

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2022 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), A Coleman, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, I Hardiman, A L L'Huillier, S Miah, T L Onslow, C Rogers, D Ross and D R Sheppard.

Observers

Councillor: G W Ballinger

Observed remotely: J F Byng, H E Dyke, M Hart, N Martin, M Rayner, J W R Thomas, L Whitehouse and P W M Young.

OS.86 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman) and N J Desmond.

OS.87 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor I Hardiman was a substitute for Councillor M Hart.
Councillor C Rogers was a substitute for Councillor N Desmond.

OS.88 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor T Onslow declared in respect of agenda item 5 – annual review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership, that she was the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Mercia, and the PCC provides funding for the Partnership.

OS.89 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.90 Annual Review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021/22

The committee received a report on the annual review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) 2021/22.

Members were reminded that it was a statutory duty for local authorities to scrutinise the work of its local Community Safety Partnership, under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

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The Community Services Manager gave a presentation that provided an update on the priorities, performance, successes and challenges in relation to the NWCSP.

The Community Services Manager gave a breakdown of the allocation of the NWCSP core funding from the PCC for 2021/22. She added that additional funding had been given for CCTV; to provide an additional workstation in the CCTV Monitoring Centre and for the upgrade of 36 existing analogue cameras in Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch to hybrid solution, and £22k had been allocated for a North Worcestershire fly tipping project. She advised that the Wyre Forest funded projects for the year were KDYT Detached Youth Team and a variety of tasking projects.

The committee discussed the update and were given the opportunity to engage in a question and answer session with the Community Services Manager.

The Community Services Manager said she would feedback a number of the issues raised to the Partnership at its next meeting. A written response to any points where further clarification was sought would be circulated to members after the meeting.

Agreed: The progress by the NWCSP and the Safer Wyre Forest Operational Group be noted.

OS.91

Recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel

The committee considered the final report and recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel.

The panel was established to conduct a review of concerns about the use of fireworks in the Wyre Forest area because of the high number of complaints from members of the public around the distress that fireworks can cause. The Chairman of the panel, Councillor S Miah presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet:

- 1. Contact the Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest, Mark Garnier, to ask him to support at a national level limiting the sale of fireworks to only professional displays and a change in legislation to only allow silent, low noise or quiet fireworks to be used at events.**
- 2. To create and implement a policy for the use of only silent, low noise or quiet fireworks on all land owned, or managed, by Wyre Forest District Council.**
- 3. To contact all Town & Parish Councils and Community Housing in Wyre Forest to ask them to consider using silent, low noise or quiet fireworks for any events they organise or on land they own or manage.**
- 4. To contact the Local Government Association (LGA) to ask that they consider producing a webinar to debate firework issues.**

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- 5. To create a communications plan to raise awareness with residents of; the availability of silent, low noise or quiet fireworks, the importance of making neighbours aware of the intention to let off fireworks, how to report firework misuse or mis selling and the support available for those affected by the noise of fireworks.**
- 6. To support the RSPCA public awareness campaign on the impact of fireworks on animals.**
- 7. Write to local organisations known for holding public displays and large local hotels to ask them to consider using silent, low noise or quiet fireworks and the importance of giving notice to local residents about planned displays.**

OS.92 Work Programme

The committee reviewed the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. It was noted that there were no items to consider in April. A member requested an update on the permanent flood defence scheme in Bewdley, the Vice-Chairman advised that the request would be put forward to the Chairman for consideration.

OS.93 Press Involvement

There were no further items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.09pm.