

REPORT OF ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

ASPLEY / BELLS LANE PARTNERSHIP – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

1 SUMMARY

This report seeks approval from the West Area Committee for funding to be made available to support the purchase of a community Christmas tree and lights for the tree. It is proposed that the tree be erected at the Aspley Lane end of Melbourne Road.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the West Area Committee agrees to a one off allocation of £1650 from the Aspley Ward uncommitted balance for the purchase and erection of lights and tree with a further commitment of £1000 each year for the erection and purchase of the tree.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Aspley / Bells Lane Partnership is a Local Area Partnership covering Aspley and Bells Lane estates within the Aspley ward. The objectives of the Partnership are:-

- to promote wellbeing by tackling discrimination, disadvantage and social exclusion in all forms;
- to bring together all those with an interest in Aspley and Bells Lane – including residents, community & voluntary groups, public services, and businesses;
- to ensure the widest possible participation and consultation in planning the future of Aspley and Bells Lane and carrying out those plans and to ensure that the wider community can be involved by providing materials in large print, Braille and translating to other languages if requested;
- consider, initiate, secure funding for, and oversee such projects as may be expected to improve the economic and social situation of people in the defined geographical area and assist in the regeneration of Aspley and Bells Lane estates.

3.2 The Partnership Committee consists of a local councillor, local residents, local community and voluntary sector groups and public sector organisations. The Partnership meetings are very well attended.

3.3 The Partnership Committee have expressed concern that other shopping areas of the City have Christmas decorations in them at Christmas and Aspley does not. This discussion has occurred in several Partnership meetings. The total cost of a Christmas tree has been quoted as £2000 - £2500 for the specification, electrical work and groundworks (one-off expense), £500 for the tree (year-on-year expense), £1000 for the lights (one-off expense) and £500 for the erection of the tree (year-on-year expense). Whilst this report asks for resources to cover expenses for this year, only £1000 will be required to cover costs in future years.

- 3.4 A Committee member of the Partnership approached a Nottingham City Council approved street lighting company to ask if they could sponsor the electrical and concrete works that erecting a Christmas tree would entail. One of the Directors of the company, a West Area resident, agreed to this and said that they would draw up a specification for the City Council. The total value of the work that this company will deliver is between £2000 and £2500.
- 3.5 The Aspley / Bells Lane Partnership have raised a total of £368 towards the cost of the Christmas tree leaving a total to be funded in year 1 of £1650.
- 3.6 The Aspley / Bells Lane Partnership have lots of interested parties that would like to participate in a carol service to mark the opening of the tree. The Pentecostal Church on Aspley Lane has agreed to host the carol service. The children at Aspley Meganight will be making lanterns for the celebration, some of the residents at Foxton Gardens are preparing carols for the service, the Nottingham Tartanaires will be providing the music for the carols and the 'Intergenerational Work' sub-group of the Partnership will work with the younger and older people to plan the detail of the opening of the carol service.
- 3.7 There are plans for the future to engage with local businesses in the area and encourage them to sponsor further Christmas decorations along Aspley Lane and Broxtowe Lane.

4 PROPOSALS

It is proposed that members agree to the request made in section 2 of this report.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The £1650 contribution can be met by charging the Aspley Ward uncommitted balance. The total uncommitted balance for the West Area, not including the effect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows:-

Aspley Ward	£13,712
Bilborough Ward	£16,181
Leen Valley Ward	£23,631
Total	£53,524

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The Christmas tree will have a positive impact on everyone that walks, drives or goes past the tree on the bus. The site of the tree is on the junction of three busy roads and several bus routes ensuring that the maximum number of people will be able to view the tree.

RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

There is a risk that the lights on the tree could get vandalised. The Aspley / Bells Lane Partnership will try to reduce the risk of this by involving as many members of the community as possible in planning for the Christmas tree. Fundraising by the Partnership has already taken place at Community events.

9 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report will support the City Councils corporate priority of 'People feeling safe in their communities'.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

The Christmas tree and associated celebration will increase the feeling of community in the area.

11 VALUE FOR MONEY

The site of the tree is on the junction of three busy roads and several bus routes ensuring that the maximum number of people will be able to view the tree. As mentioned, the tree has been match funded by the Nottingham City Council approved street lighting company and by the Aspley / Bells Lane Partnership.

12 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

None

13 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

None

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