

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Dudley North
Date and time:	8th June 2023 at 6.30 pm
Venue:	St Chads Church Hall, Oak Street, Coseley, Dudley, WV14 9TA
Attendance:	<p>Councillors: P Drake; M Howard, S Ridney; M Dudley; S Keasey; A Aston; A Hughes; M Westwood; B Challenor; D Stanley; C Sullivan</p> <p>Officers: L Watson and H Jeavons – Liaison Officers; J Austin – Community Development Worker;</p> <p>West Midlands Police: Sergeant L Wood; PCSO E Corfield</p> <p>West Midlands Fire Service-Red Watch</p> <p>Members of the public: 18</p>
Item	Notes
1.Welcome, introductions and apologies	<p>Apologies: Cllr M Evans</p> <p>Noted: CLO welcomed residents to the meeting</p>
2. Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice-Chair for the 2023/24 Municipal Year	<p>Cllr S Ridney-chair</p> <p>Cllr M Westwood- vice chair</p>
3.Have your say – An opportunity for residents to raise issues in their area	<p><u>Coseley gated gulley near Springvale Close</u></p> <p>Walkway behind houses has been closed for security reasons. Residents do have keys. It has become overgrown with weeds and nettles, making it unusable for residents who need it for access and post/delivery services.</p>

Action: Cllr Ridney to follow up

Coseley- Broad Street Maisonettes

Waste continues to be an issue since the council changed the large metal bins for domestic refuse bins. This is now causing litter to overspill, becoming unhygienic and unsightly. Rats are now a common sight in this area. This has been reported to the council on numerous occasions. The large metal bins need reinstating.

Action: Ward councillors to raise this issue with the council. Residents are encouraged to keep reporting the issue.

Sedgley-King's Coronation celebration on Sedgley Beacon

A resident thanked ward councillors for their support in ensuring that a celebratory beacon was lit to commemorate the King's coronation. The event was quite successful; it was a small gathering due to the fact that the event was not permitted to be more widely advertised.

A resident asked why the Sedgley Bullring traffic island was without flowers. Planting should have been finished before the coronation day. The ground had been prepared but there were no plants. Noted: Cllrs Dudley and Keasey acknowledged the issue and informed the resident that the plants were due to be planted next week.

Upper Gornal and Woodsetton- CCTV cameras taken down and the increase in anti-social behaviour

A resident reported anti-social behaviour around the church, church hall and surrounding grounds including blatant drug dealing. CCTV Cameras were installed, then taken down. The CCTV cameras were a deterrent, but once taken down, the issues re-emerged.

Response:

Cllr Westwood stated that he worked closely with the church and the police to get the cameras fitted originally. He has contacted the police again and has met the local Sergeant to get them reinstalled. All ward councillors are working to address the increase in anti-social behaviour and drug dealing around Oak Street, the church and the park. Residents are encouraged to report incidents, thus providing crime data; without this data, it is difficult to reinstate the mobile CCTV cameras.

Police – mobile cameras can only be installed on a temporary basis and when the crime decreases or stops, the cameras are removed to be used somewhere else. The Sergeant advised anyone who sees any crime, to report it, as sufficient evidence needs to be gathered, before cameras can be reinstalled.

It was acknowledged that calling 101 was still an issue in terms of response time.

To report a crime, information printed on the agenda was referred to, and it was also advised:

- If a crime is happening, then call 999
- If after the incident has been witnessed, call 101 or 101 live chat or contact your neighbourhood policing team at: dudleynorth@west-midlands.pnn.police

Carers week

A local resident asked whether the council valued unpaid carers and felt that the focus during ‘Carers week’ didn’t recognise this important group. What other services do the Social Care Carers Service offer, in addition to completing a carers assessment?

Could they offer respite, not just for a couple of hours for the carer to pop out to do shopping?

Why does the mayor not have a coffee morning with the carers as he/she does with other services?

Couldn’t there be an event held at Himley Hall, as other services have had?

Response: All Cllrs stated that they completely value the work of unpaid carers within the borough. Some Cllrs are carers themselves.

Action: Chair asked that a statement from the Wellbeing Service for Carers, (Adult Social Care), be prepared, to respond to the resident and also to include the programme for Carers week and other activities that take place throughout the year.

Anchor Lane Tip

Resident asked for an update.

Response: Cllrs responded that it is still in the hands of Wolverhampton Council and no more progress has been made.

The Lister Road, pop-up tip, was available for residents to use, although it was noted this facility is available on a Saturday.

Action: Cllr Westwood will raise concerns that it does only open on a Saturday which causes inconvenience to some residents.

Speed of cars on local roads and dangerous parking especially outside of schools

Parking outside schools is a borough wide issue.

Brook Street/Chad Road- Cllrs Aston and Hughes are working to put restrictions in place, such as double yellow lines, more signage, to try and ease illegal and dangerous parking, including parking on the grass verges and speeding cars.

Brook Street and Bourne Street are due to have traffic calming measures put in place by the developers of the new housing on Bourne Street.

Cllrs and police both agreed that it doesn't seem to matter what signage is up, people still chose to ignore it and show little consideration for the way in which they park.

Residents were asked to report these issues to establish a data trail.

Cllr Ridney stated that Police patrols around schools issuing fines for inconsiderate parking, have still not made a difference to the schools in her local area.

Gornal- Hello Benches

Resident asked why there wasn't one in the Gornal area. The concept should be an all-year focus and not just for one week.

Some schools have a red bench, where children can engage in conversations. Cllrs agreed this was a good way forward and the concept worth exploring further.

Ward Cllrs stated that benches were removed in Gornal because of anti-social behaviour.

Action: The CDW will raise this with the organisers of the scheme.

Gornal- Gulley in Redhall Road

Resident raised the issue of rubbish in the gulley and an overflowing waste bin outside Memorial Hall.

Action: Cllr Challenor to follow up issue.

Sedgley- closure of Bilston Road Car Park

Resident raised concerns about parking issues whilst the new Aldi was being built.

Cllrs Keasey and Dudley stated that unfortunately, whilst construction is taking place, the car park will be shut. There are other alternative car parks in Sedgley. When the new store opens, consideration needs to be given to visitors to the Mill Theatre and out of hours parking charges.

	<p><u>Sedgley- temporary traffic controls and gridlock</u> Sedgley residents raised issues around the abundance of temporary traffic lights, within a small area and the seemingly lack of coordination of these works, to stop the subsequent traffic congestion. Response: Cllrs stated this is out of the Council's control. Cllr Stanley stated that the Council does have the power to fine companies if they take longer than the company has stated to undertake work; this should be used more often.</p> <p><u>Sedgley- Gospel End Road/Gospel End Street/Vicar's Street</u> Resident stated since the last YHYF meeting in March 2023, there have been 15 more car accidents on the Gospel End / Vicar's Street junction. He requested that something needs to be done to prevent further accidents. Response: Cllr Keasey stated there is a give way sign, but he feels this needs to be changed to a stop sign, to enforce drivers to actually stop. Ideally there needs to be a complete traffic survey of Sedgley.</p> <p><u>Coseley Library</u> Coseley resident raised concerns about Coseley Library being closed, due to funding cuts. Response: All Cllrs agreed that there are proposed cuts to funding, but they fully support the principle that libraries should remain open. Libraries are more than a "reading/lending" service and offer much more to the local communities. Cllrs stated that there has been no decision made regards any library closures.</p> <p><u>Risk of more grass fires during hot weather</u> Fire Service response: They continue to educate people and young people within schools about the dangers of fires on dry grass. Unfortunately, some people still chose to light fires where there is a high risk. Anti-social behaviour is a big problem, and youths still chose to put themselves and others at risk. However, both the police and fire service have a robust approach to this type of behaviour and residents were encouraged to report any incidents.</p>
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<p>4. Police and communities together – Discussion on local policing and related issues, including input from the fire service</p>	<p>Noted: Sergeant Wood introduced himself and PCSO Corfield to the group. There was discussion about the need for residents to report crimes. The police need information and good quality data, in order to respond effectively and deploy resources to targeted areas, for example, with the Oak Street drug incidents.</p> <p><u>101 telephone service</u> Residents raised concern regarding the challenges of contacting the police. The 101 service keeps you waiting/on hold for a long period of time. The police and Cllrs urged residents to be persistent when contacting 101. If a crime is not registered, no evidence/data can be used to act upon.</p> <p>To report a crime he referred to the information printed on the agenda, and he also advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If crime is happening, call 999 • If the incident has been witnessed, call 101 or • 101 live chat or <p>Contact your neighbourhood policing team at: dudleynorth@west-midlands.pnn.police</p> <p>All calls are prioritised in order of severity. In addition, the police hold local surgeries; these are advertised in libraries and on the website. These surgeries are for people to come along and talk directly to a PC / PCSO.</p> <p><u>e-Scooter riders on pavements</u> It is illegal to ride e-scooters on the pavement. Residents must report these instances and provide as much detail as possible to enable the police to investigate.</p> <p><u>Sedgley-Increasing numbers of quad bikes using the roads at speed</u> Police urged residents to report any sightings so that evidence/data can be collected to ensure resources can be deployed, where needed. This problem is across borough and not just within Sedgley. Fire Service: Red Watch, who were on duty, introduced themselves. They work in conjunction with the police regarding car speed and road safety and will support residents in any speed watch monitoring they do.</p>
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<p>5. Updates from Ward Councillors</p>	<p><u>Activities/comments</u></p> <p>P Drake: Working on road surfaces, taking pictures of all potholes to get them filled in, fly tipping issues, especially that of mattresses and illegal and dangerous parking issues.</p> <p>M Howard: Continues to work with residents around housing issues.</p> <p>S Ridney: Working in getting the empty planters filled, having CCTV installed within the area and working with Just Straight Talk. Coseley Fun day – 1st July</p> <p>B Challenor: Thanked the Gornal community groups for their work. July 1st is Gornal Fun Day at Ellowes Hall School.</p> <p>C Sullivan: Introduced herself to residents as a new ward councillor.</p> <p>D Stanley: Thanked all the voluntary groups of Gornal for the good work they do, including the Royal British Legion. The King's Coronation celebration was very well attended. Public transport, residents were urged to use it, as the services are being cut due to lack of use.</p> <p>Many local routes have already been cut due to the Gornal passenger rate falling.</p> <p>M Dudley: Introduced himself to residents as a new ward councillor. Along with other ward councillors they will be planning what they want to achieve in Sedgley, including increasing speed watch areas. Currently also involved in issues with over hanging trees, potholes / resurfacing of roads.</p> <p>S Keasey: Thanked the groups that are improving the area in Sedgley. Focus has been upon potholes / resurfacing of roads and Sedgley Beacon. Sedgley Festival – 30th July.</p>
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	<p>A Aston: Working with Severn Trent at the Parkes Hall pool, continuing with the focus on litter in the ward and improvements to the arcade. The defibrillator stolen from the Upper Gornal Methodist church has been returned and Eagle Eye Security have kindly donated a CCTV camera that will be installed by the church.</p> <p>A Hughes: Working on a review to improve the local ward parks.</p> <p>M Westwood: Working on one way system for Oak Street Coseley, CCTV for St Chad's Church, Roundhouse Road parking issues, school parking issues around Chad Road and fly tipping issues. Supporting TRA walks around the area to report any issues around the Gornal and Woodsetton areas.</p>
6. Christmas Trees/lights/decorations – To consider funding proposals for 2023 and onwards	<p>Cllrs stated that some of the trees and decorations used last year were not of a good standard and were extortionately priced.</p> <p>Cllr Ridney has requested a live tree be planted within the Coseley area to save future costs.</p> <p>Cllr Keasey stated that the Sedgley Bullring would not be able to have a live tree planted, due to the utilities running under the ground. Cllr Stanley stated the same issue was present in Gornal.</p> <p>Upper Gornal and Woodsetton commented on the slow growth of a tree within this ward and would not want another live tree.</p> <p>Audience members made no comments regarding this topic.</p>
7. Forum funding	<p>A summary of funding recommendations was shared.</p> <p>5 applications in total: Oval and Tudor TRA-Approved.</p> <p>Zoar Church - Approved</p> <p>Sedgley Squadron – clarification has been given that they are still based within the Gornal area and funding will be used and kept within the Gornal Area -Approved</p> <p>Beacon Centre for the blind – application has been resubmitted stating funding is for Dudley North project, only. Deferred until new application is processed.</p> <p>Hope House – this was deferred until the outcome of the planning permission for the new Aldi in Gornal. Planning permission has been granted. Hope House will need to find alternative premises. Application remains deferred until new premises are found.</p>

8. Date of next meeting	9 th November 2023 Venue to be confirmed

Time meeting ended: 8:25