

**Action Notes of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and
Dudley Wood Community Forum**

Monday 23rd June, 2014 at 6.30pm
at Netherton Sports and Social Club, St Thomas Street, Netherton

Present:-

Councillors B Cotterill, J Cowell, D Sparks, E Taylor and Q Zada

Officers:-

A Tromans - Lead Officer to the Forum (Information Systems Manager, ICT Services) and K Griffiths - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with nineteen members of the public

1 **Election of Chair**

Councillor Zada was elected Chair of the Forum for the municipal year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chair**

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

3 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor W Duckworth

4 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following general announcements, the Councillors and Council officers introduced themselves.

5 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments by Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Lead Officer was thanked for his help and support in relation to the recent funding application received from Bowling Green Tenants and Residents Association relating to a Community Sports and Fun day.

Noted.

Various issues were raised concerning Saltwells Nature Reserve, which had been reported to the Community Forum on several occasions, with particular reference to:-

- what proposals did the Council have for a new Wardens base,
- what would be the interim arrangements to maximise wardens time spent in the Nature Reserve,
- the feasibility on a suggestion made to using the Black Horse Workshop as a temporary location for the Wardens base.

Referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for a written response.

The Leader of the Council noted the ongoing issues and responded to specific points.

A number of specific concerns were raised in relation to the grass cutting in Netherton, in particular:-

- insufficient cutting,
- quality of cutting,
- Council tenants were having grass cut on their properties by Council operators,
- suggestion that grass on traffic islands could be cut in quieter parts of the day during the week instead of at weekends, which would reduce overtime paid to staff.

Noted. Report to be prepared for Members in advance of next meeting.

Concerns were raised in relation to potholes in Baptist End Road and requested that proper repairs be undertaken.

Lead Officer to refer to the appropriate Council Officers.

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

Subject

Action

Councillor Cotterill referred to parking in Victoria Road, which was preventing emergency vehicles from turning and requested that consideration be given to the installation of parking restrictions at the turning point. He also suggested that a sign be erected clearly stating "turning point, no parking".

Lead Officer to refer to the appropriate Council Officers.

Councillor Cotterill and Sparks referred to potholes in Birch Coppice and requested that proper repairs be undertaken.

Lead Officer to refer to the appropriate Council Officers.

7 **Community Forum Funding**

Application

Recommendation

Access in Dudley

Refused as it did not meet local criteria.

Saltwells Tenants and Residents Association

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward - approval of £750 to provide a lockable barrier to prevent fly tipping behind the garages off Heath Road.

Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward - approval of £180 as a contribution towards new computer equipment.

Netherton Regeneration Strategic Group

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews Ward - approval of £2,000 as a contribution to support commemoration events for the Great War centenary.

Stourbridge Life Centre Debt Advice

Refused as it did not meet local criteria.

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

- Monday 1st September, 2014 - 6.30pm - Quarry Bank Community Centre
- Monday 3rd November, 2014 - 6.30pm - Venue to be confirmed
- Monday 26th January, 2015 - 6.30pm - Woodside Community Centre
- Monday 16th March, 2015 - 6.30pm - Netherton Sports and Social Club

The meeting ended at 7.10pm