

Action Notes of the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum

Tuesday 27th January, 2015 at 6.30pm
at Leasowes Community College, Kent Road, Halesowen

Present:

Councillor K. Shakespeare (Chair)
Councillor A. Taylor (Vice-Chair)
Councillors H. Bills, N. Gregory, S. Henley and D. Vickers.

Officers:

S. Beckett (Lead Officer) (Customer Services Manager) and K. Griffiths
(Democratic Services Officer)

together with 16 members of the public

21 **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

22 **Winter Warmth**

Ms C Bennett, Warm Homes Officer gave a verbal presentation on the winter warmth services, circulating leaflets providing a guide for residents of the Dudley Borough to keeping warm and well at home during the winter months. It was noted that there were schemes that would assist with bills and provide assistance with price checking in order to secure more affordable utility providers.

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.

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

Subject

Action

An update was requested on behalf of residents of Manor Lane in relation to the Safer Routes to School Scheme for Lapal Primary School. The following queries were raised:-

Lead Officer to investigate and arrange for a written response.

- The process, including timescales, being followed in relation to the consultation process.
- The formal proposals following initial consultation in late 2014 with interested local parties.
- Contingency in the event of a specific Council officer remaining off work.

Members noted the ongoing issues and responded to specific points.

A number of issues were raised in relation to issues covered by the Belle Vale and Hayley Green Community Forum.

Referred to Belle Vale and Hayley Green Community Forum for action.

Arising from comments made regarding the recent grant in relation to Halesowen in Bloom, a number of adverse comments were made regarding the Grange Island.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was noted that the resident would contact the Lead Officer direct regarding issues raised.

Queries were raised in relation to revenue received from general advertising on roundabouts, with particular mention of the Grange Island. It was suggested that the proceeds for advertising be used to maintain roundabouts.

In response to the query raised at the last forum, it had been confirmed that the income from island advertising went into the Council's general fund. The Lead Officer was asked to confirm if this had always been the situation.

Councillor Bills, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture responded and assured the Forum that the matter would be pursued.

Further comments in relation to the Grange Island were made with particular mention to the recent introduction of the traffic safety scheme. It was noted that the scheme had not improved the situation and the introduction of part-time traffic lights during rush hour was suggested.

Noted.

Concerns were raised in relation to the poor condition of the white line markings under Junction 3 of the M5 with a request that the matter be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Referred for a written response.

A general comment was made requesting consideration being given to the erection of a sign stating Halesowen on the M5 exit junction instead of Kidderminster.

Noted.

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

Subject

Action

The Chair gave a detailed update on development issues regarding Coombeswood Wedge, which members were opposed to and indicated that they would take further action as regards the proposal. It was noted that three petitions were currently in circulation against the proposal

Noted. Councillor Vickers reported that he was a Member of the Development Control Committee and had taken no part in the discussion.

25 **Community Forum Funding**

Application

Recommendation

Walks in and around Halesowen

Approve £500 to assist with the printing and other associated costs of producing three walks around "Halesowen's Green Borderland".

Following a request, it was noted that large print copies of the various maps would be made available on the website once it was up and running.

Lapal Colts

Approve £446.60 to provide a line marking machine to mark out pitches for the football team based at Lapal Primary School.

Halesowen Chamber of Trade

Approve £2,000 allocated from the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant to contribute towards the development of a proposal for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Halesowen Town Centre and that the application be referred for consideration at Belle Vale and Hayley Green Community Forum.

26 **Update from West Midlands Police**

Sergeant J Fletcher introduced herself and updated the Forum on a number of Police issues affecting the Halesowen area. She reported that she would be available to contact should any member of the Council or public require her assistance.

The Lead Officer referred to the new free mobile application for iphones and android phones which was designed to enable residents to report various issues such as pot holes and graffiti affecting the Borough direct to the Council.

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

17th March, 2015 – Olive Hill Primary School – 6.30pm

The meeting ended at 8.10pm