

Willenhall North/Willenhall South/Short Heath Area Panel

Tuesday, 5th November, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Willenhall Chart, Gomer Street, Willenhall, WV13 2NS

Members in attendance

Councillor I. Shires (Chairman)
Councillor D. Barker (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor J. Cook
Councillor S. Coughlan
Councillor C. Creaney
Councillor G. Ilmann Walker
Councillor Mrs D. Shires
Councillor V. Woodruff

Officers in attendance

Jo Lowndes	Partnership Manager
Paul Leighton	Group Manager (Road Traffic Network)
Martin Ewin	Public Health Intelligence Manager
Nicola Holmes	Area Manager
Laura Terry	Partnership Officer
Craig Goodall	Committee Business and Governance Manager

18/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Coughlan.

19/13 Declaration of Interest

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

20/13 Local Government Access to Information Act, 1985 (as amended)

The Panel noted that there were no items on the agenda which required the exclusion of the public.

21/13 Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September, 2013, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

22/13 Funding Report

The Panel considered the latest funding applications.

The Area Manager introduced the funding application for “Teens and Toddlers” project aimed to reduce teenage pregnancy.

Resolved:

That £470 be allocated to support the “Teens and Toddlers” project.

23/13 Area Manager Update

The Panel received an update on activity undertaken to achieve the Area Plan.

The Area Manager highlighted successful projects involving partnership work with Pool Hayes Community Association to tackle teenage pregnancy in New Invention and ongoing work to improve community safety and prevent burglary.

A discussion took place regarding Children’s Centres in the area and the problems that are experienced by some families who are required to attend Bentley or Pleck Children’s Centres rather than the local centre in Willenhall. Members were keen to see the retention of local provision and are awaiting the results of the consultation on the future of Children’s Centre that was currently taking place. A Children’s Centre Manager reported that whilst anyone can access a Children’s Centre only local families were eligible for family support. The Panel also noted that reports were not correctly denoting local wards and requested that this be addressed.

Resolved:

That:-

1. the Panel expresses concern regarding the issues discussed with regard to Children’s Centres provision;
- and;
2. report authors correctly note local wards in reports.

24/13 Participatory Budgeting – Verge Parking

The Panel considered proposals for participatory budgeting for verge parking.

The Partnership Officer set out the historical journey with regard to participatory budgeting, the role of the Panel and communities in choosing selected sites and the need to consider the viability of sites once preferred locations had been identified.

The Group Manger (Road Traffic Network) reported that improving parking provision was a common wish for Members and residents across the borough and it was hoped that this investment and potential investment in future years would begin to tackle this important matter.

The following were the principal points from the ensuing discussion:-

- New verge parking could be provided on privately owned land;
- It was preferred not to increase the verge parking budget by injecting additional Area Panel funding;
- The available budget would deliver one small car park;
- Partners should be encouraged to contribute additional funding to provide additional car parking spaces;
- The Panel was advised against supporting the use of plastic matting to provide additional spaces due to the temporary nature of the material. Members encouraged solutions to be found to provide as many good quality spaces as possible;
- A number of additional streets were suggested for consideration by a Member of the Panel;
- Members of the public present made a case for providing parking on Tildesley Drive;
- It was noted that the Ward locations listed in table 2 were incorrect

The Committee Business and Governance Manager advised the meeting that the final decision on which site would be chosen to provide additional car parking provision would be chosen by the Area Panel. This choice would be informed by the public consultation.

It was explained that a decision on the location of the new car park was required quickly therefore the Panel agreed to the calling of a special meeting to push the matter forward if required.

The Chair requested Members and residents made any suggestions for any additional locations they would like to be considered to the Officers as soon as possible.

Resolved:

That:-

1. Partners be encouraged to provide additional funding to support the provision of verge parking in Walsall;
2. Officers consider all available materials to provide cost effective verge parking solutions;
3. If required, a special meeting be called to choose the most appropriate site for new verge parking provision;

4. The following sites be considered for new verge parking provision

- a) Queens Lea;
- b) Sandland Road;
- c) Brereton Road;
- d) Sandwell Place;
- e) Chaucer Avenue;
- f) Astoria Close;
- g) Stroud Avenue;
- h) Ravenscroft Road;
- i) Alton Avenue;
- j) Regent Street;
- k) Gypsy Lane;
- l) St. Anne's Road;
- m) Canterbury Avenue;
- n) Durham Avenue;
- o) Villiers Street;

and;

5. The report be noted.

25/13 Participatory Budgeting Willenhall Model

The Panel considered proposals for participatory budgeting in relation to the allocation of £10,000 for voluntary and community groups (BCG's) agreed at the last meeting.

The Partnership Manager reported on the project criteria that had been developed, how the application process would be promoted and how local people would be given an opportunity to express a preference for preferred projects. The Public Health Intelligence Manager reported that data to assist the BCG's bids would be available shortly.

Resolved:

That:-

If required, a special meeting of the Panel/Deprivation Sub-Committee take place to finalise the criteria for Participatory Budgeting (Willenhall Model).

26/13 Community Safety Plan

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

27/13 Date of next meeting

Resolved:

That the following dates and meeting locations be agreed:-

a) 21st January, 2014 Winehala Court

and;

b) 20th March, 2014 Willenhall Chart

Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Chair:

Date: