

ALDRIDGE AND BEACON AREA PANEL

Monday 3rd February, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

**at Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre, Hillingford Avenue,
Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7HL**

Present

Councillor Towe (Chairman)
Councillor Rochelle (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Bird (arrived at 6.10pm)
Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor Flower
Councillor Hughes (arrived at 6.03pm)
Councillor Murray

In attendance

Neighbourhood Manager
Inspector Keane
Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Programme Manager (NHS)

38/14

Welcome and Apologies

Each Member of the Area Panel and the officers present introduced themselves.

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Harris, Sears and Wilson.

39/14

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December, 2013, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

40/14

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41/14

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

There were no items on the agenda which required the exclusion of the public under this Act.

42/14

Local Policing and Crime Board

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Inspector Keane presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein. Further to a request received by a member of the public, she also provided an update on which police stations were due to be closed and where services would be transferred to.

Arising from discussions on this item, the Panel were of the opinion that Central Government should transfer authority to deal with illegal parking to Local Authorities to help free up valuable police time which would be better spent on dealing with more urgent matters.

Councillor Bird, in his position as a Member of the Police Committee, also gave an update on where police services would be located / operated from in the future including that Officers would now be located at the Civic Centre and that shift changes could take place in community venues.

With the agreement of the Chair, a member of the public, who was also a member of the Police and Crime Board, updated the Area Panel on the previous meetings of the Board.

The Chair thanked the Board member for his input and support.

Resolved that the report be noted.

43/14

Crime and anti-social behaviour

A verbal presentation was delivered by Inspector Keane and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

Both officers highlighted particular areas of concern within the wards covered by the Area Panel, including: -

- ASB at Oak Park Leisure Centre;
- Myatt Avenue – Youth nuisance;
- Bovis Site – motorcycle nuisance;
- Bridgewater Close / Wyre Close – problem families.

Inspector Keane advised the Panel that the crime figures for the wards covered by the Area Panel were generally quite good.

Arising from discussions on this item and further to Minute No. 35/13, the Panel requested that the police do more to put an end to the inappropriate and criminal activities which had been occurring at Hay Head Wood and in the surrounding area.

Inspector Keane advised that it was a difficult issue to deal with given the limited resources at her disposal and the large geographical area her team covered. Further difficulties occurred as a result of the layout of the woods where the activities took place which meant that it would be particularly difficult to capture evidence of a sufficient nature to successfully prosecute. She did, however, advise that she would look into providing new and improved signage around the site to help alleviate the problem.

It was suggested that Hay Head Wood could be included on the police patrol route so that patrols accessed the area in question at random times to help catch and prosecute any perpetrators. It was felt that prosecutions, and to publicise successful prosecutions, would help to stop the activities from taking place. In addition, various options were discussed in relation to placing a gate in the vicinity of the area to help prevent potential perpetrators from gaining access to the site.

Inspector Keane agreed to take the Panel's views and concerns back and report them to her superiors.

Resolved that the verbal presentation be noted.

44/14

Grass Verge -Parking Scheme Update

Further to Minute No. 33/13, a verbal update was given to the Panel by the Partnerships Officer.

The Area Panel was advised that the revised scheme, which had been consulted on with local residents, was due to be considered by the Planning Department for approval in the near future. Furthermore, she advised that the scheme would be completed by 31st March.

Arising from discussions on this item, Councillor Bird indicated that he would explore the viability of allocating some additional money in the budget to deal with further grass verge projects across the Borough.

In connection with this item, the Chair allowed a member of the public to address the Panel on some localised areas of concern he had. Councillor Bird and the Neighbourhood Manager agreed to look into the matters raised by the individual.

Resolved that the verbal update be noted.

45/14

Urgent Health Care

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Programme Manager (NHS) presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

She informed the Panel that, although the 'listening exercise' had concluded, she would still feed-in any suggestions or feedback presented at the meeting.

In particular, Members highlighted the following areas of concern: -

- The need for GP surgery hours to be more flexible / accessible, to include late night opening and weekend opening to help reduce the impact on A & E and Urgent Care.
- The need to up-skill GPs in relation to dementia.
- The need to up-skill A & E departments in relation to patients with mental health or suicidal tendencies as the impact on police services could be severe if not handled correctly.
- The need to ensure that both GP and A & E waiting times are reduced and more efficiently utilised.

The Programme Manager (NHS) advised that she had noted the various issues addressed at the meeting and would incorporate them into the plan which was currently being drawn up. She also advised that it might be useful for her to return to a future meeting of the Panel, during the next 12 week consultation period, to provide the Panel with an update.

Resolved that:-

1. the report be noted;
2. the Neighbourhood Manager liaises with the Programme Manager (NHS) to arrange for an update report to be brought back to a future meeting of the Area Panel.

46/14

Funding Report

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Councillor Flower advised that he supported the Oak Park ASB application in principle. However, he advised that he was of the opinion that some of the funding proposals in relation to this application were

essentially maintenance issues for which he felt that Leisure Services budgets should really subsidise the cost, not the Area Panel.

In view of this, the Chair advised that the Oak Park ASB funding application would be agreed in principle, subject to the Area Panel delegating authority to him and the Area Manager to ascertain if any of the proposals for this application could be met from within existing budgets.

In relation to the Promoting Community Activities applications, the Area Manager agreed to provide Councillor Murray with a map of areas covered by the publications.

The Area Manager also reported that there was approximately £2,500 left in the Panel's budget and proposed that an extraordinary Panel meeting be arranged in late February to consider additional funding applications before the end of the financial year. In view of this, the Chair stated that he would liaise with the Clerk and seek to arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Area Panel in late February, 2014, to consider any additional funding applications that were submitted.

Resolved that:-

- (1) the funding projects identified in Appendix one of the report be approved, subject to the application in relation to Oak Park ASB being approved in principle and that a final decision on this application be delegated to the Chair and Area Manager to enable them to ascertain if any of the proposals can be met from within existing budgets;
- (2) an extraordinary meeting of the Panel be arranged during late February to consider any funding applications which can be funded before the end of the financial year.

47/14 **Area Manager Report**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Area Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Resolved that the report be noted.

48/14 **Dates and venues for future meetings**

The Panel noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 15th April, 2014, at All Saints Church.

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.00p.m.

Chairman:

Date: