

# COMMUNITY FORUM

## Serving the Wards of Castle & Priory/ St. James's / St. Thomas's

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at 6.30pm**  
**at St. Barnabas Church, Middlepark Road, Russells Hall Estate,**  
**Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 2LD**

The Community Forum is a new way for people to play a part in important issues affecting the local area. Please come along if there is something you want to raise with us. Contact information for your Local Councillors is printed on the back of this agenda.

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Listening to you**
  - Questions and comments from local residents
4. **Working with you**
  - Topics raised by Local Councillors
5. **Community Forum Funding**
  - Councillors to make a recommendation based on a report of the Lead Officer
6. **Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**
  - To note that the date of the next meeting of the Community Forum will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at a venue to be confirmed.

**Action notes from previous meetings can be viewed on the Council's website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)**

You can find more information about Community Forums on our website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

E-mail: [dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk)

Tel: 0300 555 2345



# Castle & Priory/St James's/St Thomas's Community Forum

## Your Ward Councillors

The contact information for your local Councillors is shown below. Please take the opportunity to come along to your local Community Forum and let us know about the issues that matter in your local area.

### Castle and Priory



Councillor Margaret Aston  
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Councillor Ken Finch (Chair)  
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### St. James's



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### St. Thomas's



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Councillor Safeena Arshad  
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Councillor Steve Waltho  
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**Castle and Priory, St. James's and St. Thomas's Community Forum 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Report of the Lead Officer**

**Community Forum Funding**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year.

**Background**

2. The ten Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated Community Forum Funding budget. The guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are corporate guidelines only and it is ultimately for each Community Forum to decide on individual applications.
3. Copies of the applications referred to in this report have been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

**Applications for Consideration at this Meeting**

**Dudley Senior Citizens Forum**

4. An application has been received from Dudley Senior Citizens Forum which currently meets at Wellington Road Community Centre for funding of up to **£2,536.94**. The forum particularly looks to promote: learning; healthy living; and reduce isolation, through social interaction, among older adults.
5. The specific purpose for which funding is requested is to:
  - purchase a large screen television (proportionate to the Hall's 15m X 12m dimensions which sees between 25 to 55 participants on any given day) along with DVD player, brackets, installation, delivery charges and 1 year television licence fees.
6. It is proposed that Members consider whether a grant should be approved - in accord with the guidelines for considering funding applications - attached to this report.

## **Destined to Reign Church**

7. An application has been received from Destined to Reign Church for funding of up to **£5000** to better support immigrant and refugee families and younger people. Amongst general support it runs translation and interpretation drop-in sessions.
8. Funding is sought to support a project geared to tackling social isolation amongst BME and wider community groups with the particular aim of reducing anti-social behaviour and encouraging healthier lifestyles. Work elements include:
  - parental after school meetings for 5-15 year olds experiencing language barriers;
  - a range of activities focussing on developing 'skills for the future' for young people;
  - advice and support for families and adults aimed at improving social integration and widening employment opportunities.
9. Project costs include the purchase of PC equipment and internet fees.
10. It is proposed that Members consider whether a grant should be approved - in accord with the guidelines for considering funding applications - attached to this report.

## **Priory Park Boxing Club**

11. An application has been received from Priory Park Boxing Club for funding of up to **£4,950**. The Club is affiliated to the Amateur Boxing Association of England (ABAE) and Clubs for Young People; and looks to advance the provision of recreational and leisure facilities, in particular boxing activities for Dudley communities and neighbouring Boroughs.
12. The specific purpose for which funding is requested is to:
  - purchase a new boxing ring in order to realise membership growth and improved facilities envisaged in plans to extend the site.
13. It is proposed that Members consider whether a grant should be approved - in accord with the guidelines for considering funding applications - attached to this report.

## **Finance**

14. Community Forums receive £10,000 per ward to allocate annually.
15. Current resources available across wards for **2013/14:-**

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Castle and Priory	£14,083.70
St James's	£25,706.84
St Thomas's	£13,102.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>£52,892.89</b>

16. This amount includes unspent balances from 2012/13 and accounts for resources allocated to former Area Committees.

### **Law**

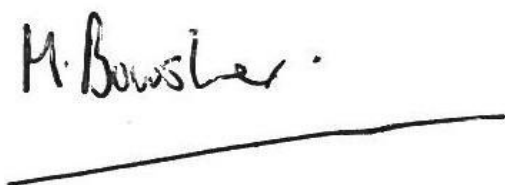
17. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the Community.
18. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory functions.

### **Equality Impact**

- 19 The awarding of a capital grant to community and voluntary organisations is specifically intended to secure general social benefits and improved well-being across community groups.

### **Recommendation**

20. That the Forum considers the applications referred to in the report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application as appropriate.



#### **Matt Bowsher**

Assistant Director Quality and Commissioning Directorate Adult Community Housing Services – Lead Officer to Committee

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### **List of Background Papers**

- The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting, but contain exempt information under the terms of part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 – Corporate Guidelines for considering funding applications.

## **Community Forums**

### **Guidelines for considering funding applications**

Community Forums will consider every funding application on its own individual merits.

Community Forums have discretion to make recommendations on each application taking account of the funding available.

A decision on an individual application will not be seen as setting a precedent for the consideration of any other applications received by the Council or another Community Forum.

#### **Guidelines**

The following guidelines are to assist Community Forums in considering funding applications.

Community Forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. The funding allocation may be spent on “capital” and/or “revenue” schemes:

**Capital:** one-off expenditure on buying, constructing or improving land, buildings, equipment or vehicles;

**Revenue:** expenditure on running costs of projects or activities, including staff costs and the purchase of consumables and services from third parties. Priority will be given to one-off, time-limited, or start-up spend, rather than ongoing running costs. The latter should normally be funded by the organisation itself.

2. Schemes should contribute to the Community Strategy and should not conflict with Council policy. Consideration will be given to how a scheme fits with wider community initiatives.
3. Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups and should make a difference in the local area.

4. Funding applications may be submitted to more than one Community Forum depending on the area(s) of benefit. Each individual Forum shall retain discretion over its own funding allocation. A recommendation made by one Community Forum shall not create an expectation that it will be supported by another Forum.
5. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources – e.g. running costs and repair and maintenance of new/improved buildings and equipment.
6. All expenditure must be in accordance with Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council's legal powers and demonstrate good value for money.
7. Individual funding applications should be for a maximum of £5,000 unless there are exceptional circumstances. Organisations will be encouraged to match fund or seek further funding through other means. Priority will be given to schemes that might generate such funding.
8. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to the Community Forums (or former Area Committees) within the previous three years.
9. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the commitment is spent within nine months; otherwise the allocation will be returned back into the available budget and a fresh application would be required.
10. In appropriate circumstances, it may be required that certain items of equipment funded by these allocations are to be made available for use by other organisations.

**Castle & Priory/St James's and St Thomas's Community Forum**  
**28<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

**Agenda Item 5 – Community Forum Funding**

**Application from Unit3sixty C.I.C.**

**Block f bays 5 and 6 The Stourbridge Estate Mill Race Lane Stourbridge.**

At the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, reference was made to the above application which has been submitted to all 10 Community Forums in the Borough. The Forum decided that the application should be deferred.

Funding of £5000 has been requested from this and all other community forums for a project the estimated total cost of which is £150,000. The funding is for match funding for capital equipment and revenue to provide membership packages. The project is to provide a skate park and the aim of the organisation is to create a vibrant local community enterprise for the youth of Dudley borough. The application states they hope to have a target of 3000 members 2000 of which are in the Borough.

Some of the balance of the funding needed is from the Community enterprise fund £40,000 and £75,000 from the Charity Bank social enterprise loan. A copy of the full application form has been circulated to Members.

This application has been considered by the other Community Forums as follows:

- Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote, Lye and Stourbridge North – Recommended approval of £5000
- Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South – Recommended refusal
- Brierley Hill/Brockmoor and Pensnett – Recommended refusal
- Coseley East/Sedgley – Deferred
- Gornal/Upper Gornal and Woodsetton – Recommended refusal
- Halesowen North and Halesowen South – Recommended approval of £2,500
- Kingswinford North and Wall Heath/Kingswinford South and Wordsley – Recommended approval of up to £5,000
- Netherton, Woodside And St Andrews/Quarry Bank And Dudley Wood – Recommended refusal



- Norton/Pedmore And Stourbridge East/Wollaston And Stourbridge Town – Recommended approval of £5,000

If the Community Forum is minded to recommend the approval of this application in principle, this would be subject to planning permission being obtained and to the submission of further information on the overall funding of the project.

A further report should be submitted to the Community Forum in due course following the receipt of the additional information referred to above and prior to any funding being released by the Director of Corporate Resources.

### **Recommendation**

That the Forum considers this application and makes a recommendation to the Director of Corporate Resources.