

Heywood Area Panel

22nd May 2008

Chair – Andy Wadsworth
Minutes – Doug Croxon

As the Chair was delayed Andy Wadsworth volunteered to Chair the meeting and began by asking the Panel to introduce themselves and say which area/estate/group they were from.

1. Notes of the Last Meeting

AW asked if there were any problems with the accuracy.

No

Bryn Hackley proposed and Dorothy Rigby seconded.

Approved by the Panel

Matters arising

BH stated that the first Estate Walkabouts had been good but that apart from the Police and RBH no other agencies were involved. DH answered that invites were made to other agencies but was up to them to attend or not. BW stated that it would have been good to have someone from Grounds Maintenance. DH will raise at next Estate Walkabout.

Penny Bennett stated that a rep from Grounds Maintenance had come to the Estate Walkabout at St James' and had been helpful. AW added that during the recent elections Cllrs had been occupied with campaigning but that he expected them to be more involved with the next round of Estate Inspections.

Action DH

2. Report on Environmental Improvement Programme and Quick Win Schemes

Paul Docherty outlined the large estate wide Environmental Improvement Programme to take place on the identified priority estates of Back O' the Moss, Heap Bridge and Heady Hill and the Quick Wins scheme to address smaller locally identified issues around the rest of Heywood.

PD explained the criteria used to prioritise schemes and the role of the Heywood Area Panel to approve/defer/decline Quick Win schemes as well as monitor outcomes and propose new schemes.

Quick win schemes defined as small-scale projects costing no more than £30,000.

They can cover areas such as – lighting, fencing, car parking, landscaping, drainage, upgrading internal or external communal areas and upgrading play/recreational areas.

Anyone can propose a scheme by contacting local Housing Manager, Paul Docherty or the Tenant Participation Unit.

If major changes are made to a scheme after it has been approved it will be brought back to the Area Panel for further approval.

The 2008/9 budget for Heywood is £79,376.

The schemes brought to the Panel come to a total of £99,537. The panel must therefore defer or reject some of the schemes, some schemes do not have a full costs done yet so an approval in principal is sought from the Panel.

There will be an additional £79,376 in each of the next two years so any schemes brought to the panel can be deferred by the Panel until the money is available.

Dorothy Rigby noted there was no mention of the parking near Springfield Close, had no one raised this as a possible scheme? Had raised this with Cllr Linda Robinson. DH answered that this had been investigated but the cost of making improvements would be

very high with a quote of £27,000 to make 3 more spaces. Has therefore asked for other ideas how to solve this problem.

AW asked for show of hands that the Panel approves of the criteria for prioritizing the Quick Win schemes.

Approved by the Panel

3. Quick Wins Schemes – report for decision.

DH began to outline the proposed schemes, suggesting that as there are not enough funds to carry out all the work they look at the priority 1 schemes first.

Regent Street garage sire wall, danger of collapse so high priority. £9,539.

Approved by the Panel.

Angel Meadow fencing, needed to prevent anti-social behaviour. These flats are in the last phase of demolition if at all. Estimated cost is £25,000.

PD suggested the Panel set a limit of £25,000 on the scheme and agree to proceed in principle.

Approved by the Panel

Marlor Court, removal of cobbles and trees then resurfacing to reduce trip hazard. Some of the costs can be met through no-cyclical budget. Prices not known yet, approval in principle sought.

Approved by the Panel

Ormerod Street, back fencing. Prices not known yet, approval in principle sought.

Approved by the Panel

PB asked if a map/plan and photos of the Quick Win areas could be provided to help the Panel see what they were about. PD said this was possible for future meetings and that there was a link on the RBH website to look at before and after images of schemes done last year.

Action PD

PD reminded the Panel that with the schemes already approved there was not enough budget left to carry out the rest of the schemes. However the Quick Wins programme will run for 3 years so can defer others till next year. In the words of the immortal Jim Bowen 'Your money is safe'.

Springfield Close, steel fencing to improve security £22,728.

Dorothy Rigby stated that intruders can easily get over the current concrete perimeter wall and that the bungalows are isolated so need this extra security.

NA added that this issue had been raised last year. Youths have been cutting across the property and harassing residents.

PD stated that this scheme would use up the remaining budget. He suggested they approve it and prioritise the other 2 schemes – Angel Meadow back up lighting generator and 3 sites in need of new fencing on South Avenue, Crown Road, High Street, Walton Street and Walton Close – for next year.

Dave Fisher stated that the back up generator for Angel Meadow was also a high priority and needed to prevent accidents during power cuts.

DH stated that a similar security scheme had already been approved by the Panel for Angel Meadows. AH added that there was not yet a definite cost for the generator and it could be in excess of the available budget.

AW asked for the Panel to vote for their preference.

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|---|------------|
| 1 South Avenue and Crown Road scheme | – no votes |
| 2 Crown Road and High Street scheme | – no votes |
| 3 Walton Street and Walton Close scheme | – no votes |
| 4 Springfield Close scheme | – 10 votes |
| 5 Angel Meadow scheme | – 10 votes |

DH repeated that there was not enough money for both schemes. Suggested the Angel Meadow scheme be deferred until more detailed costing available. This would leave approx £10,000 which could be used on one of the other fencing schemes.

Angel Meadow tenants conceded the point.

Cllr Colin Lambert suggested that scheme 1 South Avenue and Crown Road be approved as this was an area that had many reports of youth nuisance.

Approved by the Panel.

No budget left so remaining schemes deferred.

4. Terms of Reference

AW outlined the Terms of Reference for the Heywood Area Panel which have been agreed following the meeting of 15.5.08 between RMBC, RoFTRA, Tenant Representatives and RBH.

Attendees – Meeting open to all Tenants/Leaseholders/Owner Occupiers from RBH properties.

Other interested parties such as Councillors and RoFTRA are also welcome.

Voting - Quorum will be 4 tenants.

- Owner occupiers will have a maximum of 3 votes.

- Owner occupiers will not be able to vote on issues or schemes that will improve or increase the value of their property.

Approved by the Panel

5. Agenda for the next Meeting

Quick Wins budget now spent for the year, PD will report on progress of approved schemes so Panel can monitor and learn what works for future.

No applications for One Off Tenant Participation grants have been received so far.

Heywood Area Panel has a budget of £1195 for these grants which are for small projects that increase involvement in tenants groups. The maximum that may be awarded is £500 and it can be used to hold a special event or activity for tenants or alternatively up to 50% of the cost of a trip or social outing can be awarded. Urged all Heywood groups to take advantage of this money.

DH can application forms and criteria be sent to groups?

Action NA

Mary Diedo-Rayner stated that the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive award grants for social trips involving older people. This could be used to match fund a planned day out.

DT stated that nothing seems to be getting done around Plum Mill. Residents feel they are being left out, particularly in new play areas and facilities. This is also an issue at Hopwood.

DH suggested the Panel look to Township to see what is planned. Cllr Colin Lambert stated that there was a programme being developed to improve play facilities, Heywood's part of the budget will be approx £700,000. Will know more about what is planned in 5 weeks also looking at section 1060 for new developments where builders have to provide play areas.

Betty Fisher stated that Heywood East also seems to have missed out. Cllr Colin Lambert stated that £70,000 has been allocated for new play area at Crimble Croft.

BF asked what could be done to tackle gangs of youths hanging around local car park because area is poorly lit at night. Cllr Colin Lambert said could raise this issue with local Councillor to see if they will spend some of their Ward Fund to tackle the problem.

AW stated that the Area Panel should stay focused on housing issues where RBH has budgets to make changes. Can invite tenants from Plum Mill to attend next meeting and get a representative from Township to report on what is planned.

Action AW

DH could we do something from the Estate Inspections to look at the themes emerging from tenants. Na would service heads come and discuss these issues. AW stated that he did not feel a standing invite to service heads was a good idea, better to have a targeted meeting where there is information to give.

Cllr Colin Lambert stated that Ward Forums are well attended by service heads who have responded to issues. RBH Area Panels could refer any outside issues to the Ward Forums.

6. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting Thursday 4th September

10am-12noon

Heywood Magic Market

Attendance

Name	Group	Tenant (T), Resident (R), Leaseholder (L)	Committee Member (C)
Dorothy Rigby	Springfield Close TRA	R	C
Bryn Hackley	Angel Meadow TRA	T	C
Debbie Hopwood	RBH		
Paul Docherty	RBH		
Dave Fisher	Angel Meadow TRA	T	C
Norma Fisher	Angel Meadow TRA	T	C
Christine Barry	Angel Meadow TRA	T	C
Jackie Brandon	Angel Meadow TRA	T	C
Mary Diedo-Rayner	BOTM	R	
Betty Fisher	BOTM	T	C
Penny Bennet	St James' Area TRA	T	C
Angela Havens	RBH		
Andy Wadsworth	RBH		
Doug Croxon	RBH		
Doreen Travers	BOTM	T	C
Peter Travers	BOTM	T	C
Cllr Colin Lambert	RMBC		

Apologies:

None