

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NETHERTON, WOODSIDE AND
ST ANDREWS/QUARRY BANK AND DUDLEY WOOD
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Monday 2nd September, 2013 at 6.30 pm at
Netherton Sports & Social Club, St Thomas Street, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Zada (Chair)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Cowell, Duckworth, Sparks and Wood

Officers

Mr M Williams (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Assistant Director, Environmental Management – Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with twenty five members of the public.

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INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Community Forum and following the making of other general announcements the local Councillors introduced themselves.

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LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

Nature of question/comment

- (a) Complaints made about anti-social behaviour and litter problems in Buxton Road caused by children living in a particular house on that street. Vacant properties were also being used as drug dens. It was reported that residents did not report incidents as they feared reprisals.

Councillor Duckworth urged residents to telephone the police on the '101' number to ensure that all crimes were reported as the police were reporting low crime figures. It was also suggested that the Local Authority should consider introducing more youth programmes.

The Lead Officer to the Committee referred to litter problems and indicated that the Council had powers under the Environmental Protection Act to take action against any perpetrators and he undertook to speak to Enforcement Officers with a view to carrying out a surveillance exercise.

- (b) Request for gulley drains in Gads Green and the Willows to be cleared as they were blocked with weeds. Also a request for road sweeping at the same location.
- (c) Request for consideration being given to double yellow lines on the corner of Crescent Road, Blackbrook Road and Wren Street or a one way system owing to the narrowness of the roads and inconsiderate parking, particularly on or near to residents' drives. Also a request for road sweeping at the same location due to litter problems and that a pot hole on the corner of Wren Street needed attention.

The Leader of the Council indicated that consideration had been given to a residents' parking permit scheme but owing to cost implications it was not considered feasible. Where other Local Authority's operated such schemes residents were charged for their permits.

The Lead Officer to the Committee undertook to ensure that a Traffic Engineer visited the site with a view to investigating and ascertaining the nature of the problems.

- (d) Request for clearing blocked drains in Bradford Road and also pavements in Bradford Road and Cochrane Road needed resurfacing. Also a request to look at Bradford Road as there were two speed bumps and they were considered to be a hindrance for emergency vehicles.
- (e) Complaint about litter not being picked up from behind the fence down Blackbrook on the Saltwells Nature Reserve.

Other Issues raised and/or answered on the evening:-

- Traffic congestion caused by the change to a two-lane approach from Netherton at Cinder Bank Island.
- The need to ensure that disabled people were appropriately and fairly assessed by qualified people to ascertain whether they needed assistance in bringing their bins to the front of their properties.
- Questioning the size of the new black wheelie bins and whether there was a variation in size for households that do not have as much rubbish.

- A discussion was held in relation to the time periods involved in the roll out of wheelie bins and reasons were given to Dudley's approach to recycling which involved sorting at source which generated a good income as Dudley's waste was not contaminated. It was also reported that Dudley operated an incentive scheme to those that recycled and figures on the take-up of the scheme were used for monitoring purposes to ascertain the extent of recycling in Dudley.

WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Cotterill

- (a) Asked that consideration be given to implementing traffic calming measures such as speed sensors on Quarry Road.
- (b) Referred to the self cleaning toilets in Sedgley and asked that consideration be given to similar facilities for Quarry Bank High Street.

Councillor Wood referred to the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Borough and stated that Netherton was in the top six of the worst polluted areas. A draft AQAP had now been drafted and the next step was to engage with the local Ward Councillors with a view to collating any further information, suggestions or improvements that could be made prior to implementation.

Councillor Sparks

- (a) Request for "no ball games" signs on street lamps on School Road, Quarry Bank.
- (b) Thanked the Council for planting the wildlife meadow at Quarry Bank Park and further requested that consideration be given to planting wild garlic alongside the fence on either side of the footpath.

Councillor Duckworth

- (a) Complained about footballers leaving rubbish at Woodside Park and that they became offensive if they were asked to remove it.
- (b) Referred to the Forum agenda and asked that consideration be given to the inclusion of notes of the previous meeting.

Councillor Cowell referred to numerous works that were currently being undertaken in the Quarry Bank area which had impacted on parking and she asked that consideration be given to measures being put into place to combat the problem and also asked for an increase in Enforcement Officers.

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AREA GRANTS

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

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £2000 to the Netherton Regeneration Strategic Group to help fund a funfair that will form part of an annual event, the theme this year being 'heritage'.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £3900 to the Woodside Community Association to purchase a new boiler which will help them to continue to provide facilities for the community for leisure, training and other activities.

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Monday, 4th November, 2013 at 6.30 pm at Woodside Community Centre, Highgate Road, Dudley.

The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.