

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Brierley Hill
Date and time:	Monday 31 st October 2022 6.30pm
Venue:	Bank Street Methodist Church, 24 Bank Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3DA
Attendance:	<p>Councillors R Ahmed, A Davies, R Collins, J Foster, S Greenaway, P Atkins, E Lawrence, S Saleem, P Harley, L Johnson, P Miller, D. Harley, K Lewis and M Rogers,</p> <p>Officers/ Police: C McCarthy (Liaison Officer), L Pearson and L Cooper (Community Development Workers) and M Abuaffan (Acting Director of Public Health) PC Dunn, PC Treacy and PC Hobbs</p> <p>Members of the public: 25 (including 11 representatives from marketplace stands)</p>
Agenda item	Notes
1. Marketplace	<p>A marketplace event was held at the beginning of the meeting to enable people to find out about services, groups and activities in the local area.</p> <p>Market place representatives</p> <p>Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch- shared information about how to contact the service. For more information visit https://www.samaritans.org/branches/brierley-hill/</p> <p>Winter Warmth- support for people struggling to keep their home warm. For further information email WinterWarmth@dudley.gov.uk or visit https://www.dudley.gov.uk/winterwellbeing</p>

	<p>Placemaking- shared information on plans for the development of Brierley Hill High Street. For more information visit https://www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk/brierley-hill-projects</p> <p>High Oak Surgery Consultation – shared the proposals for health services in Pensnett. For more information visit https://www.dihc.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/get-involved/high-oak-surgery-our-public-conversation</p> <p>Climate Change Survey – asked people to complete a survey to gain views around climate change in Dudley. For more information visit https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/get-involved/your-borough-your-future-survey/</p> <p>EKHO Collective @ Hawbush Gardens – shared information on craft events, mental health and green social prescribing. For further information email ekho.collective@gmail.com or visit https://ekhocollective.com/</p> <p>Dudley Libraries – shared information about services, groups and events at Brierley Hill library. For more information visit https://www.better.org.uk/library/dudley/brierley-hill</p>
2. Welcome and introduction to the meeting	<p>The Liaison Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting, then briefly explained the attendee guidelines, the new format of the meeting and the agenda.</p> <p>The Liaison Officer further explained that the Your Home, Your Forum meetings had replaced the former community forum meetings which had taken place for a number of years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of the change was to encourage more people to participate in the meetings, contribute to the discussions about their local area, help come up with solutions, and to work together to address local issues. It was also noted that the name of the forums had been changed to ‘Your Home, Your Forum’ to tie in with the existing ‘Your Home’ campaign.</p>
3. Election of Chair and appointment of Vice Chair	<p>Councillor R Collins was appointed as Chair of the forum and Councillor M Rogers as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.</p>

4. Apologies and declarations of interest	Councillor J Martin Tom Senior (Liaison Officer)
5. World Café event	The Liaison Officer introduced a World Café event. Everyone present took part in table discussions to share their ideas and knowledge, and identify opportunities to work together to improve the local area.
Question 1 What Makes Brierley Hill a great place to work and live	<p>Identity/ history/ diversity Strong identity, different townships community together Diversity and welcoming different cultures Heritage, history, glass museum, industry, shopping, environment, local business, interesting and creative things happening</p> <p>Safety/ police Safe, police presence</p> <p>Spaces/ places/ services Green spaces and greenbelt- nature reserves, park, canal network and the Pensnett volcano, Health centres Community projects and groups, such as parks groups, older people groups, Streetwatch, Facebook pages, forums Response to COVID Post 16 education, good choice of schools</p>
Question 2 – What would make Brierley Hill an even better place to live	<p>Activities/ events Old and young coming together Sports leagues Activities for school age children Youth Centres and activities, e.g youths making music, poetry, inclusive areas and places to gather, young people attending forums, strategy to combat Anti-Social Behaviour Encourage community integration</p>

<p>Question 3 – If, together we could take action on one thing to strengthen this area/community, what would be the most important thing we can do?</p>	<p>Bringing Kingswinford and Brierley Hill together- interacting, diversity, more opportunities for the community to work together, increased local pride Streetwatch groups Dudley MBC Tik Tok Encourage more diverse groups, mix and integrate Compile a 'what's out there' to share with schools, including visiting guest speakers More community volunteering</p> <p>Services SEND provision Public transport</p> <p>Spaces More investments in parks, address ASB/ drugs and root cause, support for families, parks in areas of deprivation, stop vandalism, community planting initiatives Connectivity between Brierley Hill High St and Merry Hill, investment in High St Recycling bins</p> <p>Control drug crime</p> <p>Improve housing- upgrading, climate change, double glazing</p> <p>Commonwealth Games event for the areas in the township</p> <p>Funding streams to encourage activity providers into schools, after school clubs, more education opportunities, youth diversion</p> <p>Looking after vulnerable people, positive investment in people, early intervention, empowering people, mental health, aspiration, embrace and encourage diversity</p> <p>Acknowledge good work being done, building capacity, showcase what is on offer in the area</p> <p>More Parking</p>
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<p>6. Police and communities together</p>	<p>A discussion took place on local policing and related issues.</p> <p>The Police representatives asked what residents wanted to know about so that they could provide effective feedback at the next Forum.</p> <p>They gave a short explanation of a typical police day. It was highlighted that although there were less police visibly walking the streets, they were carrying out essential work in the community.</p> <p>The Police informed the meeting that there were plans for up to 1000 new officers in the West Midlands area which could mean up to 80 in Dudley.</p> <p>Residents requested more information to be included on social media sharing good news about successful operations.</p> <p>At the next meeting the Police would provide feedback on what had happened in the area and the Police priorities for the area.</p> <p>The Police also requested more local resident volunteers to help with speed watches and indicated that training would be provided.</p>
<p>7. Forum funding</p>	<p>The Chair provided a summary of recommendations on applications made for funding. It was noted that there were no deferred applications. For full details please click on the following link:- Forum Funding Summary</p> <p>The Chair updated the Forum with the list of successful applications.</p> <p>The Chair also updated the Forum regarding Councillor A Davies's query about Christmas lights on Brettell Lane and informed the meeting that although they were not on the original list, they had been included in plans for the Christmas switch on.</p>

	The next round of Your Home Your Forum meetings would take place in April 2023. Details would be available on the following link in due course – <u>Your Home, Your Forum Brierley Hill</u>
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Time meeting ended: 8:30pm