

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Dudley
Date and time:	Monday 7th November 2022 - 630pm
Venue:	Wellington Road Community Centre, Wellington Road, Dudley
Attendance:	<p>Councillors K Casey, M Aston, K Finch, S Bothul, W Sullivan, C Bayton, E Taylor, D Corfield, C Barnett, R Clinton, J Cowell, M Qari, S Ali and S Mughal.</p> <p>Officers: S Griffiths, J Scott, A Lawrence and D Tiwana</p> <p>Members of the public: 30</p>
Agenda item	Notes
1. Marketplace	<p>A marketplace event was held at the beginning of the meeting to enable people to find out about services, groups and activities in the local area.</p> <p>Alzheimer's Society – dudleyci.co.uk/services/alzheimers-society-dudley-dementia-cafe</p> <p>YMCA - Alice Allen 07706330008 - alice.allen@ymcabc.org.uk dudleywrensnest@ymcabc.org.uk Wren's Nest Navigators - YMCA Black Country Group (ymcabc.org.uk) Wren's Nest Navigators Dudley Facebook</p> <p>Black Country Healthcare NHS Trust – Thrive to Work - www.blackcountryjobsupport.com/</p> <p>Dudley MBC Energy Advice Line – Winter Warmth – www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-advice-information-and-support/dudley-energy-advice-line/</p> <p>Enquiries can be made by calling 01384 817086 or emailing winterwarmth@dudley.gov.uk .</p>

	Dudley MBC Your Borough, Your Future - tackling climate change together - www.dudley.gov.uk/news/your-borough-your-future-tackling-climate-change-together/																	
2. Welcome and introduction to the meeting	The Liaison Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting, then briefly explained the attendee guidelines, the new format of the meeting, and the agenda. Feedback on the new format was requested from attendees.																	
3. Election of Chair and appointment of Vice Chair	Councillor J Cowell was appointed as Chair of the forum and Councillor C Bayton as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.																	
4. Apologies and declarations of interest	Apologies received from Councillor Q Zada and West Midlands Police No declarations of interest were received.																	
5. Forum funding	The Chair provided a summary of funding approved since the last meeting of which the 4 items below have recently been approved by the Community Grant Panel. <table><tr><th>Applicant</th><th>Project Outline</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Quarry Bank Music Club</td><td>To improve the facilities at the Club's meeting place by updating old items of equipment and acquiring a portable amplifier to enable ease of performing at other venues, including care homes and outdoor functions.</td><td>£2191.98</td></tr><tr><td>Dudley MBC Public Realm</td><td>To provide Christmas Trees in various locations throughout the Dudley central area.</td><td>£11,281.71</td></tr><tr><td>Dudley MBC Public Realm</td><td>To provide Christmas on-street lighting in Netherton.</td><td>£743.89</td></tr><tr><td>Dudley MBC Public Realm</td><td>To provide Christmas on-street lighting in Quarry Bank High Street.</td><td>£4,799</td></tr></table>			Applicant	Project Outline	Amount	Quarry Bank Music Club	To improve the facilities at the Club's meeting place by updating old items of equipment and acquiring a portable amplifier to enable ease of performing at other venues, including care homes and outdoor functions.	£2191.98	Dudley MBC Public Realm	To provide Christmas Trees in various locations throughout the Dudley central area.	£11,281.71	Dudley MBC Public Realm	To provide Christmas on-street lighting in Netherton.	£743.89	Dudley MBC Public Realm	To provide Christmas on-street lighting in Quarry Bank High Street.	£4,799
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	<p>A resident representing St James' Road and Priory Close Neighbourhood watch asked for support to progress an application towards room hire and administration costs for her community group. Action: Community Development Worker to make contact to follow up on any applications</p> <p>Councillors and residents then queried why less funding was being allocated to Quarry Bank than had been requested given it was one of a few areas without lights and funding was available for allocation. Councillor R Clinton queried how a decision had been made when there was an outstanding query relating to the cost and number of lights to be provided.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that a recommendation had already been made to allocate funding towards Christmas lights after it had previously been deferred. Under the revised process, discussion on funding applications was now considered in a separate Community Grant Panel. The recommendation had been made to allocate £4,799 following consultation with Members by e-mail.</p> <p>A resident asked why the funding summary published online still said the application was deferred. The Chair confirmed this information would be updated in the next few days. Action: Community Development team to update online funding summary.</p> <p>Some Councillors and residents did not accept the Chair's explanation and robustly challenged the recommendation and the process by which it had been made. In view of the disagreement and the nature in which objections were made, the Chair and Vice-Chair made efforts to restore order within the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor R Clinton requested that the notes reflect the procedural concerns he expressed at the meeting. He requested that the application relating to Quarry Bank Christmas lights be deferred further and indicated that he would raise the matter within the Council and with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities.</p> <p>Following concerns expressed by some participants, Councillor S Mughal requested that the notes reflect her concerns regarding the disrespect that was shown to the Chair at this meeting.</p>
6. World Café event	<p>The Chair introduced a World Café event. Everyone present, took part in table discussions to share their ideas and knowledge, and identify opportunities to work together to improve the local area.</p>

Listening to your issues

- Forum Funding, process for approving grant applications needs clarifying, transparency of decision making,
- Christmas Trees and Lights - need to be consistent across the borough and centrally funded.
- Improving the local environment, pavements around Kates Hill, fly tipping across the ward, including around Bishops Close.
- Lodge Farm estate, when will the Community Centre be demolition and the street name signs be upgraded?
- Given the climate crisis what are DMBC doing to reduce energy usage in the public buildings?
- Highways and public pathways, school parking, Limes Road, Priory Primary School, traffic Issues around Buffery Park. E Scooters on public pathways.

What's great about the Dudley area?

- Local assets in the community including, Saltwells Nature Reserve, Dudley Zoo and Black Country Museum.
- The local community, people are passionate and care, friend's groups, good community relations.

What would make it even better?

- Improving the local environment, landscaping, and green care
- Street maintenance, potholes, highways maintenance
- Tree maintenance
- Street lighting in Saltwells Road.
- Bulk collections of waste to stop fly tipping.
- Working together, good partnership between the council and the residents.
- Better communication, Dudley Council app to be promoted, so more reported.
- Improving local assets, developing a community space in the former Saltwells House
- More and better town centre support with events and tourism discount for locals.

	<p><u>What the single most important issue to improve the area?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events need to be funded to support social gatherings bringing people together. • Anti-social behaviour, more police/enforcement patrols • Improving youth facilities. <p>The Chair thanked everyone for contributions and confirmed input would be collated and shared with everyone at a future date.</p>
7. Date of next meeting	<p>The next round of Your Home Your Forum meetings will take place in the Spring. Details will be available on the following link in due course – Your Home, Your Forum Dudley</p>

Time meeting ended: 8.30pm