

Wombwell Ward Alliance
Held in Wombwell Library at 6.00pm on 11th February, 2019

Present: Councillors Frost (Chair in respect of item 1) and Daniel Griffin (Chair from item 2) together with S Chavan, B Eastwood, L Cooke (Berneslai Homes), B Whittaker and J Whittaker.

In attendance: A Bradshaw (BMBC Community Development Officer), F O'Brien (Project Management Officer, Communities) and W Ward (BMBC Council Governance Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor R Wraith (Vice Chair) and P Jones.

1 Chairpersons Opening Remarks

The Chair, Councillor Frost, welcomed all members to the meeting. He commented that the launch of the new Governance Framework marked a fresh start for Ward Alliances and, therefore, he felt it appropriate to step down as the Chair.

The Chair was then taken by Councillor Daniel Griffin.

Members of the Ward Alliance placed on record their thanks and appreciation for the work Councillor Frost had undertaken on behalf of the Alliance.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January, 2019 were accepted as a correct record.

3 Principal Towns Initiative – Update

Fiona O'Brien (Project Management Officer, Communities) attended the meeting and gave an update on the current position with regard to the Principal Towns Initiative.

Fiona reminded Members of the background to this initiative and the consultation that had taken place. She explained that the full report was still awaited but an preliminary schematic diagram of what was proposed was available and this was circulated.

Members of the Ward Alliance were extremely disappointed that the schematic did not address any of the priorities previously identified through the consultation process. It suggested works on land which was not in the ownership of the Council and failed to address the issue of the semi derelict former shop on High Street or address the unification of the whole of the shopping area.

The Ward Alliance then discussed the schematic in some detail highlighting some of the key priorities previously. Particular reference was made, amongst other things, to the following:

- The need to address disability access and parking along High Street
- The alternative use opportunities for empty shops and particularly for youth type provision
- The concerns relating to inappropriate environmental enhancements and the erection of canopies which were in the wrong location
- The need to enhance provision for market traders including the possible use and storage of collapsible market stalls

The Chair and Councillor Frost stated that they would meet with the Cabinet Spokesperson for Place to discuss their concerns and Fiona O'Brien would raise concerns with the consultants. A further report would be submitted when more information became available.

4 Ward Alliance Priorities and Community Consultation Process

The Ward Alliance was asked to review its priorities and community consultation process. To aid the discussion Amanda Bradshaw circulated the following documentation:

- Current ward priorities
- Details of the Ward Alliance Fund Projects detailed under Ward Profiles and amounts allocated
- The Inequalities Profile 2015

The Ward Alliance then discussed in detail whether or not these priorities should be changed or amended to take account of current and future identified needs. It was suggested that preliminary discussion take place at this meeting with further discussion at the next meeting to finally approve amended priorities.

Particular reference was made to the following:

- The need to address derelict shops
- The importance of addressing youth related issues and youth disaffection.
 - Arising out of this it was noted that Sabeena Chavan and Amanda Bradshaw could explore options via their individual contacts. It was suggested that contact be made with Wombwell Library, J Lang in Hoyland and schools in relation to Homework clubs
 - It was reported that Berneslai Homes had a Youth Engagement Fund which might be available to use for matched funding opportunities.

- All Members of the Alliance were encouraged to undertake their own investigation as to what other options/facilities were available within the area
- Bereavement support was referred to as a key priority. It was noted that such issues were often addressed within the Luncheon Club and this had been a particular success. Not all clubs/groups were as welcoming and it was suggested that Brenda Eastwood could lead on assisting groups in such matters
- Members of the Alliance generally felt that the current priorities were still appropriate with some slight amendments
 - It was felt that the Quality of Life priority should include isolation and loneliness as this was an increasing issue in a digitally developing world where the elderly in particular were feeling more and more isolated
 - Arising out of the above, it was suggested that representatives of Age UK be invited to the next meeting to give a presentation on current initiatives
 - It was also suggested that Public Transport be included within the Quality of Life priority as this too had a link with isolation
 - Communication continued to be an increasing issue within the Information and Support priority. There was perhaps a need to undertake an online survey to find out what was currently available within the area and what was needed. This could also be supplemented by a street survey on the High Street

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions and stated that further discussion would be held at the next meeting with final decisions on priorities and actions to be taken to address such priorities would be agreed.

5 Funding Applications – Ground Rules

There was a discussion of the procedures and requirements for future applications submitted for funding from the Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That applicants for grants in excess of £1,500 be required to make a presentation to the Ward Alliance prior to grants being made;
- (ii) That, as a condition of grant:
 - All publicity material issued by groups/associations in receipt of grant aid be required to display the Ward Alliance and Council Logos
 - That feedback on the success of events/initiatives be required in the form of email/letter/text and photograph so that this can be used in future promotional material of the Ward Alliance

- (iii) That the grants Sub Group (comprising all three Elected Members) be required to give a preliminary assessment of any applications received and determine whether or not additional information is required prior to submission to the Ward Alliance for determination.

6 Promotion of the Ward Alliance

There was a discussion of the ways in which the Ward Alliance, its initiatives and priorities could be promoted.

Arising out of the discussion, the following matters were raised:

- It was suggested that the Ward Alliance should have its own specific Facebook and Twitter pages. Other organisations had similar social media outlets and it was important, therefore, to establish appropriate links to share information
- Whilst social media was a vital tool, there were, nevertheless, some residents who had limited or no internet access. It was suggested, therefore, that there was still a need for posters and leaflets. These could be displayed in shops, public notice boards and other outlets
- Arising out of the above, it was suggested that the Tidy Team be contacted with a view to the Notice Board being erected in the vicinity of the Pearson's Field ironwork display
- A suggestion was also made that local newspapers may be able to assist with publicity
- The Chair suggested that a Sub Group could be established with himself and other members of the Alliance to take matters forward

RESOLVED that the options now referred to be explored and that further discussion be held at the next meeting.

7 Recruitment/Membership of the Ward Alliance

There was a discussion of future recruitment to the Ward Alliance and particularly the need to identify underrepresented groups/organisations.

It was noted that representatives need not be full Members of the Alliance if they wished to participate in a 'themed' Sub Group meeting. Such participation might be helpful in the first instance and could encourage involvement in the full Ward Alliance at a later date.

It was suggested that approaches be made to, amongst others,

- Wombwell Parish Church
- Salvation Army
- Friends of Wombwell Cemetery – and particularly in relation to a youth representative
- Wombwell Cricket/Athletic Club
- Wombwell Fishing Club

- High Street Businesses
- South Yorkshire Police
- GP Surgeries

Amanda Bradshaw reminded Members of the need to return their 'recommitment' forms at the earliest opportunity. She also stated that 'self-assessment' forms were to be sent out shortly.

8 Funding Applications

Amanda Bradshaw circulated details of the Ward Alliance budget which indicated that £6,490.38 remained uncommitted out of the original budget of £11,308.04 which included a carry forward from the previous year of £1,308.04.

There was then a discussion of possible future funding applications, of the finance still available for expenditure including the 'Mary Portas' money and of the type of projects that could be financed. There was a further discussion of the need to ensure that money was utilised correctly. There had been no indication that unspent allocation could not be carried forward into 2019/20 and it information was received to the contrary, Members would be informed.

Members then received details of the following application received for funding which they were asked to consider:

High Street Hanging Baskets

A total of £1,440 was requested to purchase 16 spring and 16 summer hanging baskets for the High Street. The baskets would be maintained and replaced if damaged by the supplier.

RECOMMENDED that a contribution of £1,440 be made.

9 Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Ward Alliance be hold on Monday 25th March, 2019 at 6.00 pm in Wombwell Library.