

**Have
your say**

Community FORUM

Serving the wards of

Norton, Pedmore & Stourbridge East and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town community forum

The Community Forum is a 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.

Wednesday, 3rd September, 2014 at 6.30pm
At Ham Dingle Primary School, Old Ham Lane, Pedmore,
Stourbridge, DY9 0UN

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 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. Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings**
 - Wednesday 5th November, 2014 - Wollaston Village Hall
 - Wednesday 28th January, 2015 - To be confirmed
 - Wednesday 18th March, 2015 - Chawn Hill Church

Action notes from previous meetings can be viewed on the Council's website
www.dudley.gov.uk

Norton/Pedmore & Stourbridge East/Wollaston & Stourbridge Town 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.

Norton



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Pedmore & Stourbridge East



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Wollaston & Stourbridge Town



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DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

3rd September 2014 - Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre Community Forum

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum - Love Your Local Community Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the 2014/15 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. A copy of the application/s referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for consideration at this meeting:

Transition Stourbridge (River Stour Clear Water Project)

4. Funding of £262.00 is requested to erect a bridge plaque where the A491 crosses the River Stour just to the north of Stourbridge town centre. The purpose of the plaque will be to help to draw people's attention to the town's local river and give local people a sense of the history of their town. The applicants have had discussions with DMBC's Traffic Manager who has also provided an estimate of £524.00 for the works. Transition Stourbridge have not received any funding from the council's community forums / area committees in the last three years. This application has also been submitted to the Amblecote, Lye & Stourbridge North and Cradley & Wollescote community forum for the remaining monies.
5. The River Stour Clear Water Project have been working for two years on various projects including clearing rubbish from the river, and the production of a calendar to raise the profile of the 'invisible' River Stour.

Black Country Wheels

6. Funding of £500 is requested from each of the community forums to deliver a pilot City & Guilds accredited Level 1 Beauty Therapy Course for local community members in their existing custom made hair and beauty salon. It is intended that the programme will specifically support ten individuals from across the Borough who have been out of education / work for some time. The course will run for six months. The overall cost of the pilot is £18,459.94 with the remainder of the cost being requested from the community forums (up to a total of £5000) and other grant awarding bodies including funding from the Gannett Foundation and Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation. Black Country Wheels have not received any funding from the council's community forums or area committees in the last three years. They do, however, receive grant aid / funding from the Local Education Authority of £191,176.
7. Black Country Wheels is a registered charity based in the Lye area of Dudley. The aim of the organisation is to support people to advance their skills and capabilities to enable them to become more independent so that they can participate fully in society.
8. Ward Members have been circulated with details of the applications prior to the forum.

Finance

9. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
10. The total sum currently available to spend across all wards is: £18,101.86.
11. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.

Law

12. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
13. 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 function.

Equality Impact

14. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendation

15. That the Forum members consider the application/s referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.

Andrew Leigh

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Andrew Leigh
Head of Housing Strategy & Development

Contact Officer: Andrew Leigh
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List of Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications

Appendix 2 - The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Community Forums

Guidelines for funding applications

Every funding application will be considered on its own individual merits by community forum elected members, who will take into account the funding available and make recommendations on each application to the Council's Director of Corporate Resources.

Applications will be considered only from voluntary and community organisations that are based in the Dudley borough. Applications should be submitted through a parent organisation e.g. a sports club rather than an individual team within a club.

Applications are to be submitted at least 21 days before a community forum meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. Later applications will be considered at the next available forum meeting. Elected members can make recommendations on genuinely urgent applications between forum meetings.

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.

All expenditure must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council's legal powers and demonstrate good value for money. Quotations must be provided in line with the Council's procedure rules. Details are set out in the application form.

Guidelines for considering applications

The following guidelines are to assist elected members in considering funding applications. Individual community forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. Funding 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 which should normally be funded by the organisation itself.)
2. Schemes should contribute to the aims of the Community Strategy and not conflict with Council policy. 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.

3. 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.
4. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources e.g. running costs or repair and maintenance of buildings and equipment.
5. 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.
6. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously received funding from a community forum (or former area committee) within the previous three years.
7. Representatives of organisations submitting applications are encouraged to attend the forum meeting and to speak if they wish in support of their applications.
8. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the funding is spent within nine months, otherwise the funding will be returned to the Council. A fresh application would need to be submitted and approved in order for the funding to be released.
9. In appropriate circumstances, funding may be given on condition that certain items of equipment purchased with the funding are made available for use by other organisations.