



## Community Forum Action Notes



**Forum:** Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett

**Date and time:** Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Brockmoor Primary School, Belle Isle, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, DY5 3UZ

**Attendance:** Councillors John Martin (Chair), Serena Craigie, Sue Greenaway and Judy Foster

Officers/Police: Deborah Harkins (Liaison Officer), Carol Tromans (Community Development Worker), Sergeant Coles

Members of the public: 18

### 1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies received from Councillors Ridha Ahmed and Zafar Islam

No declarations of interests were received.

### 2. Police and Communities Together

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action/Response</u>
Sergeant Coles covered the Brierley Hill, Brockmoor, Pensnett, Kingswinford and Wall Heath area and reported positive feedback within the area. This included Street Watch groups that had been established in the and were working well and that the Chief Superintendent had been out with these groups.	Noted.

Sergeant Coles also provided further positive feedback that included a junior PCSO scheme being delivered at Brockmoor Primary School with a focus on parking around the school and that there had been a joint operation with Trading Standards to close down five shops selling illegal tobacco, which had been extended to mid-May and there was evidence that this had made the community safer.

Noted.

Sergeant Coles gave an overview of the Crime statistics for the area since the last Community Forum meeting at the end of January. It was reported that in February there were thirty three vehicle offences compared to sixty seven for the same period last year, therefore there had been a considerable reduction; eighteen burglaries in residential properties, compared to twenty five for the same period last year and five robbery offences compared to thirteen in the same period last year.

Noted.

Sergeant Coles thanked the local community for its support in relation to the double murder two weeks previously.

Two people had been charged with murder and three charged with other offences.

Residents reported issues of anti-social behaviour by Farm Foods. Offenders congregate in the alley by the café and a suggestion was made to locate CCTV cameras in that area. Residents commented that they were pleased that the CCTV was not in situ at the back of the market.

Councillor Craigie had provided photographs of offenders and this was being used by the Police. Police were aware of the intelligence regarding the alley and were looking at patterns of offending using data so that they could deploy resources at the right time. Police were supporting local businesses to make premises safer. A knife arch had been located in that area.

Questions were raised regarding the criteria used to locate CCTV. Residents provided recommendations for areas that the cameras could be located. The Brockmoor neighbourhood watch groups advised that they would value information about the law in relation to how personal CCTV cameras could be used.

The Council was implementing a new CCTV system. Temporary mobile cameras were available to be deployed in line with crime data.

Sergeant Cole stated that CCTV cameras were sited in areas where highest crime was reported and advised that the location also depended on the ownership of the land where the camera would be sited.

Opportunities for neighbourhood watch groups to share their work would be provided at future Community Forum meeting. Council Officers would be asked to make contact with the neighbourhood watch group to attend a future Community Forum meeting to share the support available to the local community.

Liaison Officer to request relevant Council Officer leading on CCTV to attend a future meeting to provide information regarding CCTV and share work on the Borough's violence prevention strategy.

A request was made regarding whether crime statistics could be provided for each area to highlight the impact of Street Watch and neighbourhood watch actions.

The Police advised that crime statistics were available on WM police website [mypolice.com](http://mypolice.com). The Police were taking a focused approach to understand what offences were being committed, where and when so they were able to deploy Officers to those areas.

Councillor Martin raised concerns regarding the rates of reoffending in young people and stated that up to a third of young people who had offended go on to reoffend. In the Dudley area this was lower at 25% however, was still an issue and queried what was being done regarding reoffending.

Sergeant Cole summarised the action being taken including, Project Guardian (youth offending and violence), junior PCSOs project working with children aged eight and nine, work with schools, junior cadets and offender management team.

Residents requested for an update on knife crime.

It was reported that Dudley was the only Borough in the West Midlands showing a reduction in knife crime. A number of initiatives had been working to reduce knife crime in the Borough. Project Guardian involved engaging with the young and doing weapon sweeps and using knife arch.

Deborah Harkins, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, gave an update on the violence prevention strategy to be launched in April.

### **3 & 4. Listening to you/Working with you (Merged by the request of the Chair)**

A representative from the Yellow Army running group attended the forum outlining the activities undertaken by the group, advising that they were a free running club meeting at The Crestwood School on Mondays and The Dell on Wednesdays with 300 members aged between six and seventy. Concerns were raised regarding The Dell requesting for the group to pay to use the centre as meeting point for runs, however, they wanted to keep activities free so that they could be accessible to those all who do not usually join running clubs, and to alleviate the stigma of joining a running club.

The Liaison Officer agreed to look into this.

A resident raised concerns regarding Brierley Hill missing out on healthy activities in parks, due to The Dell being run differently to other healthy hubs across the Borough. There were volunteers eager to get involved in running activities.

Liaison Officer agreed to raise issue with Leisure Services

It was reported that a new Street Watch group had been established in Brierley Hill which was part of the Chapel Street Tenants and Residents Association and was undergoing a lot of work to tidy up the area with the support of the Police. They patrolled two days a week and there had been positive feedback from older people that since the group had been patrolling they felt reassured.

Councillor Craigie commended the group and said that she had noticed a real change in the community since the group was established.

A new Street Watch in Brierley Hill town centre had also recently been established.

Councillor Craigie reported that there would be various activities in Brierley Hill taking place in the autumn, including the Brier Fair in September and Heritage open day, whereby the high street would be closed. A Christmas festival in December would also be taking place.

Noted.

The Liaison Officer provided an update on the Coronavirus and the ongoing work in Dudley to prepare.

Noted.

## 5. Funding

### Applicant

### Recommendation

Chapel Street Tenant's Association requested £1,700 to replace stolen equipment used to maintain grounds around the estate. They requested money up front.

Approved from Brierley Hill ward.

**Meeting ended at: 20:30**

(Those not involved in funding left at 20.10)