the results of the consultation be brought back to the next Area Panel scheduled for Monday 2nd December, for ratification.

29/13 **Funding Report**

The Area Manager presented a report to the Area Panel and advised Members the report set out project applications that had been carried forward from the previous financial year; projects that had already been approved (through the previous process of Area Managers approving in consultation with the Area Chair and Vice-Chair and relevant Ward Councillors), and highlighted the two funding applications that had been deferred from the last Area Panel meeting to enable the applicants to provide detailed presentations as follows:-

a) Family Learning Health Workshop

Simone Bassi, Chief Executive of Life Education Centre West Midlands gave a detailed presentation to the Area Panel, beginning with the history of the organisation and its successful programmes in and around Walsall and Birmingham over the last 20 years.

Simone explained the funding would provide two workshops a day, dependent upon any restrictions of the schools, to all 13 primary schools within the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield Wards for years 5 and 6, delivering health related projects whilst ensuring the activities are complementary within the KS2 National Curriculum. Details of the workshops, the learning outcomes, learning activities and outcomes of family learning had been submitted with the agenda papers.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager reported that she had visited a session in Birmingham and found the session very interactive and she felt it had opened children's dialogues with their parents.

The Chair asked how the project would be 'sold' to schools. Simone replied that most, if not all schools, knew of the company but that the schools did not have the money to continue with workshops on a regular/yearly basis. She stated that attendance at the workshops was reliant upon schools engaging the parents.

Councillor Worrall left at this juncture of the meeting and therefore did not vote on the project applications.

b) Enhancing Skills in the Community

Sue Evans gave a detailed presentation to the Area Panel in relation to the framework and content of the report. She reported that the bite sized activities would take place in Elmwood School, once its refurbishment had been completed, and would include sessions in cookery, beauty, plumbing, plastering,

bricklaying and decorating, aimed at unemployed families and young parents, as well as older residents.

She explained the aim of the project was to encourage people to take the first steps to getting back into education through the varied courses on offer.

The Area Manager informed the Area Panel that now the community had an excellent relationship and trust in Manor Farm Community Association, it was hoped the same relationship would be built with Elmwood School.

Resolved (unanimous – 4 votes in favour and none against)

1. That £5,005.00 be allocated towards Family Learning Health Workshop and that a feedback of the project, including numbers, be brought back to the Area Panel meeting on 31st March 2014.
2. That £3,230.00 be allocated towards the Enhancing Skills in the Community project and that feedback of the project, including numbers, be brought back to the Area Panel meeting on 31st March 2014.

32/13 Dates and venues of Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, & Shelfield Area Panel meetings

Members noted the dates and venues for the Area Panel meetings

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.10 p.m.

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Chair:.....

Date:.....