

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL MEETING

Thursday, 20 November, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

**Burrowes Street TMO, Tenant Management Resource Centre,
Burrowes Street, Walsall, WS2 8NN**

Present

Present

Councillor K. Phillips (Chair)
Councillor L.D. Jeavons (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Councillor S.F. Fitzpatrick
Councillor C. Jones
Councillor I.C. Robertson

Officers

Michael Greenfield- Area Manager
Sarah Heath- ASB Officer
Matt Underhill - Committee Business & Governance Manager

81/14

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

82/14

Apologies

Apologies for the duration of the meeting were received from Councillors Young, Harrison, Jukes and Lane.

83/14

Declarations of Interest

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick declared an interest in "Sparkle into a Bloxwich Christmas" as Director for Environment for Bloxwich Business Partnership CIC.

84/14

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

85/14

Minutes of the previous meeting

The meeting considered the minutes of the meeting that took place on 23 September 2014.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2014, copies having been previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

86/14

Area Manager's Report

In response to a Panel query it was explained that concerns regarding a family who were resident in Green Rock Lane who are causing significant problems for the local community had now been referred to the Assistant Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services.

A Member expressed thanks on behalf of the Panel to the Area Manager for compiling a comprehensive document detailing closed and derelict public houses across North Walsall.

Members noted an issue relating to fly tipping in Oakwood and the significant costs of removal. In relation to a problem with fly tipping on Goscote Lane it was explained that responsibility for cleaning up fell to the council, whg and Severn Trent. It was further explained that additional security cameras have been installed and whg have cleared the land.

A Panel Member made reference to an issue of drug dealing at the railway cutting near Charles Cuddy Walker Academy School. The Area Manager explained that he would confirm who was responsible, the council or Centro, for the planned installation of domehawk cameras and improved lighting in the area.

Inspector Bridges provided an update on local policing matters. It was explained that two new sergeants have joined the Neighbourhood Team. The success of a dispersal notice on Stephenson Square was noted, as were ongoing links with the Fire Service to tackle the use of off road bikes on the public highway. In response to Panel queries it was explained that the police were aware of the issue of traffic making illegal turns off Boxwich High Street into Victoria Avenue. Members explained that a

campaign had been undertaken to discourage drivers from not making illegal turns, while a traffic survey had also been undertaken.

A Member also highlighted concern regarding thefts of lead from properties in Bloxwich High Street and Victoria Avenue.

The ASB officer was explained that a lot of work had been undertaken over the school holidays. This included working with the police to address issues of anti social behaviour in areas including Providence Close. It was also explained that work had been undertaken with Youth Services and Blakenall Youth Centre to engage with young people, with increasing levels of engagement noted.

It was also explained that a dispersal order had been introduced in Valley Road, together with the use of a camera. This was in response to young people not moving out of the road to allow traffic to pass. It was apparent that Youth Services were not welcome and a Member also noted that local residents saw it as a right that their children could play in the street at all times.

A Panel Member highlighted concern regarding a snooker hall in Bloxwich which had made an application to be open until 1pm with the potential for anti social behaviour. Inspector Bridges agreed to follow up on this matter.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

87/14

Funding Report

The Panel considered the funding applications as set out in the report.

It was explained that Sparkle into a Bloxwich Christmas was a community fund day that was organised to celebrate Christmas working with local partners, organisations and charities.

The Panel approved the funding application for £1,500.

The Panel were also advised that following approval of this project there was now a total of £19,794.20 available to approve project applications for the remainder of the financial year.

88/14

Councillor suggestions for future sessions

The Chair further highlighted concerns regarding the problems caused by a number of empty/ derelict pubs in North Walsall. The Chair explained that the condition of these pubs had inevitably deteriorated over a period of years, while no action has been taken to resolve this issue. The Panel supported the following resolution: That the Walsall North Area Panel recommend that Council give consideration to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) of the following pubs: The Bulls Head, The Eagle, The Kings Arms and The Leather Bottle.

Resolved

That the Panel recommend that Council give consideration to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) of the following pubs: The Bulls Head, The Eagle, The Kings Arms and The Leather Bottle.

The meeting terminated at 6.50 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: