

Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall & Sheffield Area Panel

Monday 30th September, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Sheffield Community Academy, Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall

Present

Councillor G Perry (Chair)
Councillor R V Worrall (Vice-Chair)
Councillor B Cassidy
Councillor L J Rattigan

Officers in attendance

Ranjit Kaur – Area Manager
Jo Stewart – Walsall Council
Neil Picken – Senior Committee Business and Governance Manager
Beverley Mycock – Committee Business and Governance Manager
Paul Leighton – Group Manager (Road Traffic Network)

11/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. E. Andrew, O.D. Bennett, M.A. Longhi, D.J. Turner and S. Wade.

12/13 Minutes of the meeting 27th June 2013

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th of June 2013, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/13 Declaration of Interest

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

14/13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

The meeting noted there were no items that were required to be considered in private session.

15/13 Funding Report

The Area Manager presented a report to the Area Panel and advised Members the report set out project applications that had been carried forward from the previous financial year, projects that have already been approved (through the previous process of Area Managers approving in consultation with the Area Chair and Vice-Chair and relevant Ward Councillors) and those projects that are being put forward for consideration by the Area Panel.

The Area Manager highlighted the project applications and requested Panel Members approval of the following project applications:-

a) Dome Hawk Deployment

The Area Manager advised the Area Panel the project would set aside funding to allow the deployment and repair of the CCTV cameras across the Area Partnership.

b) Car Parking Area

The Area Manager advised the Area Panel the project would assist Brownhills Community Association with the installation of marked car parking bays and a designated disabled bay. A Member stated a car parking area would ease the parking situation around Brownhills Community Association and ease pedestrian access to the site.

c) Holland Skate Park Project

The Area Manager advised the Area Panel that the project would provide funding to revamp Holland Park Skate Park using modern graffiti techniques.

d) Family Learning Health Workshop

The Area Manager advised the Area Panel that the project would deliver health workshops to instigate long term changes in people's choices and attitudes towards health, including raising alcohol awareness, and would be delivered to 13 schools around Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield. The workshops had proven beneficial around the Bloxwich area.

The Chair felt further information was needed due to the large amount of funding applied for and requested that the applicants give a presentation at the next Area Panel meeting. This request was **seconded** by Councillor Cassidy.

e) Enhancing Skills in the Community

The Area Manager advised the Area Panel the project would enable a partnership to form between Elmwood School and Pelsall Children's Centre to provide educational opportunities to the community in an underutilised facility within the School.

Councillor Cassidy requested the applicant attends the next Area Panel meeting to provide further details of the project in relation to the framework, numbers and sustainability. Councillor Worrall seconded the request. The Chair stated a Prospectus was required from Manor Farm.

f) Brownhills Shop Watch Radio Scheme

The Area Manager advised the Area Panel that the project would provide the main retailers within Brownhills with radios to aid communication between themselves on a daily basis to combat ASB and shoplifting. The Chair stated the scheme would replicate the successful scheme in Pelsall.

Resolved (unanimous)

That:-

1. £1,000 be allocated towards Dome-hawk Deployment;
2. £1,778.40 be allocated towards Car Parking Area at Brownhills Community Association;
3. £300.00 be allocated towards the revamp of Holland Skate Park;
4. The funding application from Life Education Centre West Midlands be deferred until the next meeting of the Area Panel to enable the applicants to provide a detailed presentation to include information about the organisation, content of the workshops, anticipated attendance figures and previous success rates;
5. The funding application from Manor Farm Community Association be deferred until the next meeting of the Area Panel to enable the applicant to provide a detailed presentation to include information around the framework and content of the project, anticipated numbers, target groups and sustainability of the project;
6. £600.00 be allocated towards Brownhills Shop Watch Radio Scheme.

16/13 Area Manager Update

The Area Manager presented a report to the Area Panel and gave an update to Members on the work carried out within the area.

Councillor Cassidy enquired whether the Apache CCTV cameras were ready to be deployed. In response, the Area Manager confirmed that one camera was ready to be deployed and one camera was currently in storage.

The Vice-Chair enquired whether the newsletter aimed at the elderly could be made available in hardcopy for the elderly residents who did not access emails. The Area Manager stated that the newsletter was produced on a monthly basis

and the issue was around funding and resources. The Chair queried whether Age Concern could offer assistance.

Resolved (unanimous)

That:-

1. the Area Manager explore costing and resources required in producing hard copies of the newsletter aimed at the elderly;
2. the Area Panel noted the Area Managers update report.

17/13 Co-opted Members

The Chair presented the report of the Senior Committee Business and Governance Manager and advised the Area Panel that 11 requests had been made from individuals who wished to be appointed as co-opted members on the Area Panel.

It was reported that although three individuals had not submitted their names prior to the distribution of the agenda papers, and therefore their details had not been available on public deposit, the Chair accepted the three late requests.

The Vice Chair clarified that the 11 individuals would be recommended to Council on 18th November, and if appointed, would immediately be co-opted onto the Area Panel until the end of the Municipal year.

Resolved (unanimous)

1. that the following individuals be recommended to Council on 18th November 2013 for appointment as Co-opted Members of the Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield Area Panel for the remainder of the 2013/14 Municipal year:-
 - Mr Francis Hodgkinson
 - Mrs Janet Davies
 - Mr Simeou Mayou
 - Mr Gerald Bradley
 - Mrs Dawn Munday
 - Mr Douglas Birch MBE
 - Mr Harry Poxon
 - Mr Ron Carpenter
 - Mrs Victoria Murrell
 - Mr Ian Roberts
 - Mr Nasib Bassi
2. to note a new framework in relation to appointing co-opted members in subsequent years will be implemented before the next Municipal year, subject to Council approval.

18/13 **Community Safety Plan 2011-14 Year 2 Refresh**

A copy of the Community Safety Plan 2011-14 Year 2 Refresh was submitted.

The Chair reported the Community Safety Plan 2011-14 Year 2 Refresh had been approved at Cabinet. He also stated the report highlighted a positive reduction in recorded crime around the area, which was reiterated by Councillor Cassidy.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

19/13 **Participatory Budgeting within Area Partnerships**

The Partnership Officer presented the report of the Head of Communities and Partnerships and advised the Area Panel of the background to the report and gave details of the participatory budget project in relation to verge parking, explaining it was a small scale initiative which involved the Area Panel proposing a selection of schemes to be rolled out for public consultation before final ratification by Members.

There then followed a period of questioning by Members to the Group Manager (Road Traffic Network) primarily in relation to costs and how many verge parking spaces could be provided within the areas. In response, he reported there was a Borough wide allocation of £250,000 for the financial year 2013/14 with the same allocation provisionally identified over the next four years for verge parking schemes. If this allocation was devolved to each Area Partnership, it would provide an indicative budget of £41,600 which may provide approximately 6 parking spaces.

The Area Panel proceeded to discuss the report further including their concerns around raising the community's expectations and whether additional funding may be available from whg, other landlords or Section 106 planning contribution under spends.

Resolved (unanimous)

That:-

1. the Area Panel meeting noted the progress to date in relation to participatory budgeting through the Area Partnership structure;
2. the Group Manager (Road Traffic Network) to propose two schemes per Ward including approximate costings, and to bring the proposed schemes to a special meeting of the Area Panel.

20/13 Winter Service

The Group Manager (Road Traffic Network) gave a verbal overview of the Council's Winter Service to the Area Panel, stating the Winter Service season would commence on 1st October and treating (gritting) would commence on 1st November. He reported that Cabinet would be recommending no changes to this winters programme of works and therefore current routes would not be changed.

He explained that legislation (Appendix H of the good Practice Network) had been amended and all Councils had to investigate different ways of treating the networks. He reported that from next winter a different approach would be taken whereby Walsall would establish a 'thermal map' of the Borough to indicate which parts of the core network would need treating as opposed to treating everywhere, thus managing resources more appropriately and being able to defend and evidence its decisions.

The Group Manager (Road Traffic Network) reiterated the Council had a statutory duty to deliver the Winter Service and that there were no plans to reduce the Winter Service budget. It was anticipated the thermal mapping scheme may release some budget to treat areas outside of the core network.

21/13 Dates and venues of Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, & Shelfield Area Panel meetings

Members noted the dates and venues for the Area Panel meeting. It was also noted that a special meeting of the Area Panel would be scheduled.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.

Chair:.....

Date:.....