

Action Notes of the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum

Wednesday 17th June, 2015 at 6.30pm

**In the Amblecote Suite at Stourbridge Town Hall, Crown Centre,
Crown Lane, Stourbridge**

Present:

Councillors M Attwood, N Barlow, C Elcock, L Jones, C Hale, I Kettle and H Rogers

Officers:

A Leigh (Lead Officer) (Head of Service) (Housing Strategy & Development) and H Shepherd (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with 5 members of the public

1 **Election of Chair for the 2015/16 municipal year**

Councillor N Barlow was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2015/16 municipal year.

2 **Appointment of Vice-Chair for the 2015/16 municipal year**

Councillor C Elcock was appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2015/16 municipal year.

3 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and Members and Officers introduced themselves.

4 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors S Clark and M Wood.

5 **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Was it true that Councillor M Wood would be donating his Council allowance to the Community Forum?

The Chair stated that Councillor M Wood would be donating his allowance to charity, but not to the Community Forum and that a list of the charities in receipt of the donations were available within the public domain.

Complaints of rats in High Street, Stourbridge, particularly in the morning. Can something be done to encourage the public to stop dropping rubbish on the floor i.e. posters on rubbish bins.

Referred for a response/action.

People are urinating in the Subway between Stourbridge Bus Station and the High Street. Can something be done about this and can the public toilets on the ring road be open at all times.

Referred for a response/action.

The zebra crossing on Heath Lane, Stourbridge, near to the roundabout and entrance to Mary Stevens Park, the markings have faded and require a repaint. The crossing was considered to be too close to the roundabout and it was asked if it was possible for it to be moved to the other side of the roundabout by the Old White Horse Public House and the One-Stop Shop.

Referred for a response/action.

Parking issues at Mary Stevens Park

Councillor H Rogers provided an update on the current parking issues at Mary Stevens Park and stated that 91 staff would be moving from Mary Stevens Park to the Mere Centre in Wordsley by the end of July 2015. It was considered that this resolution was still unacceptable as the car parking spaces would continue to be utilised by the remaining staff and the public would continue to struggle to park and enjoy the facilities at the park.

It was suggested that the situation continue to be monitored, particularly after the predicted staff move at the end of July and for Councillors to report back to the next meeting of the Forum.

Concerns were raised of cars driving along Norton Road faster than the 30mph speed limit and the lack of signage enforcing the speed limit.

Councillor M Attwood stated that this issue had also been raised at the recent PACT meeting and it had been confirmed that the number of signs that were allowed to be displayed depended on the type of highway. Local residents were encouraged to assist West Midlands Police with evidence gathering in the area and further information could be obtained from the West Midlands Police website.

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

Subject

Action

Councillor Kettle raised concerns in relation to Dudley Council proposing to alter the deeds of gifts entrusted to them, specifically referring to no balls on Sundays at Wollescote Park.

Councillor C Hale agreed to take these concerns forward to Labour Group members.

Councillor H Rogers also commented that if one deed of gift was to be amended this would then set a precedent for all deeds of gifts to be changed.

The Chair expressed his thanks to former Councillor, Ian Marrey, for the excellent work he had undertaken within the Community during his four year term of office.

Noted.

7 **Community Forum Funding**

At this juncture, the Chair and Vice-Chair, for transparency purposes, confirmed that they both had a close association with the Parish of Our Lady and All Saints Church.

Application

Recommendation

Parish of Our Lady and All Saints

Approve £5000

Stourbridge Cricket Club

Approve £1902

Forum of Older People in Dudley – on behalf of Age Alliance in Dudley

Withdrawn, as alternative funding streams were being investigated by Officers

Black Country Festival

Noted, that a sum of £1,000 from each ward be allocated from the Love your Local Community - Community Forum funding budget to fund activities and events in connection with the Black Country Festival.

Members were extremely concerned and expressed their dissatisfaction as to how each ward's funding allocation had been reduced by £1000 without any consultation with Ward Members. Members, in principal, supported the Black Country Festival, and had previously recommended approval of Community Forum Funding applications in relation to past events and activities for the festival, but did not agree with money being taken from ward allocations without any consultation in the first instance and requested that no further reductions were made to ward allocations in the future without prior consultation.

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

It was reported that meetings of the Community Forum would be held on the following dates:

- Thursday 10th September, 2015 – Venue to be confirmed
- Wednesday 4th November, 2015 – Venue to be confirmed
- Wednesday 27th January, 2016 – Venue to be confirmed
- Wednesday 16th March, 2016 – Venue to be confirmed

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm