

## **WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL**

**Tuesday, 6 October, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor M. Arif (Chair)  
Councillor K. Hussain (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor E. Russell  
Councillor D. Anson  
Councillor A. Ditta  
Councillor P. Washbrook  
Councillor A. Nawaz  
Councillor M. Nazir  
Councillor G. Sohal  
Councillor H. Sarohi  
Councillor V. Whyte

### **Officers in attendance**

John Morris - Area Manager  
Paul Leighton – Group Manager  
Alix Jackson – Regeneration Officer  
Sandy Urquhart – Planning Officer  
Nikki Gough - Committee Business & Governance Manager

#### **1/15 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Martin. The Panel sent their best wishes to Councillor Martin. The Panel recorded their thanks to Matthew Underhill for his work with the Panel.

#### **2/15 Minutes**

##### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting which took place on 16 July, 2015, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

#### **3/15 Declarations of Interest**

In relation to the Funding Report: Councillor Arif declared an interest as Vice Chair of Caldmore Village Festival Group. Councillor Sarohi declared an interest as a Member of the Sikh temple.

#### **4/15 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

It was noted that there were no items to be considered in private session.

A change to the agenda was agreed; that item 6 would be received prior to item 5.

## 5/15 **Review of car parks in Walsall South**

Officers explained that the Panel had requested further information on the operation of car parks within South Walsall of which there were 21. However 17 of these were pay and display car parks within the town centre. The pay and display charges were set by Cabinet and the current schedule was contained within the report. Members were advised that there was a legal process to follow if car parking regulations were to be changed and also that the public needed to be consulted on proposals. A discussion was held on St Michaels Street car park. Officers stated that they did not feel that there was a strong case, based on usage, to change usage to a short stay car park. However local public feeling was that a time restriction for usage of St Michaels Street would be welcomed. Officers stated that the area action plan for the town centre would consider the parking needs of the town centre and how the Council could deliver against demand.

The following discussion ensued; -

- Members expressed concern that there were not a great number of short stay car parks
- It was suggested that the town centre was difficult to access by car and that Hatherton Street Car Park was under used. Officers suggested that this was because the car park had a poor environment meaning that capacity and demand had shifted to the car park at Tesco College Extra.
- Officers had reservations about offering free car parking in the town centre due to the cost involved in running car parks and the impact on private car park operation.

Officers concluded that more could be done to advertise other car parks in the area. A one way scheme for Caldmore Road was under consideration and the outcome of this was still to be decided. Officers added that the Panel may wish to consider the two reports (Caldmore road design and St Michael's car park) together.

The Chair of Caldmore Traders Organisation was invited to speak and stated that by Midday the St Michaels Street car park was nearly at full capacity. The Organisation would like to work with the Council to discuss lack of car parking and signage to car parks in the area.

The Chair moved the following motion;

That the Cabinet Member is requested to consider a 2 hour restriction on car parking times at St Michaels Street car park. The motion was seconded.

A Member queried if any additional car parks would be built to provide allocated parking for traders in the area. Officers stated that it was not possible to provide any allocated spaces for traders due to the availability of land.

An amendment to the motion was proposed; -

That the Cabinet Member considers a joint report on the 2 hour restriction on parking times at St Michaels Street car park at the same time as the report on the proposal on the road design of Caldmore Road.

A discussion was held on the procedures relating to motions. The Clerk read part 4.1 section 15.6 of the constitution 'Amendments to motions'.

The motion was withdrawn.

**Resolved that;**

A report on the use and future use of St Michaels Street car park should be taken to a future meeting of the Panel alongside a proposal on the road design of Caldmore Road.

**6/15 Consultation on drafts of the Site Allocation Document (SAD), Walsall town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).**

The Panel were informed that following agreement by Walsall Council's Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> July the Council was currently undertaking a consultation on the above 3 important planning documents, to help deliver the approach to regeneration, growth and environmental protection set out in the adopted Black Country Core Strategy. These would be adopted by late 2016.

The following were the points ensuing from Member discussion; -

- The canal area surrounding the art gallery was an important aspect of the town and it would be preferable to improve the quality of the water. The town centre AAP includes a policy focused on canals and set out measures to improve,
- Stafford Street was within the gigaport area for development,
- A key issue was to identify suitable sites for gypsies and travellers ,
- The AAP sought to address the issue of vacant shops within the town centre. Areas of opportunity had been identified and the Council was looking to attract new businesses where it could,
- A hierarchy of strategic, district and local centres existed and policies in the SAD and AAP protect and enhance them,
- Members raised concerns over the proliferation of off-licenses and betting shops and the adverse impact of this on communities; however it was agreed that this was a licensing rather than a land allocation issue,
- Access to the town was discussed including the road and car parking policies. Officers explained that a careful balance needed to be struck between road and parking investment and the needs of public transport users and pedestrian movement also needed to be considered.
- The appearance of the town centre including signage and shopfronts was raised there were policies in the AAP around good design and public realm improvements, as well as the adopted Shopfronts SPD.
- There were two planning consents at Digbeth /Market Square proposals (Old Square phase 2 and Norton and Proffitt site)
- The new cinema at Waterfront was due to open around Spring 2016 with the restaurants hoping to open slightly earlier.

**Resolved that; -**

The report was noted

**7/15 Area Manager's Report**

The report was noted. Members were informed that John Morris would be the primary contact for Walsall South Area Panel and Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel. Administrative support would be provided to enable the support to the Panel to continue.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**8/15 Funding Report**

The following applications were deliberated.

**Palfrey**

The Area Manager introduced the report.

**Palfrey Health and Well Being Day**

To deliver a 1 day health programme. The event will be open to the whole community and will involve free health checks, advice and workshops to be delivered in English and in a range of south Asian languages ranging from Gujerati, Urdu, Hindi and Bangladeshi where appropriate.

It was moved and seconded;

That the Palfrey Health and Well Being Day be awarded £3,130.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared carried.

**Pleck**

**Minhaj Pleck Youth Club**

To supporting young people in after school education and homework to provide help and support to improve the attainment of young people who may struggle in school.

It was moved and seconded;

That the Minhaj Pleck Youth Club be awarded £2,000.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared carried.

### **Gurdwara Nanak Sar Music Class**

The aim is to increase access to music and musical instruments for the young people through a series of free of charge weekly music lessons facilitated at the temple. With access to a diverse range of south Asian musical instruments.

It was moved and seconded;

That the Gurdwara Nanak Sar Music Class be awarded £2,680

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared carried.

### **Paddock**

#### **Park Hall Pool and Open Green**

Continuing enhancement of this local beauty spot, in order to maintain its green award status and civic recognition. Ongoing monitoring of trees, shrubs and plants.

It was moved and seconded;

That the Park Hall Pool and Open Green be awarded £750. Members asked that the organisation carefully considered the type of shrubs used.

The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

#### **Living Well with Diabetes – Park Hall Community Association**

Work with diabetics to increase knowledge and understanding of the illness.  
To raise awareness of signs and symptoms

It was moved and seconded that;

That the Park Hall Community Association be awarded £1850

The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

#### **Battle of the Young Bands - Chuckery Festival**

The project aims to encourage and help to develop the young performing talent that is around in, and connected with, the local community of Walsall South. So although there is an element of competition in the project there are also many elements of coaching, mentoring and awareness raising including an overview session on financial, business and contractual matters.

It was moved and seconded that;

The Battle of the Young Bands Project be awarded £1,250.00

The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

## **St Matthews**

### **Caldmore Community House - Caldmore Community Garden**

Councillor Arif declared an interest as Vice Chair of Caldmore Village Festival Group and left the room whilst the item was discussed. Councillor Hussain took the Chair.

Caldmore Community House, linked to Caldmore Community Garden, will be a local community hub, open to the whole community to use. To finish the last works on the house, the most important of which is the laminated flooring, fire doors and painting. The Chair of Caldmore Village Festival spoke to the Panel on the project and stated that there was no clear distinction of communities in the area. All could benefit.

It was moved and seconded that;

### **The Caldmore Community House Project be awarded £2,389.00**

The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

Councillor Arif returned to the room.

### **Urgent Boiler Replacement for the Vine - Vine Access Centre**

Vine Access Centre (VAC) is the main youth work facility run by The Vine Trust and hosts a number of learning, leisure and social/personal development programmes for some of Walsall's most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. The Panel declined to support the application.

#### **Resolved that;**

The Panel declined to support the application.

### **Keep Safe – Open Your Eyes**

A comprehensive training package for taxi drivers looking at how to spot grooming, what it looks like locally, how to refer, the legal context and how the drivers should respond. Members were concerned that this would not be compulsory training and suggested that this was an issue for taxi licensing to consider. The Area Manager agreed to follow this up.

#### **Resolved that;**

The Panel declined to support the application

### **Paint the Town - Walsall Council Creative Development Team**

Paint The Town will involve local artists and local community groups in the production of a collection of painted panels. The panels will be a moveable exhibition that will be mounted on the boards surrounding regeneration sites in the town centre. The project will also involve volunteers from Asda and will seek

other volunteers to paint and prepare the boards and keep an eye on the sites, repainting backgrounds if graffiti appears.

**Resolved that;**

The Panel declined to support the application

**Walsall Gala Baths – Child Friendly Learner Pool - Walsall Council Sport & Leisure Services**

The bid is to purchase equipment to deliver new sessions in the improved facility to ensure that the new learner pool is attractive to children.

**Resolved that;**

The Panel declined to support the application.

**CCTV System - St. Matthew's Church Community Centre**

To install a HD CCTV system within the St. Matthew's Church Community Centre. A representative from the Centre spoke to the Panel and described the impact of metal theft on the Church and the need for a CCTV system.

It was moved and seconded;

That the CCTV Project at St Matthew's Church Community Centre was awarded £1938.00.

The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

The Area Manager stated that the funding for this Area Panel had been split into £10k pots and allocated to each ward. The funding pot for St Matthews had been exhausted. He stated that money from other pots could be transferred to this area. Members declined this option.

**Resolved that;**

£2,000 funding for the Walsall South Big Spring Clean (April, 2015) had not been spent and can be de-committed. It was agreed to split in 2 ways -

- £1,000 will be given as a contribution to Hi's & Lows
- £1,000 will be made available for emergency funds, for domehawk camera deployment, camera repairs and emergency environmental issues, such as bins and fencing

**Drug Paraphernalia Clean Up Campaign - Hi's n Lows**

Aim to visit known drug using sites, throughout the Walsall South footprint, on a regular basis, ensuring the more frequently used areas are visited more regularly, and respond to reports of drug litter in priority order within 24 hours.

It was moved and seconded

That the Drug paraphernalia cleanup campaign was awarded £1,000.00

The motion having been put to the vote was declared and carried.

**9/15 Date and venue for next meeting**

The Panel's next meeting would be 30 November at the Council House.

**Termination of meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....