

Willenhall North/Willenhall South/Short Heath Area Panel

Tuesday 30 June, 2015 at 6.00 pm

Winehala Court, 50a, Sandbeds Road, Short Heath, Willenhall, WV12 4GA

Members in Attendance:

Councillor S. Coughlan (Vice Chair)
Councillor S. Cooper
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor A. Hicken
Councillor D. Shires
Councillor I. Shires

Officers in Attendance:

Michael Greenfield – Area Manager
Steve Gittins – Deputy Community Safety Manager
David Atkins – Community Safety Officer
Richard Pohribnyj – Team Leader, Highways Maintenance
Inspector Keeley Bevington – West Midlands Police

122/15

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Creaney
D. Hazell and E. Hazell.

123/15

Substitutions

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

124/15

Declarations of Interest

Councillor S. Coughlan and D. Coughlan declared an interest in item
130/15 - Funding Report. They did not participate in the voting on the
funding application related to Willenhall CHART.

125/15

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

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public for the
duration of the meeting.

126/15 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting which took place on 26 March 2015 and 16 April 2015, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as true and accurate records.

127/15 **Highways Maintenance prioritisation**

The Panel considered a presentation on a new scoring system for prioritising highways maintenance schemes across the borough.

The Team Leader, Highways Maintenance, explained the background and principles of the new highways maintenance prioritisation scheme which had been approved by Cabinet on 18th March 2015. He explained the criteria which was used to prioritise highways maintenance, and explained that a new opportunity was now available to Area Panels who could allocate 50 points per ward to local roads, which would be added up as part of the prioritisation criteria. Area Panels were required to make a decision on which roads to nominate by February 2016 so that the scores could be taken into account when agreeing the Highways Maintenance Plan for 2016/17.

Members were pleased to have the opportunity to influence the prioritisation of highways maintenance schemes in their area, and appreciated that schemes which the Area Panel awarded points to would not automatically be selected for maintenance due to competing priorities across the borough.

The meeting went on to discuss problems caused by utility companies back-filling holes dug to undergo important maintenance work. Members felt there should be more consequences for utility providers, and their subcontractors, for substandard work which affected the structural integrity of the road. A problem was also discussed with damage caused to local cars by micro asphalt application

Resolved:

That:

1. The Area Panel consider further detail on the Highway Maintenance Prioritisation process at the 10 November 2015 meeting;
- and;
2. That points for highways maintenance prioritisation be allocated at the 19 January 2016 meeting.

128/15

CCTV Briefing

The Panel considered a report on the location and effectiveness of fixed CCTV cameras and the current redeployable camera stock.

The Deputy Community Safety Manager presented a report highlighting the CCTV system used in Walsall, the number of cameras and incidents CCTV have recorded in the Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership area, and asked for Members' views on CCTV moving forward.

Inspector Bevington stated that CCTV images were generally of a good quality in Walsall and had been successfully used to prosecute. CCTV cameras also acted as a deterrent to crime, she added that CCTV may have prevented crime in the areas that have recorded few incidents.

Members were highly supportive of the contribution which CCTV had played in reducing crime and anti social behaviour across the area. In particular, the impact which Domehawk cameras could have on areas with high incidences of anti social behaviour was noted. In view of this the Panel were of the opinion that moving forward the Council should seek to have more higher quality CCTV cameras across the area and the borough.

Resolved

That the CCTV briefing be noted.

129/15

Area Manager's Report

The Panel considered a report from the Area Manager regarding work taking place to achieve the area's key priorities.

The Area Manager and Inspector Bevington led a discussion on vehicle crime and anti social behaviour.

The Area Manager highlighted a number of summer activities planned to engage with young people.

The Area Manager then took the Panel through appendix 1 of the report (annexed), which contained a selection of demographic data about Willenhall and Short Heath. Members discussed issues relating to unemployment and childhood obesity. Members also expressed concern on how data relating to health issues was collated, due to the likelihood that many people in the local area would use hospitals in both Walsall and Wolverhampton. It was important that the data was shared cross-boundary.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

130/15

Funding Report

The Panel considered funding applications.

The Area Manager introduced each funding application and explained how they would contribute to the local area.

The Vice-Chairman requested feedback on what had been achieved through the funding which the Area Panel provided to Willenhall CHART to support local voluntary and community sector groups.

Resolved:

1. That the Friends of Willenhall Library project be awarded £1,060.
2. That Health & Wellbeing awareness at Willenhall Chart project be awarded £2,100.
3. Community Awareness and Safety campaigns projects being run by Willenhall Fire Service be awarded £500;
4. The "Property Marking with Selecta DNA", a project operated by the Police, be awarded £1,482.25;
5. The Bhangra Tots project be awarded £170.
6. Appropriate monitoring and evaluation should take place with all projects.
7. Feedback be received, at a future meeting, on the outcome of the voluntary & community sector capacity building work undertaken through Willenhall CHART.

131/15

Local Police & Crime Board Representative

Resolved:

That Councillor Ian Shires be appointed as the Willenhall and Short Heath Area Panel representative on the local Police and Crime Board.

132/15

Date of next meeting:

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 22 September 2015

Termination of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....