

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Dudley
Date and time:	Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 6.30pm
Venue:	Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Attendance:	Councillors: S Ali, M Aston, C Barnett, C Bayton, K Casey, Dr R Clinton, D Corfield, J Cowell, K Denning, S Mughal, A Qayyum and E Taylor Council Officers: S Griffiths, A Lawrence Police: PC C Harris and PC H Richards Members of the public: 26

Agenda item	Notes	
1. Chair and Vice-Chair	Councillor C Barnett was elected as Chair. Councillor K Denning was elected as Vice-Chair.	
2. Introduction, Apologies & declarations of interest	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ward Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies received from Councillors S Bothul, W Sullivan and Q Zada. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Have your Say	The Chair invited residents to speak on issues. The following is a summary of key issues raised at the meeting:	
	Issue	Response / Follow Up Actions
	Libraries and archives services Concerns about cuts and potential closure of services. A petition was in circulation for possible signature at the meeting.	Councillor D Corfield gave assurances about the future of services. Formal decisions would be made through the Council's decision-making process.

	<p>ID required at Elections Concern about process for obtaining Voter Authority Certificate, which had eventually been resolved with Electoral Services</p> <p>Cleaning of Dudley Market Place Concern that no action had been taken to clean the Market Place, despite several complaints, including the removal of bird droppings</p> <p>Provision of Bin Bags Delays in receiving bags had been the subject of several complaints</p> <p>Fly Tipping Concern about lack of responses to fly tipping in Watsons Close, Bishop's Close and the condition of land at Highfield Road/Corporation Road following the construction of new properties.</p> <p>Potholes Concerns that action not taken to deal with issues reported at various locations.</p>	<p>The Forum expressed general concerns about the lack of responses to issues, comments and formal complaints made to Dudley Council Plus and other Council Directorates.</p> <p>Issues had been raised with local Councillors. Councillor S Ali stated that it was unacceptable that Dudley Council Plus and relevant Officers were not providing feedback or responses. The Chair agreed that this was not acceptable and it was now necessary for Councillors to highlight these concerns further.</p> <p>Councillor D Corfield asked for issues to be emailed to him direct in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services.</p>
	<p>Maintenance of trees and green spaces A resident of Bratch Close referred to the need for the trees to be trimmed down and for green spaces to be maintained expressing concern about the general condition of the area and fly tipping etc.</p>	<p>These issues had been raised previously with a Ward Councillor, Dudley Council Plus and the relevant Council Teams.</p> <p>Councillor E Taylor repeated concerns about lack of responses and the view that Dudley Council Plus was not fit for purpose. The Chair asked that Councillors raise these</p>

		<p>concerns at the relevant Council Committees. Councillor C Bayton had spoken to the Deputy Chief Executive expressing her concerns that the Council was not responsive. This included concerns about Dudley Council Plus, answering telephones, issues raised via the Council website and the App.</p> <p>Councillor S Ali asked that representations be made on behalf of the Forum to formally express these concerns.</p>
	<p>Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre A resident expressed the view that the Centre was a valuable community asset. However, with regard to the library link, books could not be transferred via the App.</p>	<p>The Chair agreed to follow up this issue.</p>
4. Police and Communities together	Issue	Response
	<p>Police Priorities Clarification was given on Police Community Support Officers available to each Ward.</p> <p>Reference was made to a recent 'crackdown' on shoplifting. General concerns were raised about drug dealing, off road bikes, anti social behaviour and burglaries.</p>	<p>The Police stressed the importance of collaboration with residents and the community to share and gather intelligence and information. Reference was made to contacting the Police by telephone (using 101) or online via the West Midlands Police website.</p> <p>Dudley.central@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk can be used to share intelligence with the local team.</p>
	<p>Councillor S Ali referred to the community garden at Lupin Road and requested Police support/presence in that area to deter anti-social/criminal activity.</p>	<p>Noted by Police representatives.</p>

	Friends and residents of Buffery Park raised issues about homeless people and off-road vehicles deterring people from enjoying the Park facilities.	<p>Police representatives indicated that support was given to assist homeless people where possible. Off road bikes was recognised as a major problem. The Police were unable to chase the drivers in vehicles due to safety concerns.</p> <p>The need for information and intelligence was reiterated. The Vice-Chair reported on recent successes in the Castle & Priory Ward and urged residents to continue reporting issues and providing intelligence to the Police.</p>
	Concerns about congregation of youths in Saltwells/Merry Hill	Police were aware of issues and urged people to make contact or report specific incidents so that action could be taken. Reference was made to rumours circulating on social media about recent incidents where investigations were ongoing. It was requested that the Police issue information to update local people wherever possible.
	Police Resources	The Forum recognised the pressure on Police resources within the constraints of Government funding. Councillor Dr R Clinton reported on recent positive discussions with senior Police Officers concerning policing resources in the area.
5. Funding Summary	The Chair summarised recent Grant Panel Funding recommendations as outlined below.	

	<u>Name of Group/ Organisation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason for Funding</u>	<u>Amount of Funding Requested</u>	<u>Approved/Refused</u>
	Vicarage Prospect Tenants and Residents Association	April 2023	Funding to hold a Coronation Event (Dealt with under urgency powers)	£280	Approved
	High Oak Youth and Community Centre	May 2023	Weekly sessions for seniors and carers covering keep fit and health awareness	£5,000	Approved
	Cadrene Supported Living	May 2023	To establish a community hub for adults including the elderly and those with disabilities	£5,000	Approved
	Friends of Russells Hall Park	May 2023	To host a community day on Russells Hall Park in July	£1,995.56	Approved
	Priory Community Centre	May 2023	To replace old, outdated tables and chairs	£3,750	Approved
6. Date of next meeting	8 th November, 2023 – venue to be confirmed				

Time meeting ended: 8.00pm