

Action Notes of the Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Community Forum

Monday 26th January, 2015 at 6.30pm
at Roberts Primary School, Robert Street, Lower Gornal, Dudley

Present:

Councillor K Casey (Chair)
Councillor S Turner (Vice Chair)
Councillors A Aston, D Branwood, D Perks and R Scott-Dow

Officers:

J Jennings (Lead Officer) (Head of Communications and Public Affairs) and
K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with 23 members of the public

23 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed those present and there followed introductions.

24 National Grid

Mr N Bayley representative of National Grid gave a verbal presentation in relation to the work to be conducted to replace gas mains in Louise Street, Gornal Wood and surrounding areas advising that work would commence on 27th February, 2015 for approximately seven weeks. The diversions, temporary traffic lights and one way systems were outlined together with details in relation to safe pedestrian management with the provision of marshals to assist those crossing roads during peak periods. It was noted that the impact on local businesses would be monitored. Project drawings were displayed and those present were invited to view the plans and ask questions.

Members thanked the representatives from National Grid for attending the meeting.

25 Winter Warmth

Ms C Bennett, Warm Homes Officer gave a verbal presentation on the winter warmth services, circulating leaflets providing a guide to keeping warm and well at home during the winter months. It was noted that help could be provided with obtaining loft insulation and cavity wall insulation and there were schemes that would assist with bills and provide assistance with price checking in order to secure more affordable utility providers. It was stated that those who were struggling to keep warm would be provided with portable heaters, blankets and hot water bottles.

Detailed booklets were circulated providing a guide to reducing energy bills and contact details for the service were provided.

Members thanked Ms C Bennett for the extremely helpful and informative presentation.

26 **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Concerns were raised that parts of the Quarry Club in Gornal had been condemned and it would not be possible to hold the yearly fun day at the Club. The Chair referred to meetings that had taken place and it was noted that internal surveys were being carried out to ascertain costs in order that investigating revenue streams to fund repairs could commence.

What action was being taken to deal with litter and dog fouling in the Gornal.

Referred to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing.

A Petition was handed in on behalf of East Street Residents Group on behalf of the residents of Ranscombe Drive and Withern Way requesting that an overgrown area of land be cleared.

Referred to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing.

Problems with trees in East Street, Lower Gornal were referred to and the Vice-Chair confirmed that work was to be undertaken in relation to the trees. It was noted that a date for the commencement of the work could not be provided as work in relation to trees would be conducted upon a priority basis.

The Vice-Chair referred to the provision of 12 new parking spaces and two new pedestrian crossings in Gornal Village and there followed a request for information regarding the type of crossings to be installed and a breakdown of costs for the provision of the parking spaces.

Referred to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing.

Concerns were raised in relation to the lack of recycling facilities in Gornal and the Vice Chair referred to the fortnightly recycling collection that the Council operated advising that should further receptacles be required these would be provided by the Council.

A request that the public toilets in Gornal Village be re-opened. The Vice-Chair advised that the cost of re-instating the toilets would be investigated and a view would be taken on whether the costs were proportionate in the short term, as the supermarket that was to be constructed in Gornal Village would provide public toilets.

The Vice –Chair provided an update in relation to the provision of a new supermarket in Gornal Village advising that there had been problems purchasing the land from Eggingtons however a decision sheet in relation to a Compulsory Purchase Order for the land would be publicised shortly.

A request that bars be erected at the top of the alley adjacent to the business premises in Clarence Street, Upper Gornal as delivery vans were blocking the alleyway causing obstruction to pedestrian users.

Referred to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing.

Concerns were raised in relation to the spillage of refuse following refuse collections causing a problem with litter and recycle bags being scattered in streets. It was also requested that dog fouling bins be replaced as some had been removed.

Referred to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing and the Vice Chair to liaise with the appropriate Officers.

A request that the rubbish including needles be removed from the grit bin in The Close, Lower Gornal and re-filled with grit.

Referred to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing.

A request that work be undertaken to address traffic problems at the Branford traffic lights, Parkes Hall Road. The Head of Traffic and Transportation advised that that funding required to deliver the proposed

traffic plan was unavailable, however further funding streams were being investigated.

Problems with vehicles belonging to the breakers yard in Vicarage Road West, Upper Gornal causing traffic chaos.

Councillor A Aston to liaise with the appropriate Council Officers.

Concerns were raised in relation to the dangerous bend in Vale Street adjacent to Moden Hill, Upper Gornal and also dangers to pedestrians in Duke Street, Upper Gornal.

The Head of Traffic and Transportation referred to the plan for the bend adjacent to Moden Hill in Vale Street, advising that a consultation with local residents would take place shortly in relation to the proposals.

The Chair to liaise with the appropriate Council Officers with the request that Duke Street also be factored into the proposed plan referred to above.

A request that parking in Hill Street, Upper Gornal be investigated.

Referred to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing.

A request for information in relation to how the Housing Repairs and Finance Sections of the Council were administering their customer satisfaction surveys and when would the survey results become available.

Referred to the Directorates of Environment, Economy and Housing and the Directorate of Resources and Transformation.

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

No topics were raised.

28 **Community Forum Funding**

Application

Recommendation

Ellowes Hall and Area TRA

Urgent Application Approved prior to the meeting in the sum of £516.90 from the Gornal Ward.

Oval and Tudor Tenants and Residents Association.

Approved the sum of £810 from the Upper Gornal & Woodsetton Ward.

Brooklands Amateur Boxing
Club

Approved in principal the sum of £7,913.55
subject to the Lead Officer obtaining further
detailed information in relation to the purpose of
the funding.

29 **Date, Time and Venue of Future Meeting**

Monday 16th March, 2015 – 6.30pm – Venue to be Confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm