

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF BELLE VALE, HAYLEY GREEN  
AND CRADLEY SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.  
At Earls High School, Furnace Lane, Halesowen, B63 3SL

**PRESENT:** -

Councillors Burston, Ms Nicholls, Russell, K Turner and Mrs H Turner

**OFFICERS:**

Mr P Coyne (Lead Officer to the Forum) – Directorate of the Urban Environment and Miss L Taylor – Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with 17 Members of the public

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1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Burston was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

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2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Ms Nicholls was elected Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

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3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An Apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor James.

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4. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made general announcements.

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

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

### Nature of question/comment

- (1) A number of issues were raised in relation to Halesowen Town Centre, including:
- The main roads into Halesowen need to be looked at in relation to potholes and uneven surfaces, particularly the A458, Whitehall Road.
  - Pressure to be put on property management companies to maintain the appearance of buildings in the town centre.
  - Traffic islands in the borough are unattractive and the council should investigate the sponsorship of Islands to improve them, as in neighbouring boroughs.
  - Regular litter picks and maintenance cycles be in progress in alleyways from Whittingham Road to Cranmoor Crescent, and Old Hawne Lane to Cherry Street.
- (2) A question was raised in relation to the disposal of old dustbins once the new black wheelie bins were introduced.

### Other Issues raised and/or answered on the evening:-

- Questioning the size of the new black wheelie bins and whether there is a variation in size for households that do not have as much rubbish. Also questions regarding when the bins will be collected.
- Query as to whether the black bin collection will still be weekly.
- A discussion was held in relation to the introduction of new recycling bags for card, cans and plastics etc.
- An issue was raised in relation to utility works on Gorsty Hill. A Member of the public raised a point that only very recently utility works had taken place on the road, and there were now further works by a different utility on the same road. It was requested that there be more liaison between utilities companies to enable less disruption. Due to this repetitive maintenance work, it was felt that the roads were in a bad condition.
- Problems with maintenance of alleyways. It was questioned whether there is scheduled cleaning for these.
- Request for who was responsible for cleaning the pavements around Midland Heart blocks.
- The quality of repair works to roads was brought into question due to potholes reappearing after work had been carried out.

- The issue of 20mph speed limits being introduced around schools was discussed in relation to the individual schools that had been chosen for the scheme. This matter had been considered by Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. It was said that where the 20mph speed will be periodic (start and end of school days) the lunch time break should also be considered to have the limit where nursery and playschool pupils only go to school for half a day.
- It was noted that at a previous meeting of the Forum the issue of flashing speed limit signs was raised to be followed up with the Police. A member of the public asked for this to be followed up again.
- An issue was raised regarding pooling of water in Purbeck Close, Halesowen.
- A member of the public thanked local Councillors for the improvements in the trees on Furnace Hill, and also a dropped curb in the same area. Thanks were expressed for the traffic now being monitored around Hasbury School.

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## 6. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor K Turner made reference to the Improvements to Waste Management Services, and commented that he feels Members should have been consulted on the schedule of introducing these bins into households. This would be referred by the lead officer to the Assistant Director of Environmental Management.
- Councillor Ms Nicholls raised an issue regarding the Community First Funding that was received for the Belle Vale ward. She made comment that neither her, or residents know how to access this fund, and would like a report on this. She would also like details in the report on where and when the panel would be meeting. Councillor Russell agreed to assist as she was a member of the Panel.

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## 7. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on three applications for funding. Two of the applications had previously been refused, however, the applicants had requested that their applications be reconsidered.

It was further noted that following the division of wards in the Halesowen area into two Community Forums, these applications had also received consideration at the meeting of the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum.

At this point Councillor K Turner declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Community Forum Funding application received from the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources again notify the following applicants that their applications had been refused.
    - (a) Halesowen British Legion
    - (b) St Margaret's Well Surgery Patients Panel.
  - (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to refuse the application submitted by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, as the forum is of the opinion that the money approved by the Halesowen Area Committee for the same event last year should have been sufficient to cover last year's event, with the club subsequently being able to fund future events.
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8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, starting at 6.30pm at Huntingtree Primary School, Halesowen.

The Chair thanked all participants for their attendance and it was stated by a member of the public that Armed Forces Day was due to take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 at Himley.

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The meeting ended at 8.00 pm