

Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board

10 February, 2016

Summary of Matters Considered

Report of the Vice-Chair, Councillor Ashman

The Scrutiny Board met on 10 February, 2016 and the following item was considered. I have selected the main points of the discussion which I feel members of the Council will be particularly interested to know more about. For more detail, a copy of the minutes is available on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website at <http://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cm5/>

Town Lead Member Reports

The Board heard reports from town lead members on the projects and activities taking place in their towns. The information provided to the Board by the town lead members and neighbourhood managers at the meeting was quite detailed, therefore I have summarised some of the key points from each town below.

West Bromwich – Approval has been given to bids for local area budget funding to erect gates in problem areas and to deliver community speed watch campaigns in partnership with the police.

Rowley Regis – The number of cases that are referred to town tasking level has been managed down to zero by addressing issues at bi-monthly meetings.

Tipton – Is taking part in a project with West Midlands Police entitled 'Mutual Gain', which brings together the police, key partners and the local community to work together and rebuild social capital and regain community strength.

Wednesbury – Has approved bids from its local area budget to provide a number of skips in the town, which has resulted in a reduction in fly tipping.

Smethwick – Has used its local area budget to purchase personal attack alarms, which have been distributed in partnership with the police.

Oldbury – Is looking at partnership working to develop a joined up and pro-active approach to dealing with issues in the town.

There were mixed views amongst the town lead members about the success of the Community Offer. The Board feels that a piece of work looking at the impact of the project should be carried out by the appropriate scrutiny board in 2016/2017.

The Town Lead Member for Smethwick reported that he feels there is a lack of clarity about how danger spots on local roads are dealt with by the highways service. The Board agrees that it would be useful if criteria and policies in relation to how road safety issues are addressed could be clarified for members and will request a report on this matter to its next meeting, or to a meeting of the appropriate scrutiny board in 2016/2017.

Councillor Ashman

Vice-Chair of the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board