

## Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

<b>Forum:</b>	<b>Brierley Hill</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 6.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>St James Methodist Church, 4 Chapel Street, Pensnett, Brierley Hill DY5 4EL</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<p>Councillors R Collins, J Foster, K Westwood, A Davies, J Martin, W Little, M Webb, E Lawrence, P Atkins, P Miller, L Johnson, M Rogers and K Lewis</p> <p>Officers/ police: Sergeant Mohammed Imran, PC Antonia Morgan and PC Neil Molley</p> <p>T Senior (Liaison Officer) and M Westwood (Community Development Worker)</p> <p>Members of the public: 35</p>
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies	<p>Tom Senior welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the house keeping arrangements.</p> <p>All Councillors present at the meeting were introduced.</p> <p>Apologies from Councillors P Harley and D Harley were noted.</p>

2. Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice Chair	Councillor R Collins was appointed as Chair of the forum and Councillor M Rogers as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.
3. Updates from Ward Councillors	<p><b>Kingswinford North and Wall Heath</b></p> <p>P Atkins gave an update relating to two successful grants that have funded flower beds, play areas and signage. There have also been community projects and money raised through a parade that will be used for Project Santa that benefits the poorest residents of the Borough.</p> <p>E Lawrence said that he was aware of some issues relating to grass cutting and was looking into the issue.</p> <p><b>Brierley Hill</b></p> <p>A Davies gave an update on new street furniture and paving. He also reported that the library is currently temporarily closed and is at St Michael's Church for the time being.</p> <p><b>Wordsley</b></p> <p>M Rogers said that funding had been obtained for the tennis courts from the Lawn Tennis Association and that this was a very positive development.</p> <p>K Lewis reported that £80,000 of funding was being applied for to be spent on new play equipment. An update on a new speedwatch group was also given..</p>

### **Kingswinford South**

P Miller reported that he was aware of issues relating to speeding and grass cutting and would be speaking to officers about grass cutting. He also said that there had been some recent vandalism in the area but wanted the police to speak about this as well.

### **Brockmoor and Pensnett**

R Collins reported that she has asked for a meeting with the Chair of the Health Select Committee to discuss the situation with respect to a local GP.

A member of the public raised several issues regarding the GP surgery. Councillor R Collins said that there would be a single issue meeting organised to discuss it.

Councillor R Collins said that she was aware of issues with potholes and is looking at how such issues are reported and responded to.

There was a further question regarding Community Centres and Councillor R Collins asked for the details to be emailed to her.

Councillor J Foster welcomed the proposal for a single issue meeting to discuss the GP surgery. She Foster also reported that there had been recent issues with flash flooding and that investigations are being carried out. Green Care have conducted a tour and have identified problem areas. It was also reported that Wordsley Wasps are appealing for more young people.

	<p>Councillor K Westwood gave an update that there had been a number of events for Loneliness Week in various community centres. There is a consultation regarding the play area in Pensnett and that the association's AGM is coming up. Councillor K Westwood also said that she was seeking a meeting with the police regarding off road bikes and other issues.</p>
4. Have your say	<p>Representatives from Brockmoor Community Association said that they had arranged several events to celebrate Black Country Day and that there would be a twice weekly football club for children during the Summer holidays. This will feature on Black Country Radio</p> <p>There was a question regarding the electoral boundary changes. Councillor J Foster said that she had asked for information on this and that she expects there to be a consultation over the proposals in the Summer.</p> <p>There was a question regarding safe pedestrian crossing in Kingswinford. Councillor P Atkins said that he would take details and look into the matter.</p> <p>There was a question regarding the closure of Kingswinford Post Office. Councillor P Miller said that he had submitted a petition with 3,000 signatures to the post office and would be speaking to the relevant Cabinet Member about this issue.</p> <p>There was a question about the threat to libraries. Councillor R Collins said that she hoped to be able to provide a response on this issue soon. Councillor J Foster said that the Opposition would be working with the Unions and users to co-ordinate a campaign.</p>

	<p>There was a question about the 226 Bus. Councillor K Lewis gave an update on discussions with the operator and indicated that she would continue to work on the issue. Councillor J Foster said that she had written to the Mayor of the Combined Authority and commented that she will support the campaign.</p>
5. Police and communities together	<p>Sergeant Mohammed Imran said that he would speak to the other Sergeants who cover the area about the matters discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>Sergeant Mohammed spoke about the police issues affecting the area. These include vehicle crime, youth violence, criminal damage and shoplifting to feed substance abuse.</p> <p>It was reported that there had been a Crime Prevention Stall at the Moore Street Centre. The police were also aware of the issues with offroad bikes. The police off road bikes had come to the area but these resources were for the whole of the West Midlands and that they have to bid for them. The police need as much information as possible and people should report all incidents.</p> <p>Questions were raised about speeding.</p> <p>Councillor A Davies said that he would be happy to have a Community Speed Watch but that training was needed.</p> <p>Councillor K Lewis said that she would take the details of those wanting to be involved in a Community Speed Watch</p> <p>There was a question about whether immigrants were causing the crime in the area.</p>

	<p>There was a question regarding items being stolen in shoplifting. The police said that it is relatively low value items for immediate sale.</p> <p>Councillor J Foster asked how residents should report issues relating to off road bikes. In response Sergeant Mohammed said that if they are reporting incidents that have already occurred, they should use 101 and 999 for incidents in progress.</p> <p>Councillor L Johnson asked about whether officers had training to pursue offenders. Sergeant Mohammed said that the community officers did not but that there are officers trained to pursue in the Borough and suggested that councillors should raise this issue with senior officers.</p> <p>Councillor W Little asked whether police had the most up to date technology for video evidence. Sergeant Mohammed said that they now had the appropriate technology.</p> <p>Councillor E Lawrence thanked the police for catching those responsible for a recent attack on a pregnant woman in the area.</p>
6. Forum funding	The Chair provided a summary of the funding grants set out on the agenda.
7. Date of next meeting	<p>Details can be found by accessing the following link:-</p> <p><a href="#">Your Home, Your Forum Brierley Hill</a></p>

**Time meeting ended: 7.50 pm**