

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

Held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at  
Lutley Community Centre, Brookwillow Road, Halesowen

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Burston (Chair)

Councillor Taylor (Vice Chair)

Councillors Bills, Hill, James, Ms Nicholls, Russell, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, Vickers and Woodall.

**Officers:-**

Mr P Coyne (Lead Officer to the Forum – Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration and Transportation) and Mr J.Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)  
together with eight members of the public

7. **INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Forum and in commenting further reiterated the purpose of the new forums.

8. **LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

The following issues were raised:-

- The lack of a response by the Council to questions raised regarding Halesowen in Bloom. The questioner was asked to give his contact details to the Lead Officer to the forum so that he could arrange for a response to be given.
- Concerns about the apparent lack of interest in Halesowen and delays in progressing projects. It was noted that arising from a visit to the Town Centre by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration that a list of projects had been drawn up and that matters were being progressed as a result of the meeting held. A request was made that the list of projects be published so that the public was aware of what was proposed/to happen.

- In response to a query regarding the implementation of the Halesowen Action Plan it was noted that written representations were being considered and that it was hoped that this stage of the process would be completed by May with a response back to the Council by late Summer. The plan would then be referred to the Cabinet for approval by the end of this year. Arising from concerns raised about the lack of activity arising from former plans produced it was considered that when the Halesowen Area Action Plan had been approved Members would need to take the appropriate action to ensure that things proposed did actually happen.
- The issue of parking in the road around Highfield Lane, Halesowen, was again raised and the previous questioner indicated that whilst she had had a response to her complaint she had been disappointed by that response. Arising from further concerns raised it was suggested that the Council have a further look at this in partnership with the Police and that the Lead Officer also arrange for the issue of private hire vehicles and of coaches parking in the area to be investigated so that hopefully action could be taken to prevent these vehicles parking in the area.
- Issues regarding vehicles making an illegal right turn at the junction in Church Croft were raised and a request made that this issue be looked at again so as to make it more difficult to make a right turn at this location. The Lead Officer was also asked to arrange for the Police to be contacted regarding enforcement action should vehicles attempt to turn right at this location.
- A petition for a 20 mph limit and crossing on Highfield Road was presented at the meeting. The petition was referred to the Lead Officer to arrange for investigation and response direct to the Lead Petitioner. Members were supportive of the request made in the petition. Similar requests were also raised together with a request that current speed limits be reduced.

---

9.

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

Councillor Ms Nicholls raised the issue of blue graffiti above Murrays the Chemist and asked that the matter be investigated and for the Lead Officer to arrange for a report back to her on this issue.

Councillor James commented that, despite a previous petition and request made, no action had been taken in respect of the traffic lights at the junctions of Haden Hill Road, Coombs Road and Dudley Road. He also reiterated a request made for a filter light to turn right from Haden Hill Road up Furness Hill.

Councillor Russell raised a related point about this junction in relation to the 30 mph sign and its location and a request was made that the layout of the sign be investigated.

---

Councillor Bills raised a general issue about the number of redundant and surplus signs in the Borough and the need for action to be taken in respect of these.

---

10.

#### AREA GRANTS

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

Arising from comments made in respect of these applications and the proposal made at a recent Council meeting that the wards comprising the Community Forum be split in the new municipal year it was noted that in the event of this split funding agreed by this Forum would be split equally between the two new Forums. Furthermore, where applications covered more than one Community Forum area it was noted that organisations could submit applications to more than one Community Forum for funding.

Regarding the application submitted by Halesowen British Legion it was agreed that this again be deferred so that the Lead Officer could obtain further information about the funding of this project

#### AGREED TO RECOMMEND

- 1 That the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to refuse the application submitted by St. Margaret's Well Surgery Patient Panel as it was considered that funding for their project was available from other sources.
- 2 That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant in the sum of £5,000 to Halas Homes, Wassell Road, Halesowen to meet the costs of providing an extension to an existing building to enable increased provision of training and development in general life skills including such matters as food preparation, general housekeeping and washing.

---

11.

#### DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Community Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2013. Arising from this and in the light of earlier comments made Members commented further on the proposal to split the current Forum into two forums. The majority of Members present considered that the current arrangement worked well and that they would not wish to see the proposal enacted.

Arising from the concerns expressed it was agreed that the Chair make appropriate representations on the basis of the concerns expressed indicating that the majority of Members would prefer to stay as a block of four Wards comprising one Community Forum.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

---