

**Action Notes of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and  
Dudley Wood Community Forum**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2014 at 6.30pm  
at Quarry Bank Community Centre, Sheffield Street, Quarry Bank**

**Present:-**

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)  
Councillor B Cotterill (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors J Cowell, D Sparks and E Taylor

**Officers:-**

A Tromans - Lead Officer to the Forum (Information Systems Manager, ICT Services) and K Griffiths - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 12 members of the public

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9 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor W Duckworth and Sergeant W Lambeth, West Midlands Police.

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10 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following general announcements, the Councillors and Council officers introduced themselves.

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11 **Feedback from the Community Forum held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014**

The Lead Officer gave an update on issues raised at the previous meeting, a hard copy of the summary had been distributed to Members. The Lead Officer reported that he would be available at the end of the meeting if anyone had any further concerns in relation to any issues raised.

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12 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments by Local Residents**

**Subject**

**Action**

Further discussions concerning Saltwells Nature Reserve, with particular reference to the proposals for a new Wardens base and the situation regarding the current position of the Developers.

Noted. Report to be prepared for Members in advance of next meeting.

The Leader of the Council noted the ongoing  
NQCF/4

issues and responded to specific points.

Concerns were raised in relation to flooding outside 158 Heath Road, which was preventing access to Saltwells Nature Reserve and requested that the matter be investigated.

Referred for a written response.

Issue relating to overgrown brambles and bushes at Netherton Reservoir Boat House on the Lodge Farm Estate and requested that the Council tidy up the area.

Referred for a written response.

The Chair responded that the area was not included in the maintenance regime, however he queried whether the Council would be able to assist by trimming brambles and bushes once per year.

A general issue was raised in relation to land in Quarry Road.

Councillor Cotterill responded and assured the Forum that the matter was being dealt with.

Reference was made to the future use of the site at the former Birch Coppice public house.

A number of specific concerns were raised in relation to Dudley Wood Park, in particular:-

Referred for a written response.

- Lack of action with footballs being kicked into gardens and people jumping fences to retrieve footballs without permission.
- Youths kicking footballs against fences.
- Receiving verbal abuse from adults and young people when challenged, worried and concerned regarding physical attack.
- Questioning why the park had three football pitches when only two required.
- Issues with people riding motorbikes on park.
- Issues with dogs not on leads.
- Identify what and how pitches were allocated by the Council.

A suggestion was made to remove the permanent goalposts and replace them with removable goalposts.

A meeting was requested with Green Care officers and Police to discuss problems and possible solutions.

Concerns were raised in relation to vans parking on the pavements of Baptist End Road and Swan Street, obstructing visibility for drivers.

The Chair responded that Dudley MBC were aware of this issue and would deal with the matter accordingly.

Concerns were raised in relation to the road layout at the junction of Northfield Road and Halesowen Road and requested that further remodelling of the junction be considered.

Noted. Report to be prepared for Members in advance of next meeting.

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

**Subject**

**Action**

Councillor Cotterill referred to the new development in Birch Coppice and encouraged attendance to the upcoming open day. He also referred briefly to the site at the former Birch Coppice public house and indicated that work to develop a facility for people and young children with learning difficulties would commence shortly.

Noted.

Councillor Cotterill referred, in positive terms, to the recent refusal of a liquor licence at an establishment in Quarry Bank.

Noted.

Councillor Zada referred to Dudley's Big Switch, the Councils energy saving scheme and encouraged the Forum to support the scheme.

Noted.

Councillor Zada referred to the recent report issued by the Government regarding NHS Hospital parking and indicated that any concerns be directed to local councillors. He also requested that the link to the report be circulated to all Members of the Forum.

Noted.

Democratic Services Officer to action.

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14 **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

The Lead Officer referred to the redistribution of the Empty Shops Grant and High Street Innovation Fund to Community Forums, funding aimed at improving commercial businesses. The criteria and process would be similar to that used for Community Forum funding.

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Dudley Christian Fellowship	Refused as it did not meet local criteria.
Inspired Communities	Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews Ward - approval of £350 to contribute towards publicity.
Dudley Disabled Learning Activities and Advice Centre	Refused as the premises had not yet been identified and there was not sufficient detail on the services provided in the application.
Dudley Council for Voluntary Service	Refused as it did not meet local criteria.
Royal British Legion Quarry Bank (Councillor Sparks indicated that he had no involvement in the consideration of the grant as he was a Member of the Royal British Legion).	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward – approval of £5,750 to provide a commemorative stone to honour 147 Quarry Bank people who lost their lives during World War 1.

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15 **Face the People Consultation**

Mr Andy Winning (ASBU Development Manager) referred to the “Face the People” event to be held at the Netherton Arts Centre on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 from 7 pm – 9 pm. Representatives from the Police, Council and Probation Service would be in attendance to answer residents’ queries in relation to crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

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

- Monday 3rd November, 2014 - 6.30pm - Venue to be confirmed
- Monday 26th January, 2015 - 6.30pm - Woodside Community Centre
- Monday 16th March, 2015 - 6.30pm - Netherton Sports and Social Club

The meeting ended at 7.30pm