

ALDRIDGE AND BEACON AREA PANEL

Tuesday, 2nd July, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

at Beacon Church, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey

Present

Councillor Towe (Chairman)
Councillor Rochelle (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Andrew
Councillor Bird
Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor Flower
Councillor Sears

In Attendance

John Morris - Area Partnerships
John Leach - Head of Communities and Partnerships

1/13 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Clarke, Harris, Hughes and Murray.

2/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3/13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

4/13 Funding Procedures

The report of the Partnership Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (John Morris) enlarged upon the report and informed the meeting that the major change was that Area Panels would make the decision on grants rather than Area Managers. He added that authority was sought for Area Managers to approve urgent projects up to a value of £500 in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and relevant Ward Members.

Members expressed disappointment that Area Managers could no longer approve grants. They felt that the previous system had worked well. Concern was expressed that applications which came in late could create a problem and that the gap between meetings was too long.

Councillor Towe expressed concern that the new procedure would create a problem ensuring funding was available when needed. He felt that the process needed to be reviewed urgently.

John Morris informed the meeting how the funding process would work.

After further discussion it was,

Resolved

That the Area Panel:-

- (1) notes that they have authority to make decisions on Area Partnership funding where allocated to an Area Partnership area by the Council;
- (2) approves delegated authority to the relevant Area Manager for any urgent projects, up to the value of £500, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and relevant Ward Members.

5/13

Funding Report

The joint report of the Partnership Manager and Area Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (John Morris) enlarged upon the report and indicated that two projects had been carried forward from 2012/13. He then drew attention to the projects approved prior to the changes approved by Council on 22nd May, 2013. He added that there remained £27,269.84 for the Area Panel to disperse on project applications.

John Morris then drew the Panel's attention to Appendix 1 to the report containing the projects to be approved.

After discussion it was,

Resolved

That the projects contained in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted be approved.

6/13 **Ongoing updates on the actions for Aldridge and Beacon area**

The report of the Area Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

7/13 **Area Plan Summary Document Approval**

The report of the Partnership Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager (John Morris) circulated a mock up of the summary document for the Panel's perusal and endorsement.

Councillor Andrew requested that reference be made to Pheasey Park Farm in the document.

Councillor Towe asked if the reference to Doe Bank Farm could be increased to refer to works undertaken to improve security at the park.

Members asked that references to the Pheasey bus service and Barr Beacon be removed from the summary as they had not been funded by the Area Partnership.

Resolved

That the Area Plan summary document be approved.

8/13 **Devolution through Area Partnerships - Update**

The report of the Partnership Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Communities and Partnerships Manager (John Leach) enlarged upon the report and drew attention to the salient points contained therein. Members asked about participatory budgeting and John Leach drew attention to the two service specific pilots - Clean and Green, focussing on street cleansing and grounds maintenance and highways maintenance, focussing on road safety, parking and maintenance.

Councillor Douglas-Maul referred to grass cutting and to the complaints regarding grass clippings not being collected. It was reported that a policy decision in 1992 had led to gang mowers only being used. John Leach indicated that the community could decide on the frequency of the grass cutting cycle under this initiative.

Members asked how participatory budgeting would be publicised. John Leach replied that a range of mechanisms would be used, including the website, Area Manager connections, partnership connections and social media.

Councillor Towe referred to the support for attracting funding and asked if the Strategic Resource Officer (Alex Boys) could attend the next meeting of the Panel to explain his role.

John Morris reported that Alex Boys would be attending the Streetly Networking meeting on 10th July, 2013.

After further discussion it was,

Resolved

- (1) That the Area Panel notes the progress against each of the set proposals for devolution through Area Partnerships;
- (2) That the Strategic Resource Officer (Alex Boys) be invited to attend the next meeting of the Area Panel to explain his role.

9/13

Election to the Local Police and Crime Board

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Alan Crunden be nominated to represent Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel on the Local Police and Crime Board for the Municipal Year 2013/14.

10/13

Dates and venues for Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel meetings

A schedule of the dates and venues for Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel were submitted.

Resolved

That the dates and venues for Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel meetings be noted.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: