

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall / Sheffield Area Panel

Monday 24th January, 2017 at 6.00 pm

**at Brownhills Community Association, Brownhills Activities Centre,
Chester Road North/Pelsall Road, Brownhills, WS8 7JW**

Present:

Councillor G. Perry (Chair)
Councillor R. V. Worrall
Councillor O. Bennett
Councillor S. Craddock
Councillor K. Ferguson
Councillor M. a. Longhi
Councillor L. Rattigan

Mr. B. Poxon – Co-opted Member

Officers in attendance:

Laura Terry – Area Manager
Beverley Mycock – Democratic Services Officer

195/17 Apologies:

There were no apologies.

196/17 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 were submitted.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

197/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

198/17 Local Government Access to Information Act 1985 (as amended)

199/17 There were no items to be discussed in private session
West Midlands Police

The Chairman welcomed Sargent Debbie Gallon who had been invited to the meeting to provide a verbal update to the Area Panel on the new neighbourhood policing.

Sargent Debbie Gallon introduced herself, thanked the Area Panel for the invitation and stated that she would like to attend Area Panel meetings on a regular basis to keep Members and residents updated on relevant issues.

Sargent Gallon tabled a Brownhills Neighbourhood Police Team summary paper and gave a detailed, verbal breakdown of incidents of crime, initiatives and good news stories, crime prevention advice for residents, as well as the contact details for the Police Constables and PCSOs within the team. She also informed the meeting of a messaging system from West Midlands Police called Wmnow, which enabled people to sign up for free and receive updates on crime activity within the area as well as having the ability to leave voice messages, emails or texts for the police.

There then followed a period of questioning by Members to Sargent Gallon which including the following:-

Difficulties encountered using the 101 contact system

The police acknowledged the system needed to be overhauled but all in attendance were advised to persist with calling the number and request to speak to the Neighbourhood Team, this will ensure the issue is recorded – callers could also request a ‘diary appointment’. The new, smaller hubs required a member of staff to be present to answer the phones - the Police are actively recruiting and trying to dual train recruits / successful applicants on both the 999 and the 101 police lines and she urged people to continue to try and speak to an officer, however frustrating, to ensure the issues are logged in order to generate police activity

Motorcycles – the police needed the public’s help to gather intelligence in seizing motorcycles at the perpetrators’ home addresses. Traffic Police did not work locally and do not pursue off road motor bikes

Youth engagement – since commencement of the new area teams, the police hope to change people’s perceptions through engagement with schools, groups, clubs, associations, etc.

The Chairman thanked Sargent Gallon for attending the Area Panel and urged everyone present to sign up to the messaging system and to pass the details to others.

200/17 **Whg Update**

The Chair reminded Members that at its meeting of 28th November, 2016, Members had requested the attendance of an officer from whg to respond to general issues around the respective wards. He stated that whg had declined the invitation to attend but instead had requested that all issues be reported to whg through their general Customer Contact Centre on 0300 555 6666 or email through the Council Enquiry box, each concern would then be allocated a designated Housing Advisor /Officer for future correspondence.

A number of discussions ensued including the need for general engagement with whg and the Chairman resolved to write to the Chair of whg Board outlining the Area Panel's frustration with whg's lack of engagement, with a view to arranging a Housing Theme meeting and extending the invitation to other local housing associations.

Resolved

That the Chairman to write to the Chair of whg Board outlining the Area Panel's frustration with whg's lack of engagement, with a view to arranging a Housing Theme meeting and extending the invitation to other local housing associations.

201/17 Area Manager Report

The report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

The Area Manager enquired if anyone had any queries in relation the contents of the report and responded as follows:-

Paragraph 5.3 of the report – Spring Close Neighbourhood and Community Group. The Area Panel was informed by a member of the Spring Close Neighbourhood and Community Group that they were still awaiting barriers to restrict non residents entering the garage area in a vehicle. The Area Manager reported that ongoing discussions were taking place in relation to utilising Section 106 monies within the relevant Wards and that she would report back at a later date.

Paragraph 3.7 of the report – Clayhanger Village Association. The Area Manager confirmed that the unspent Area Panel funding awarded to the centre in 2015/16 for a project which had not been completed could not be returned into the current year's funding pot.

Paragraph 3.5 of the report – Ravenscroft. The Area Manager reported there was to be a Void Properties Group meeting that week and she confirmed the building was secure. Sergeant Gallon requested that all incidents at that location be reported to the police in case the area was impacting on crime rates

Paragraph 6.1 – CCTV. The Vice Chair requested the Area Manager to investigate the possibility of Transport for West Midlands providing a CCTV / video service similar to the one provide for Dudley and Sandwell. The Area Manager stated she would request an update from the Head of Business Change relating to CCTV.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

202/17 Funding Report

The report of the Area Manager was submitted

(see annexed)

Area Manager presented the report and reminded Members that previously approved applications plus new applications for consideration had been broken down into wards, as previously requested by the Area Panel.

The Area Manager highlighted that the total amount of funding being requested within the report for the Rushall ward was slightly more than its remaining budget, ie. the amount requested was £6560 and the Rushall ward's remaining budget was £6517.

1) Manor Farm Community Association - Toy Box Library

Renovation costs plus the running of play course sessions from Pelsall Village Centre library following relocation of the borough's toy lending service in the sum of £3,000. The Vice Chair expressed concern regarding the amount requested as it would leave no funding available in this municipal year should any further applications be received in the respective ward. The applicant stated she may be able to provide further details of the 'sign up' data, ie home wards of prospective attendees. The Vice Chair moved to defer the application until the final meeting of the municipal year to ascertain the amount of monies remaining within the Rushall/Shelfield budget and the possibility of joint funding of the project provided from the Pelsall ward budget. This was seconded by Councillor Rattigan.

2) St. Marks Church, Sheffield – Disabled Access Improvements

Project to improve disability access to St. Marks Church in the sum of £660.

3) **Harringworth Safe Pedestrian – Fencing Project**

Iron-work open style barrier to retain and prevent children from playing / hurting themselves whilst using the local bus shelter plus a visual improvement to the prime location in the sum of £2,900.

4) **POPERS – Preservation of Pelsall Remembrance Service**

Items for the promotion and branding of the Pelsall Remembrance Services, branded gazebo, high visibility jackets and organisational identification in the sum of £1,960.

At this juncture of the meeting, the Chair and the Area Manager declared an interest in the following project due to their involvement with the group.

5) **Pelsall Connect Ward Forum**

Priorities and development of area improvements in the sum of £1,492

The Area Manager reported that she had allocated the following funding through her ad hoc budget:-

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| i) £85 – flag | - | Rushall ward |
| ii) £218 – advert re: Pelsall Forum | - | Pelsall ward |
| iii) £150 (10 x litter pickers) | - | Brownhills ward |

Members considered the project applications within the report and it was

Resolved that:-

1. Funding be approved for the below application for the amounts identified:-

Projects Application	Amount (£)
Disabled Access Improvements	660
Fencing Project	2,900
Remembrance Service	1,960
Priorities and development of area improvements	1,492
Total	7,012

2. That the following application be deferred until the final meeting of the municipal year to ascertain the amount of funding remaining within both

the Rushall/Shelfield ward budget and the Pelsall ward budget for possible joint funding of the project:-

Project Application	Amount (£)
Toy Box (Toys and games loan library)	3,000

Date and venue for future meeting

The last meeting of the municipal year is scheduled for Monday 27 March, 2017 at St. Marks Parish Church, Green Lane, Shelfield, WS4 1RN.

Termination of meeting

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.20pm

Chair.....

Date.....