

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

Monday 1st September, 2014 at 6.30pm
at the Upper Gornal Pensioners Club, Kent Street, Dudley

Present:

Councillor S Turner (Vice Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor R Scott-Dow

Officers:

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

Together with 15 members of the public

10 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors A Aston, D Branwood, K Casey and D Perks.

11 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and there followed introductions.

12 **Castle and Crystal Credit Union**

Mr D Dhaliwal the Business and Finance Manager of the Castle and Crystal Credit Union gave a verbal presentation on the not for profit Co-operative advising that every member of the Credit Union received a dividend and referred to the calculation of interest rates which would not result in early repayment charges unlike high street lenders and the aim of the Union which was to retain local residents money in the local area.

Leaflets detailing the affordable, ethical safe and secure savings and loans were distributed together with an Express and Start article entitled "Escaping Cycle of Lending Debt".

Mr Dhaliwal referred to the pre-payment debit card and how this operated, the Jam Jar Universal Credit System which would separate monies in order to create a budgeting system and how accounts were opened.

Mr Dhaliwal confirmed that home visits or visits to other council facilities such as Dudley Council Plus or libraries could be arranged for those who found it difficult to access the main offices of the Credit Union in New Street, Dudley.

The Chair thanked Mr Dhaliwal for the presentation and the work undertaken by the Credit Union and recommended that the presentation be rolled out to all Community Forums.

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

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action</u>
Request to consider closure of the alleyway that connects Hill Street to Harvest Close, Upper Gornal following the assault of a young child.	Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment.
Concerns relating to safety and traffic congestion on Redhall Road, Gornal due to parents parking on pavements when taking and collecting their children from school and a request that parking restrictions be considered during peak periods.	The Chair undertook to request the school to speak to parents and would consult with the appropriate Officers and the police in relation to parking and continue to investigate other parking options for parents.
The formation of a Friends Group for Quarry Park, Upper Gornal and the possibility of a consultation with local residents who may wish to join the Friends Group.	The Chair undertook to provide assistance with the formation of the Group.
A request that building materials be removed from the land at the top of Kennedy Crescent, Gornalwood.	The Chair to refer the matter to the appropriate Officers.
Problems with blocked guttering and drains on the Oval/Tudor estate, Upper Gornal and a request for clarification on how often these were cleared.	Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment.
Following cabling work at the junction of Elm Green and Parkes Hall Road holes were appearing in the relayed tarmac on the road.	Referred to the Director of the Urban Environment.
A suggestion that clarification between the Council and their partners Keep Moat should take place in order to keep residents informed in relation to the housing work that was to be undertaken to their properties.	The Chair to consult with the appropriate Officers.

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

No topics were raised.

15 **Community Forum Funding**

Application

Recommendation

2nd Lower Gornal Scout
Group.

Approved £500 from the Gornal Ward.

Ellowes Hall and Area TRA

Approved £899.93 from the Gornal Ward.

16 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

Noted by the Forum.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm