

Action Notes of the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum

Tuesday 11th November, 2014 at 6.30pm
at St Mary's Church Hall, The Village, Kingswinford, DY6 8AY

Present:

Councillor Miller – Chair
Councillor Billingham – Vice Chair

Councillors D Blood, P Brothwood, P Harley, D Hemingsley, N Neale, G Simms and D Tyler

Officers:

J Butler (Lead Officer) Directorate of the Urban Environment
L Jury (Democratic Services Officer)
Charlotte Bennett – Warm Homes Officer – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Together with 5 members of the public

16 **Apology for Absence**

None received.

17 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and Members and Officers introduced themselves.

18 **Winter Warmth**

Ms Charlotte Bennett, Winter Warm Officer, Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, gave a verbal presentation on the role of the Winter Warmth Team. She reported that the team offer Dudley Borough residents free and impartial advice and support on how to stay warm and well during the winter.

The support and advice offered includes:

- health risks of living in a cold home;
- home energy advice – whether you are using your heating efficiently, tips on how to reduce energy waste, insulation, tips on how to reduce heating costs;
- benefit checks and advice on financial assistance;
- advice on switching energy tariffs.

Ms Bennett confirmed that home visits to Dudley Borough residents could be arranged to discuss any energy issues and assistance with changing energy suppliers and she urged Members and officers to signpost any residents who contact them in need of support or advice regarding energy issues to the team.

The Chair thanked Ms Bennett for her informative presentation.

19 **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

| <u>Subject</u> | <u>Action</u> |
|---|---|
| A resident raised concern regarding traffic congestion on the A491. | Noted. |
| A resident requested an update on the possibility of providing a skatepark in Wordsley. | Verbal update given. |
| A resident requested an update on the situation with regards to disused shops at Sandringham Road and the proposed plans to build a Co-op store on the Ashwood Public House car park. | Councillors confirmed that they were not aware of any formal plans having been submitted. |
| A resident referred to a recent press report relating to the proposal to install a roundabout/island at the junction off School Drive, High Street, Audnum. | Lead Officer to investigate the proposal and reported that as part of the safer routes to school scheme, the report probably referred to a pedestrian refuge to be installed. |
| A resident referred to the time taken to complete roads works on the A491 and questioned why work could not be undertaken during the evenings to ease congestion. | Verbal answer given by Lead Officer referring to likelihood of noise disturbance to local residents if work was carried out during evenings. |
| A resident referred to the loss of the 205 Bus route. | Lead Officer to invite CENTRO to attend the next Forum meeting to discuss bus route issues and resident's concerns. |

Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors

| <u>Subject</u> | <u>Action</u> |
|---|---|
| Councillor Blood reported his disappointment that a request to have a curb dropped for Ambulance access for an elderly disabled resident in Standhills Road could take up to 4 years to complete. | Noted. |
| Councillor Brothwood requested that the fly-tipping issue at the back of Wordsley Hospital be investigated. | Lead Officer to investigate. |
| Councillor Brothwood raised the concern of residents regarding the use of quad bikes on High Acres. | Noted. |
| Councillor Brothwood confirmed that an Enforcement Notice had been issued on the old shop next to Richardson Hall, Wordsley. | Noted. |
| Councillor Miller raised concern that no feedback had been given to Ward Members regarding New Bradley Hall. | Councillor Tyler agreed to speak to the Cabinet Member and request that an update be sent to the relevant Ward Members. |
| Councillor Miller requested an update on Kingswinford Youth Centre. | Lead Officer to investigate and reply directly to Councillor Miller. |

Community Forum Funding

| <u>Application</u> | <u>Recommendation</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Wall Heath Evangelical Free Church | Application withdrawn by the applicant. |
| Dudley MBC Environmental Management | Approved £3,800 for the provision of four Christmas lighting displays in Wall Heath. Funding be given from the Community Forum Funding grant not the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant as recommended. Also approval given to the provision of similar lights in Wordsley on receipt of an application from DUE. |

Dudley MBC Environmental Management

Approved £2,107.40 for the provision of three Christmas trees at Mere Education Centre, Wordsley, Enville Road, Wall Heath and Townsend Place, Kingswinford. Funding be granted from the Community Forum Funding Grant not the High Street Innovation/Empty Shop Grant as recommended. DUE also to be requested to submit an application form to the February 2015 Forum for the provision of the planting of live Christmas trees in the three designated areas as the Forum will not approve any further grants for Christmas trees.

Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association.

Approved £500 for Leadership Training.

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Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings

Tuesday 3rd February, 2014 commencing at 6.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, The Village, Kingswinford DY6 8AY.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm