

Action Notes of the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum

Tuesday 24th June, 2014 at 7.15pm
at Olive Hill Primary School, Springfield Road, Halesowen

Present:

Councillors H Bills, N Gregory, S Henley, K Shakespeare, D Vickers and A Taylor

Officers:

J Jennings (Acting Lead Officer) (Head of Communications and Public Affairs) and S Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager)

Together with 12 members of the public

1 Election of Chair

Councillor K Shakespeare was elected Chair of the Forum for the municipal year.

2 Election of Vice-Chair

Councillor A Taylor was elected Vice-Chair of the Forum for the municipal year.

3 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Councillors and Council Officers introduced themselves.

4 Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents

Subject

Road traffic safety issues in and around Narrow Lane, Halesowen.

Action

Ward Councillors were aware of the problems and these had been raised with the Traffic and Road Safety Section. All correspondence would be forwarded on accordingly. Issues would be raised at the forthcoming Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting and raised with the Head teacher of Hurst Green School.

Condition of Hobbs and Queenie shops in Halesowen Town Centre.

This issue had been raised previously and a response was awaited. The matter would be referred to the relevant Council Directorate.

Notice board on Great Cornbow – request that this be used by Ward Councillors to display information about community activities.

The resident indicated that he would write to the Halesowen South Councillors to consider this further. The subject would be discussed with the Head of Strategic Asset Planning.

Planning Application P14/0787 (Ahmadiyya Muslim Association) relating to the provision of 2 minarets and a central dome to the mosque at 224 Long Lane, Halesowen.

Objections had already been registered. The Development Control Committee would consider the application in due course. Residents were invited to submit any representations via the Council's website. An open day would be held at the mosque on 28th June, 2014 to discuss the plans.

Petition submitted objecting to Planning Application P14/0553 relating to the proposed conversion of the 'Streetbike' premises into a convenience store and fast-food outlets.

Petition referred to Director of the Urban Environment. Other objections had already been registered. The Development Control Committee would consider the application in due course. Residents were invited to submit any further representations via the Council's website. Reference was also made to P14/0612 (Former MEB Headquarters, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, Outline Application for the Erection of 66 Dwellings) to be considered by the Development Control Committee on 30th June, 2014.

Concerns about the condition of the island opposite the Stag and Three Horseshoes Public House and a general issue concerning the use of advertising/sponsorship money to maintain traffic islands in the Borough.

The Acting Lead Officer reported that this revenue was allocated to the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team. A report was requested on the amount of funding available; how this is allocated and the possibility of prioritising/targeting the expenditure to maximise the impact.

Lamp standard in the gulley between Greenhill Road and Long Lane – concerns about vandalism, the general state of the gulley and the lack of dog waste bins.

Ward Councillors were aware of the problems and action had been taken previously. The outstanding issues would be referred to the relevant Council Directorate for a response.

5 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action</u>
Councillors Vickers and Bills reported on ongoing activity associated with Halesowen in Bloom. Reference also made to regular 'litter picks' being undertaken in Halesowen.	Noted. Anyone interested in participating in future 'litter picks' asked to contact Councillor Vickers.
Councillor Bills reported on an issue relating to Hurst Green Park, which was being dealt with by the Highways Agency and Dudley MBC.	Noted.

6 **Community Forum Funding**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
COCOA (Welcome to Dudley Project)	Refer to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service to explore other potential sources of funding.
LIFE Centre (Stourbridge)	Defer for a breakdown of how a potential contribution of £220 would benefit the wards covered by this Community Forum.
Samaritans (Brierley Hill Branch)	Approve a contribution of £445.20 towards the total scheme costs.
Somers Sports and Social Club	Refusal.
St Margaret's Church Hasbury	Defer for more detailed information.
Dudley Community Church	Refusal.
Highfield Park Allotment Association.	Approve a contribution of £1,000 towards the total scheme costs.

7 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

2nd September, 2014 - Leasowes School - 6.30pm
4th November, 2014 - Olive Hill Primary School - 6.30pm
27th January, 2015 - Leasowes School - 6.30pm
17th March, 2015 - Olive Hill Primary School - 6.30pm

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm