

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTLE AND PRIORY, ST
JAMES'S AND ST THOMAS'S COMMUNITY FORUM**

Tuesday 16th April, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
at Wrens Nest Community Centre, Summer Road, Dudley

PRESENT: -

Councillor K Finch (Chair)
Councillors K Ahmed, Ali, Arshad, M Aston, A Finch and Roberts

OFFICERS:

Mr M Bowsher (Lead Officer to the Forum), Quality and Commissioning –
Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Mrs K Griffiths –
Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with twelve Members of the public

7. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors A Ahmed and Waltho.

8. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Castle and Priory, St
James's and St Thomas's Community Forum and in his remarks
commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the
Council. Following the making of other general announcements the local
councillors and council officers introduced themselves.

9. **LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL
RESIDENTS**

A number of questions and comments were raised by local residents in
relation to the following:-

Nature of questions/comments

Referred to

- (1) Boy racers speeding on the Southern
Bypass, including on the Birmingham
Road between Castlegate Island and
Burnt Tree Island. Mention was made of
a new campaign to stop boy racers in the
Birmingham area and the questioner
asked if a similar campaign could be
considered for the Dudley area. It was

Directorate of the Urban
Environment and West
Midlands Police for a
written response.

noted that this issue had been raised at a Central Dudley Area Committee in 2009.

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| (2a) | How long are temporary pothole repairs expected to last and is Dudley MBC getting value for money? How long is the work guaranteed for? | Director of the Urban Environment for a telephone response. |
| (2b) | How are Senior Officers salaries determined and what plans are there to restructure the management infrastructure? | Directorate of Corporate Resources for a telephone response. |
| (3c) | How is the new anti-social behaviour team being publicised? It was noted that Dudley MBC officers were not aware of the new service. | Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a telephone response. |
| (3d) | Flats in Wrens Nest Road. When will the balconies be painted and the guttering be cleared out? It was noted that this issue had been raised in 2011. | Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a telephone response. |
| (4) | What was the date, under the previous administration of the Council, that a resolution was put to full Council in relation to Dudley MBC becoming a Fair-trade Borough? The questioner requested a copy of the minutes of the relevant meeting where the decision was taken. | Directorate of Corporate Resources for a written response. |
| (5) | Housing waiting lists are too long and the process unfair. What is the current waiting list for Council houses? | Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a written response |
| (5b) | Green Bins. Concerns were raised that residents were being requested to pay for green bins and asked for this matter to be investigated. | Directorate of the Urban Environment for a written response |
| (6) | Toilet facilities in Dudley Town Centre – could these be opened on a Sunday? It was noted that this was raised at the Community Forum held on 11 th February, 2013. Members suggested that a letter be submitted to Centro asking for consideration to be given to opening the toilet facilities in Dudley Bus Station for shoppers on a Sunday. | Directorate of the Urban Environment for a written response |

Other Issues raised to which responses were given at the meeting:-

- Poor state of the main roads and pavements in the Borough – need repairing.
- Revival Fires – it was stated that Revival Fires would be willing to host a number of events, to include entertainment, food, non-alcoholic refreshments etc, in a variety of parks across the Borough.
- “Bedroom Tax” was raised and discussed in detail.
- Restructuring of Housing Managers – concern was raised that residents were not being informed in relation to changes to Housing Managers.
- Wire fencing that is blocking off the empty space next to Priory Pharmacy had significantly collapsed and is very dangerous.
- Fly tipping on Wolverhampton Street. A member of the public personally thanked Councillor K Ahmed for dealing with this matter promptly, however, Members acknowledged that this was an ongoing problem affecting the whole of the Borough and needed to be looked at in more detail, as a matter of urgency.
- Representative from Time Step Community Hub requested that her recent grant application be considered further.

10. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Roberts referred to motorist causing anti-social behaviour and leaving tyre tracks on the parks in the Russells Hall Area and requested that this matter be investigated.
- Councillor Roberts referred to the amount of general litter on the Russells Hall Estate and requested that this matter be investigated.
- Councillor Roberts raised concern at the number of speeding vehicles using the Himley Road and requested that consideration be given to introducing a 30mph speed limit.
- Councillor A Finch referred to vehicles using the green area on the Old Park Farm Estate and requested that this matter be investigated.

11. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on an application for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

That consideration of the application by The Friends and Residents of Buffery Park in the St Thomas's Ward for the sum of £5,000 for regeneration work to Buffery Park, involving the installation of a free public outdoor gymnasium comprising 12 different pieces of fixed equipment, be deferred following confirmation of the receipt of further funding requested from an alternative source.

12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

That the date, time and venue of the next meeting of the Community Forum be determined at Annual Council on 16th May, 2013.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm