

Dudley North Your Home Your Forum Meeting – November 2022

Feedback from the World Café Discussion



The World Café discussion allowed everyone present to share their knowledge of the local area and what makes it great, as well as identify things which could make the area even better. Three questions were used to guide the discussion. Feedback is provided below along with some links to helpful resources.

Question 1 - What makes Dudley North a great place to live, work & play? What do we love about this place e.g. history, culture, physical/natural environment, people, facilities?

People in attendance at the meeting identified a wide range of things which they love about Dudley North. Comments have been themed below in order of the frequency they were mentioned:

1. **Green spaces, waterways and nature** was mentioned most and included parks and green spaces, the canals, the nature valleys, in particular Cotwall End, Alder coppice and the Beacon.
2. **People, community, and volunteering** was mentioned next, and comments included the people who live here are great salt of the earth folk and community is its strength. Strong community spirit, good local activities, many local active groups, all warm, welcoming and a safe place to be.
3. **Activities, groups, and leisure** Amazing strong church networks with accessible community space offering many events, many creative and artistic local groups, and cafes; all warm, welcoming and a safe place to be. Good schools.
4. **History, heritage, and culture** proud of the Black Country Heritage, being the birthplace of the industrial revolution and all that that history brings to the areas along with Dudley Castle and all the history that has attached to it.

Question 2 - What would make Dudley North an even better place to live, work and play in?

Ideas shared during this discussion have been categorised as either 'things that you as residents/ communities can do by yourselves or with some outside help' and 'things which will need outside agencies to develop/ deliver'.

Some examples of community led activity/ support available have been provided alongside some of the ideas. If you would like support to take any of these ideas forward, please contact Julie Austin, community development worker for Dudley North on julie.austin@dudley.gov.uk or telephone 07970318864

Things that you as residents/communities can do by yourselves or with some outside help e.g. from Dudley Council	Examples
For more information on what is on offer within Dudley	Dudley Community Information Directory dudleycommunity.directory@gll.org

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Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular litter cleansing • Park maintenance, preservation, and care of all green spaces • Less litter & fly tipping 	<p>Get involved through your local 'Friends of the Park' group:</p> <p>Friends of Silver Jubilee Park</p> <p>Friends of Abbey Street Park</p> <p>Help Dudley Council combat fly tipping by reporting it here</p>
Community/ social activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in local community facilities & clubs • Stronger promotion of voluntary groups e.g. using social media • Listen to everyone to work together • More public involvement in council decisions like this forum • Contact for Dudley Council 	<p>Gornal Community Group brings people together to help improve the village and organise events to enjoy with families both young and old.</p> <p>Gornal Together</p> <p>Libraries in Dudley North (all offer a Friends Group and other community activities to get involved with)</p> <p>Sedgley Library</p> <p>Gornal Library</p> <p>Coseley Library</p> <p>Just Straight Talk is a Community Interest Company supporting people across The Black Country who are disadvantaged by providing the practical help, support, and motivation they need to address and overcome barriers, turn their lives around and achieve life goals.</p> <p>https://juststraighttalk.org/</p> <p>Your Home Your Forum application and information.</p> <p>YHYF Application/Information</p> <p>Contact Us</p>

In addition, a number of suggestions were made that require outside agencies to develop and deliver. These were:

Transport

- Improve public transport particular in Gornal, more buses needed. Less clustered together, with a better timetable



Public services

- More visible police and more community police in the area and out at all times of the day
- Stricter alcohol licencing laws (to sell/serve under aged drinking)
- Better CCTV
- A permanent recycling Depo in Dudley North
- Keeping on top of our parks & leisure complexes/green care investment/ investment in all parks
- Keeping on top and regular maintenance of roads, kerbs, block drains and not just when there is a complaint

Built environment

- Regular street cleansing
- Enforce alcohol free zones and to actively police these laws
- Clarity about plans for new housing and maintaining green spaces which are beneficial to mental health.

Question 3 - If we could take action on one thing to strengthen this area/community, what would be the most important thing we could do?

Responses to this question have been categorised by theme and presented below to show the order of priorities for action.

1. **Police/community safety** was mentioned by the largest number of people and included more interaction between the police and the public, increased police presence on the streets – Bobby on the Beat – and having a local police station. Different format of communication with the police.
2. **Community** Better/improved communication especially for the older generation. Communication to be offered in different formats and plain/simple language to be used – no waffle.
3. **Built environment** included more general maintenance of streets, kerbs, pavements. Cleaning up of the streets in general regards weeds and litter.
4. **Working with local councillors** included the ability to communicate more easily with councillors and for Dudley Council to listen to and support community groups, in particular for the aging generation. Lowering council rates for businesses – making it more affordable for new businesses.

For further information on getting involved in your community please contact Julie Austin community development worker for Dudley North on julie.austin@dudley.gov.uk or telephone 07970318864.