

COUNCIL MEETING – 21 JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

6 July 2015

Present: Councillors Allebone (Chairman), Gough (Vice-Chairman), Abram, Bone, Carr, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, V Waters, and Watts.

Also present: Mrs B Lawrence, Head of Resources, and Mr S Whiteley, Electoral Services Officer.

(Councillors Bell and Emerson attended the meeting as observers. Councillor Walia did not attend the meeting.)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the chairman welcomed the new committee members and gave a brief overview of the expected reports and presentations for the next year.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aslam, Simmons, Maguire, and York.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of interest.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2015 be confirmed and signed.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Resources was received to provide members with some background on the work of the Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership and to inform members about the current partnership project on collaborative working.

The chairman welcomed Police Sergeant Paul Valentine, who explained his secondment to the Borough Council of Wellingborough and the role of the Community Safety Partnership in relation to policing and the council. He also raised the issue of tackling drug offences within Wellingborough, making reference to Operations Pyramid and Fever, which helped to remove 30 drug dealers from the street, particularly in the Hemmingwell and Queensway areas. He explained that the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner is planning for “one stop shops” in communities to aid reporting of antisocial behaviour and hate crime, with the aim that a more permanent “footprint” will improve police visibility and build relationships within the communities.

Sergeant Valentine went on to explain that part of his seconded role will be to identify how future opportunities for one stop shops may present themselves in the borough, and that recommendations would go to the police and the

council as to how community hubs could be established, and which voluntary organisations could be worked with to achieve this. He said the project is keen to build on the work that has already been done by many of the faith-based community initiatives in Wellingborough, and empower those groups to work more closely with the Community Safety Partnership and the police.

Sergeant Valentine also identified that, although the borough does not have serious issues with shoplifting and that there is a strong CCTV system in the area, greater work could be done with businesses in the borough, with a view to a potential Business Watch Partnership and the introduction of Taxi Watch.

Members asked questions in regard to hate crime, domestic violence and shoplifting within the borough. Sergeant Valentine explained that although he was not aware of an increase in hate crime, the ambition for the one stop shops would be as a community location to report hate crime, domestic violence and other antisocial behaviour. Sergeant Valentine stated that his recommendations would be put to the Community Safety Partnership. He has addressed the Retail Crime Partnership that already exists in Wellingborough and the potential aims for improvement of this partnership, including greater continuity between stores inside and outside of the main shopping centre, and better information sharing between store managers to help the prevention and reduction of theft and other retail crime.

Sergeant Valentine explained that the community hub and one stop shop solutions provide local premises for the reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour and they were working well with police community support officers (PCSOs) in the borough. Sergeant Valentine gave the example of joint working in Earls Barton, where the police and fire service shared buildings, and where further integration could be possible in the longer term.

Sergeant Valentine agreed with members that the police cadet scheme was popular, and recent trials at local schools were well received by both staff and students but their continuation would be dependent on funding.

In response to members' questions, Sergeant Valentine explained the scope of Taxi Watch as a training scheme for taxi drivers, with an aim to cut down on crime involving vulnerable people, child sexual exploitation and missing persons - and also gave examples of some authorities requiring membership of Taxi Watch as a part of successful licencing applications. Taxi Watch also provided some opportunities for integration with the night-time economy, including door security staff that can take on a "taxi warden" role. Sergeant Valentine explained that an inaugural meeting to scope interest in a business partnership with relevant stakeholders was due to take place in August 2015.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the report on the Community Safety Partnership project be noted;
- (ii) the Community Safety Partnership be asked to investigate the setting up of a Taxi Watch in the borough.

5. PRESENTATION BY THE CENTRAL AND EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The chairman expressed his disappointment that nobody from Central and East Northamptonshire Citizen's Advice Bureau was in attendance to give their presentation, and had not sent any apologies. It was agreed that the item would be deferred; officers would investigate the reason for the absence and discuss with the chairman whether the report could be rescheduled.

6. PRESENTATION BY GLAMIS HALL FOR ALL

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Resources was received to introduce a presentation relating to the work of Glamis Hall for All.

The chairman welcomed Ms H Saunders of Glamis Hall for All. Ms Saunders' presentation began by describing milestones reached over the six month period since the charity took the keys for the Glamis Hall building, including the launch of the lunch club, the partial kitchen upgrade, the Glamis Hall float at Wellingborough Carnival and the first public event, where £800 was raised for the charity.

Ms Saunders explained some of the challenges faced by the charity, including fluctuating attendances, but said that new clients were beginning to use the services provided, and that the expectation was that the charity would break even one month ahead of target.

Ms Saunders outlined the staffing arrangements at Glamis Hall, which includes over 30 regular volunteers and a community organiser, partially funded by Locality. She then presented a price list comparing Glamis Hall services to other local care services, and outlined some of the sporting services and hire services offered at the hall, along with a new website, and a new community newsletter. The newsletter printing costs were funded by Northamptonshire County Council empowerment fund, and students from Weavers School had been engaged to assist with creation of the newsletter.

Ms Saunders closed by considering what could be done to help target vulnerable people in more affluent areas of the town and borough who would benefit from Glamis Hall services, and asked if there were alternative ways the council could support Glamis Hall for All, including publicising the service and opportunities for grants. Before members' questions, the Head of Resources explained that publicising the service via the Borough Council of Wellingborough website was not a problem, and that although all grants had currently been allocated, future allocation of grants would be considered by the Voluntary Sector Grants Working Party, which would make a recommendation to Resources Committee.

Councillor Watts thanked Ms Saunders and Glamis Hall for All for the work they had undertaken over the last six month period.

Members then queried the client capacity of Glamis Hall, which Ms Saunders stated as approximately fifty people per day. Members also suggested some

measures which could increase revenue or reduce costs for Glamis Hall, including renting solar panels to provide low-cost electricity, and alternative means of advertising its services such as local village publications, suggesting the parish clerks as the best point of contact for these publications.

RESOLVED that presentation by Glamis Hall for All be noted.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.