

**MINUTES OF THE
INNER WEST AREA PANEL MEETING
held on
Monday 10th October 2011
5.30 pm, at Westfield Chambers**

Attendees:

Area Panel Members:

John Willshaw,	JW
Andrew Liptrot	AL
Hugh Morgan Pugh	HMP
David Higgott	DH
Jenny (Zeniada) Holt	JH
Jean Paxton	JP

Apologies Area Panel Members:

Harry Shields	HS
Francesca Harris	FH
James Granger	JG
Graham McDonald	GM

Officers:

Akbar Khan – Area Performance Manager Bramley/Armley	AK
Marie-Pierre Dupont – Neighbourhood Planner	MPD
Stephen Towler	ST
Beth Hargreaves – Minutes	BH

Officers:

Mark Topping – Groundwork	MT
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1.0 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Harry Shields and Francesca Harris.

2.0 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 8th August 2011

2.1 The minutes were accepted as true record of the meeting.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 AL advised that the PV panels meetings that were discussed at the last meeting have occurred and the new date dates are not for this area.

4.0 Customer Involvement

4.1 Update

ST advised the panel that the dates for the 'Involving Diverse Tenants' under section 4 of the report have been confirmed. The Kurdish forum is on Thursday and

Action

the Urdu forum is on 1st November. The Polish and Arabic forums will be in November and then they are back on timescale.

Section 5 of the report gives an update on the development of a The tenant Scrutiny Panel. ST advised that the next meeting is on Tuesday 18th October and will review the report on advice for moving home.

The new Terms of reference and information protocol has been agreed in a meeting with the Chair of the pilot Scrutiny panel, Cathy Clelland, Claire Warren and Richard Walker. The next stage is to send applications to those that have expressed an interest in joining. Potentially 32 applications could be received as 26 people have expressed an interest and the six people on the pilot panel could also apply. It is aimed to have the panel in place by the end of November / start of December.

4.2 Local Performance Framework

AK updated the panel on the local area performance advising that he is pleased to report that there is a significant improvement in Armley since last month. Several indicators are still red so further improvement is required but it is getting better.

The Bramley office is still struggling with the footfall with the average waiting time at forty five minutes, this is mainly due to issues with Morrison. AL asked if the additional footfall is due to the reduced opening hours of the other local offices. AK confirmed that it is Bramley queries and not tenants coming from the other areas. The main issue is the time it is taking to deal with the queries not extra footfall.

Morrissions have set up surgeries in the Housing Offices but they have been struggling to access their systems which has been causing greater frustrations. It has been put forward that Morrissions will set up a special email address instead so that problems can be emails direct to their office but Akbar advised he was not keen on this idea.

It was discussed that Morrissions agreed that a representative would be in attendance at every meeting which has not happened. It was agreed that graham Hepworth and Carol Taylor would be invited to the next meeting.

BH/MH

On a more positive note, Akbar advised that the Broadlea fun day is arranged for 12.30 – 15.30 on 24th October at the conjunction of Broadlea Mount and Broadlea Terrace. This will allow the panel members to see the fruitions of the funding.

5.0 Area Panel Bids

5.1 Pre-Bid discussion from Groundwork

MT attended the meeting to speak to the panel about a potential bid for the New Wortley area.

Groundwork have been asked to draw up plans for the area to tackle several issues include the surfacing, boundaries and access. MT passed around before and after images that have been drawn up to give the panel members an idea of what is proposed.

MT advised that the pathways are deteriorating and will need to be replaced soon as

they are starting to pose health and safety risks. The space itself is difficult to defend due to the lack of boundaries causing the area to be unsafe.

Groundwork are looking to create a green space from the estate into the city centre and improve the access links. MT advised that depending on how much funding is secured, they would like to train the local residents to maintain the area once the project is completed.

AL asked about the next bid as it is for the same area MT advise that this bid is being treated separately as the boundary issues near the roundabout at Wellington Road is an urgent matter that needs dealing with straight away, this is a much more long term bid.

The panel agreed that they would be interested to see the proposal and receive a bid at the next meeting.

5.2 Boundary issues near roundabout on Wellington Road

This is for the same area as the previous discussion and is also being handled by Groundwork.

The area near to the roundabout on Wellington Road is a travellers site. A court order was granted to clear the site with no return for three months. It is believed that if action isn't taken the travellers will return to the site once the three months has elapsed.

Groundwork have researched the potential options to secure the site and advise that the most effective method is bounding.

British Gas who are based quite close to the site have indicated that they will also put in money to secure the site as they suffer costs due to the travellers.

The total cost will be £30,00. The environmental team have committed £10,000 , this panel is asked to agree to £10,000 then British Gas will be approached to ask them to commit to the final £10,000.

AL asked what would happen the final £10,000 is not secured. MT advised that the commitment of the £20,000 would be a good card to take to the meeting with British Gas and they have already shown an interest in the project.

AL feels it is a lot of money for WNWhL to put into this scheme for one area. AK agreed but advised if no action is taken more money will be spent on associated costs such as cleaning up, vandalism and theft. This proposal is a long term proactive solution.

The panel members asked how quickly this can be put into action if they agree to it tonight. MT advised that detailed drawings would be developed straight away then sent out for three quotes with a 2 week deadline for return.

The panel members took a vote with the majority voting in favour.

MT to return to the next meeting to provide an update.

The bid was agreed

Community Safety project in the Moorside area

This bid is for £1,100 to support a cold calling community safety project in the Moorside area.

The purpose of 'No Cold Calling' zones is to discourage cold callers from specific residential areas. The introduction of the scheme provides householders with the opportunity to collectively discourage the often-unwelcome practice of cold calling by the use of signs and each participant will display a sticker on their door. .

As part of the scheme the residents will be given information on how to deal with cold callers should the signs be ignored.

Residents will be offered consultation and interactive workshop. Education officers from the trading standards will host sessions in a bid to raise awareness of issues such as scams, identify theft and personal safety but also advice on energy comparison, safety within the home and how to deal with pushy sales people and how to cancel contract that they may have been persuaded into.

There is concern about this area as many of the residents are vulnerable.

It was confirmed that the scheme would be managed by trading standards but once set up it should run itself.

AL queried whether it would be better to run articles in the Buzz about loan sharks and dealing with cold callers. MPD agreed this would be a good idea but this is a specialist scheme set up which will equip these people with the necessary

8.0 Date Time and Location of Next Meeting

8.1 Monday, 12th December 2011, at 5.30 pm, in The Board Room, Westfield Chambers.