

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSWINFORD NORTH AND
WALL HEATH/KINGSWINFORD SOUTH AND WORDSLEY
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Tuesday, 25th March, 2014 at 6.30 p.m.
at St Mary's Church Hall, The Village, Kingswinford.

PRESENT: -

Councillor Blood (Chair)
Councillor Miller (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Billingham, Boleyn, Harley, Hemingsley, Jones, Simms and Tyler.

OFFICERS:

Mr J Butler (Lead Officer to the Forum), Directorate of Urban Environment, and Mrs L Jury –Directorate of Corporate Resources, together with 13 members of the public.

14. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting of the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath/ Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum.

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

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below.

Nature of questions/comments

- (1) Members of the New Bradley Hall (NBH) Action Group expressed their disappointment and disgust in the way Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services dealt with the transfer of NBH from Council control to a not-for-profit organisation and in particular, the conduct of some Council Members towards Action Group Members at a recent Scrutiny meeting convened to discuss New Bradley Hall. It was reported that Members of the Action Group would be meeting with an Independent

Council Investigator to assess the validity of the consultation the Council had undertaken before approaching the Local Government Ombudsman. Members agreed to feedback the Group's feelings and complaints to Senior Officers. The position regarding the future of New Bradley Hall would be reported at the next Forum meeting.

Other issues raised and/or answered on the evening:

As there was no Police Representative in attendance at the meeting, the Chair submitted the crime figures for February – March 2014 and updated the meeting on the changes being made to the Neighbourhood Teams from 16th June. It was noted that the total crime trend in Kingswinford North and Wall Heath was steady with a slight increase. Crime had slightly decreased in Kingswinford South from the last period and total crime had increased in Wordsley by 2 offences. The changes being made related to the Wordsley team merging with Brierley Hill neighbourhood and moving to Brierley Hill station. Kingswinford North/Wall Heath and Kingswinford South teams would remain at Kingswinford Police Station. There would be some staffing changes, but essentially the number of officers and PCSO's would broadly remain the same across the neighbourhoods.

16.

WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Miller requested an update on the future of Kingswinford Youth Centre. Lead Officer to investigate and respond.
- Councillor Harley referred to the many complaints he had received regarding the condition of the grass verges on Standhills Road and Dingle Road. Councillor Harley had previously received information from the Director of the Urban Environment in an email dated 17th March regarding the availability of Section 106 monies to address this issue but sought further information regarding whether another affordable solution could be found. Lead Officer to refer this issue to DUE.

17.

AREA GRANTS

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

At this juncture, Councillors Hemingsley and Simms declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to the funding application submitted by the Friends of Wordsley Park as they were both Members of the Committee.

Councillor Tyler declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the funding application submitted by the Dawley Brook Supporters Association (Scouts and Guides) as Councillor Tyler's wife was President of the Himley Division Guide Association.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources:
 - Approve a contribution in respect of the application received from Access in Dudley in the sum of £341.16 to enable them to update their publicity material and purchase promotional material to help them to promote their community services.
 - Approve the application received from Dawley Brook Supporters Association (Scouts and Guides) for the sum of up to £5,000 to assist in the refurbishment of Dawley Brook hut to include new door, windows and roof.
 - Approve a contribution in respect of the application received from Dudley Arts Council in the sum of £2,500 to provide a Borough- wide Arts Festival.
 - Approve the application received from Market Street Allotment Association (Kingswinford) for the sum of £1,200 for the purchase of a mower, strimmer and communal shed; an additional £90 greater than the funding request has been recommended for security purposes only and Members require the Association to demonstrate how they will insure and keep secure the equipment before the funding is released.
 - Approve the application from West Mercia Scout County on behalf of a young person for the sum of £2,995 to assist with the travel expenses of the young person to attend a World Scout Jamboree in Japan in July/August 2015.
 - Approve the application from Friends of Wordsley Park 2012 for the sum of £5,000 to provide a shelter with seating in an area to be accessible to all, linked to the development of a sensory garden area within the park.
- (2) That the application from Market Street Allotment Association (Kingswinford) for the sum of £10,207.51 to

replace fencing be deferred until the next meeting in order for further information to be sought.

18.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Subject to the approval of the Council at its annual meeting in June 2014, the provisional dates of the Community Forum for 2014/15 were as follows (all 6.30pm with venues to be confirmed):

1st July, 2014
9th September, 2014
11th November, 2014
3rd February, 2015
24th March, 2015

The meeting ended at 7.35pm.