

## **Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Sheffield Area Panel**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at 6.00pm**

**Ormiston Sheffield Academy,  
Broadway, High Heath, Pelsall, WS4 1BW**

### **Present**

Councillor G. Perry (Chair)  
Councillor B. Cassidy (Vice Chair)  
Councillor M. A. Longhi  
Councillor L. J. Rattigan  
Councillor R. V. Worrall

### **Officers in attendance**

Laura Terry – Area Manager  
Beverley Mycock – Committee Business and Governance Manager  
Steve Gittins - Deputy Community Safety Manager  
Karl Dipple – Project Lead – Community Hobs

Due to the number of observers present at the Area Panel meeting, the Chair requested that everyone introduce themselves

### **100/15 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Clews and Councillor Wade.

### **101/15 Minutes**

Mr Poxon, a former Co-opted Member of the Area Panel, once again queried why he no longer received agenda papers for the Area Panel meetings. The Chair reiterated that Area Panels were now constituted Committees of the Council and therefore adhered to the Council's Constitutional Rules of Procedure, which dictated that agenda papers are only sent to Members of a respective Committee. The Committee Business and Governance Manager confirmed that with regard to Area Panels, agenda papers were sent out to the Ward Councillors of the respective areas. She added that all Committee agenda papers were available on the Council's Committee website and hard copies were placed on public deposit within the Civic Centre and Walsall library. Councillor Worrall stated that more publicity was required to notify residents that the meetings were open to the public. The Chair also raised concerns that the community were not aware of the meetings.

The Area Manager stated that she understood residents and Members frustrations due to the Rules of Procedure and she would request that the Area Panel's concerns were taken to the Scrutiny Working Group.

## **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **102/15 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **103/15 Local Government Access to Information Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

### **104/15 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)**

Steve Gittins, Deputy Community Safety Officer gave a detailed presentation on the future of the current borough wide Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) and the transitional arrangements for this to become a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), as contained within the report. He explained that he was seeking the Area Panel's view as to either support the revocation of the current DPPO and its subsequent replacement with smaller focused PSPO's or the alternative which is to allow the DPPO to revert automatically to a PSPO on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 if no action was taken by the Council.

The Chair expressed concerns that should the current arrangements be rescinded, the process would have to be revised to focus on the relevant areas and he would be concerned if the DPPO was removed totally. In response, Steve Gittins stated that it was the view of the Police that if DPPO orders were removed from one place and moved to another, this may cause legal implications in relation to trying to evidence the need between areas, concerns around the policing of them and the stringent signage requirements. He added that the stringent signage requirements alone would require a considerable investment of time and money to increase the number of signs across the Borough.

Councillor Longhi stated that with reference to the law change, Walsall currently has a drinking ban but if this were to change, the Council may not be able to meet the criteria imposed by the new law and therefore if specific areas were to remain covered, separate applications would have to be made to cover those areas.

Councillor Worrall enquired if the Council could continue with the current DPPO with the intention of removing it in the future and looking at each area on a case by case basis. In response, Steve Gittins stated that in Home Office terms, areas could not have duplicate orders, ie. covered by both the DPPO and a separate PSPO. In relation to blanketing areas with signs, legislation dictated the procedure Council's would have to adhere to.

The Chair commented that the current DPPO had worked well and he expressed concerns about removing the DPPO and then encountering difficulties when

enforcing actions within areas without a new PSPO.

Councillor Cassidy expressed concerns in relation to other authorities adhering to different laws dependant upon their individual issues. Steve Gittins stated that there was scope to add issues to an existing order.

Steve Gittins concluded the presentation by thanking the Area Panel for their views and comments and stated that all the feedback that he had received from Area Panel meetings would be collaged and reported back.

Councillor Perry **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Cassidy:-

That the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Sheffield Area Panel's view is to allow the DPPO to revert automatically to a PSPO on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The Chairman thanked Steve Gittins for his information presentation.

## 105/15 **Community Hubs**

Karl Dipple, Project Lead on Community Hubs gave a presentation to the Area Panel in relation to Community Hubs.

He reported that the aspiration behind Community Hubs was to create a greater community engagement, enabling Council services and partner agencies to deliver locally. He was currently co-ordinating debates across the Borough including Ward Councillors and partner agencies to move proposals forward including:-

- what would Community Hubs look like at a local level
- Community networking
- Spark an interest locally to commence debate, which would be captured and structured
- Community Hubs would be vehicles to motivate local communities in making a difference in their area

Councillor Cassidy stated that the Area Manager had recently circulated very detailed ward based statistics and these would be beneficial to local residents in their decision making.

Councillor Worrall stated that the Council had a defining role but its current Area Panel's were not fit for purpose and therefore elected Members needed to provide a framework to involve everyone.

Karl Dipple reported that he was collating data pertinent to the demands of all areas in order that informed decisions are made to ensure areas have the framework they need, not a framework that is imposed on them.

Councillor Cassidy suggested that individual ward meetings be held to include all community groups, volunteers, etc, to add their views to the debate, based upon the data specific to their ward.

The Chair thanked Karl for his verbal update.

## 106/15 Funding report

The joint report of the Area Manager and Partnership Manager was submitted.

(see annexed)

The Area Manager enlarged upon the report and informed Members there was four applications totally £6,944.00 to approve project applications for the remainder of the financial year, leaving a surplus amount of £812.69 at the close of the financial year.

### i. Cyber Bullying Project

The Area Manager reminded Members that at the last Area Panel meeting they had resolved to defer the Cyber Bullying Project application to allow the applicant to attend the meeting to provide additional clarification.

The Area Manager then introduced Mr Jeremy Brown, a representative on behalf of the students from Ormiston Sheffield Academy to give an overview of the project.

Mr Brown reported that Ormiston Sheffield Academy's safeguarding work had recently been classed as 'outstanding' by Ofsted. This excellent outcome had subsequently led to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP – an organisation which co-ordinates joint working between agencies and young people to protect children from harm online and offline), requesting the Academy to create resource material to shared with their peers within the borough. Mr Brown then read out a number of students' statements which outlined their perspective on the project.

Councillor Cassidy enquired if the project included cyber bullying and grooming to which Mr Brown confirmed that cyber bullying and grooming had been included within CEOP's steer/briefing.

Councillor Worrall enquired where match funding was from. Mr Brown confirmed that £1,000 of match funding was from the Crime Commissioners Fund and £3,000 was match funded from the Academy.

After further discussion, Councillor Cassidy **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Perry:-

That funding in the sum of £3,000 requested by Ormiston Sheffield Academy for development of a media resource around the issue of cyber bullying be approved.

Members voted unanimously in favour

### ii. Community Tree Planting

The Area Manager introduced Mrs Maureen Payton from the Friends of Pelsall Common who advised Members that the project would enable a planting and

commemoration exercise to install a permanent memorial to Gareth Perrins-Seedhouse, a Council Parks Lead Officer who was instrumental in obtaining funding for the development of local play provision within the area for young people. The project had included a competition for the 3 primary schools within Pelsall to design memorial plaques memorial and in the tree planting exercise for the common.

Mrs Payton added there would be a opening ceremony by the Mayor once the winning plaques had been produced and delivered to Pelsall

Councillor Worrall asked that match funding information be included on all future applications.

Councillor Perry **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Cassidy:-

That funding in the sum of £944.00 be approved for the Community Tree Planting and Commemoration Exercise.

Members voted unanimously in favour

### iii. **Spring into Action for a Blooming Good Summer**

The Area Manager once again introduced Mrs Maureen Payton who was requesting funding to purchase perennials and seasonal plants for a community cohesion project to bring together a variety of local community groups, schools, businesses to take ownership of plants and the street scene within the Pelsall ward throughout the year. She informed Members that Pelsall Street Pride Partnership was hoping that voluntary groups would adopt the six large planters that were no longer able to be planted up by the Council.

Councillor Worrall enquired whether the remainder of the funding, which the Area Panel would otherwise lose, could be included within the Pelsall Partnership Pride project.

Councillor Worrall **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by Councillor Cassidy

That funding in the sum of £1,812.69 for the 'Spring into Action for a Blooming Good Summer be granted, with £812.69 to be spent within Rushall Village

Members voted unanimously in favour

### iv. **Burglary Project**

The Area Manager reported that the project would provide home security products to support the police and community safety colleagues to reduce crime and the fear of crime following a recent increase in burglaries from homes across the partnership based on ward statistics.

After further discussion, Councillor Perry **moved** and it was duly **seconded** by

Councillor Worrall:-

That funding in the sum of £2,000 be approved for the Burglary Project.

Members voted unanimously in favour

At this juncture of the meeting, the Chair referred to the fact that it was Councillor Cassidy's last Area Panel meeting. He thanked her for her efforts on behalf of Brownhills and wished her well for the future. Members concurred with his comments.

### 107/15 Area Manager Report

The report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

The Area Manager enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Panel and comments were raised as follows:-

#### Paragraph 4.4

whether the Silver Scheme Project could provide information to inform vulnerable people who they should contact if they required any types of work to be carried out, to protect them from possible exploitation. It was reported that Age Concern had previously distributed a 'useful contact numbers' list

#### paragraph 6.1

it was reported that following a recent selection of two Local Area Co-ordinators (LAC), one of whom should have been dedicated to the Brownhills ward, the posts have since been transferred to the Children's Services directorate and would no longer be a resource for the Brownhills area. Disappointment was expressed that the transfer had been allowed and would be a detriment to Brownhills

The Area Manager updated the Area Panel on a number of issues around Spring Close:-

- a) a camera had been installed on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 but at the time of the meeting, no activities had been captured but an unmarked police car had moved on a number of people around the area
- b) the resurfacing of the garages had been corrected
- c) lighting assessments had been carried out within the respective area and the outcome had been that the area was currently over its lighting limit and therefore an additional light would have no impact
- d) full resurfacing of the area was on the schedule for 2016

Following a further issue in relation to the state of the garages, the Area Manager stated she would follow this up with whg. With reference to the anti-social behaviour, she urged residents to report all incidents to the Police as currently no incidents had been logged. She confirmed the Neighbourhood team would continue to patrol.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**108/15 Dates and Venues for Future Meetings**

The next Area Panel meeting dates would be confirmed at Adjourned Council on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015.

**Termination of meeting**

*The meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.*

Chair:.....

Date:.....