



Community Forum Action Notes



- Forum:** Gornal, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton
- Date and time:** Monday 8th November 2021 at 6.30pm
- Venue:** Online via Microsoft Teams
- Attendance:** Councillors D Stanley, B Challenor, A Aston, C Neale and M Westwood
- Officers/Police:** Heather Jeavons (Area Liaison Officer), Lydia Cooper (Community Development Worker), PCSO J King (West Midlands Police)

Members of the public: 12

1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting

Welcome and introductions were made.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Councillor D Stanley was appointed as Chair of the forum and Councillor A Aston as Vice-Chair, for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.

The Chair welcomed Councillor M Westwood to the meeting and thanked K Casey for his contributions during his service as ward Councillor in Upper Gornal and Woodsetton.

3. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies received from Councillor Millward, the Mayor. No declarations of interest were received.



4. Communities Together

Subject

Action/Response

Remembrance Sunday.

Dates and times were shared reflecting the gatherings across Gornal, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton wards.

Friends of the Park update - Activities had continued during the Covid pandemic, respecting Covid regulations and social distancing guidance. The parks had been kept tidy.

Easter rock hunt had been a success. AGM occurred face to face.

Gornal Together update - Christmas in the village arrangements were well underway, with Covid regulations in mind.

Gornal library staff had volunteered to support.

Friends of Gornal Library update - The library had resumed hosting craft sessions.

Noted.

Elloes Hall Tenant and Residents Association update - Remembrance service timings at the memorial in Lower Gornal were shared.

Ward Councillors thanked CB for her tireless work and commitment to the Gornal community groups.

The group was looking to arrange hybrid meetings, face to face and a virtual meeting running concurrently.

Oval and Tudor TRA - Feedback provided from a successful application for community funding to support the hire of skips.

Residents disposed of their rubbish in the hired skips, reducing incidents of fly tipping.

Ward Councillors were thanked for supporting the application.

Ward Councillors thanked the group for their work within the community.

Coseley, Sedgley and Gornal Village Connect - Following the results of a survey in North Dudley, the group had been created to support lonely and isolated residents.

Thanks given to Lydia Cooper (LC), Community Development Worker and CB for their support in sharing best practice, contributing to the establishment of this group. Anyone who would like to join was welcome. Contact LC for details.

Home Instead

The work of the charity around preventing loneliness amongst the elderly was shared.

Question raised from a resident regarding activities/community groups in Woodsetton.

LC was a point of contact. Also contact ward Councillors who could share what was happening in the area.

Councillor Aston thanked resident for her work within the ward.

Community funding and positive outcomes.

Forum funding had secured a memorial stone in Lower Gornal. This project also included receiving funding from Christmas events through Gornal Together.

Support from North Dudley Police in talking to community groups.

Sergeant Sanders was thanked for his support.

There were still concerns regarding 'known to Police' youths and the carrying of knives. Concerns had been emailed to Sergeant Sanders.

Dudley Kindness Awards - local groups received recognition.

Thank you to the groups who were supporting residents during lockdown and throughout the Covid pandemic. Local groups had been formally recognised for their work.

Woodsetton - Setting up resident groups within the area.

There were a number of individuals who were active within the ward. Councillors could be contacted if anyone was interested in establishing a community group.

Councillor Westwood - Criminal activity and anti-social behaviour in Oak Street.

Police were aware of issues. Patrols were targeting the area. Residents must report any incidents, so the Police could log the incident and follow through. Residents were urged not to challenge individuals. Ward Councillors wanted CCTV to be sited in this area. PCSO to escalate this request.

Councillor Challenor - Anti-social behaviour reporting box in Gornal Library.

PCSO to check with the Sergeant regarding this resource. There was still anti-social behaviour in the area surrounding the library.

5. Police update and discussion

Subject

Action/Response

Crime figures - Gornal, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton

The impact of lockdown on mental health, alcohol and drug abuse was a national issue. Early help interventions were a focus both nationally and locally.

Robbery, Knife crime, Vehicle crime and burglary figures were all lower than last year.

There was a rise in domestic violence and hate crimes during lockdown.

6. Community form funding

There were no new community funding applications to be considered at this meeting.

The funding allocations made since the last meeting (January 2020) were set out in the Community Forum Funding report. These were shared.

7. Arrangements for next meeting

Feedback from the forum meeting will be considered before a date and format for the next meeting is agreed. Residents were asked to complete the questionnaire and their views would be considered when organising the format of the next round of meetings.

Meeting ended at: 19:54