

Halesowen Area Committee – 16th November 2005

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Cradley Forum

Purpose of Report

1. To present details of the Cradley Forum.

Background

2. At its last meeting, the Area Committee asked for a report on the work of the Cradley Forum.
3. The Cradley Forum, which pre-dates the formation of Area Committees, was first established as a mechanism for consultation between the three elected members for the former Quarry Bank and Cradley Ward and local people to discuss local area plans and planning issues.
4. Over the years, the agendas for the Forum have developed into other areas – e.g. traffic matters, parking issues, environmental and street scene etc.
5. Forum meetings, which are now attended by the three members for the Cradley and Foxcote Ward, are convened by the Council and supported by Council officers. About fifty or so residents from Colley Gate and surrounding areas regularly attend Forum meetings.
6. Although the Cradley Forum was potentially seen as a pilot for the further development of community public forums at the time it was first established, that role is now fulfilled, in part at least, by the Area Committees. The Halesowen Forum, which was a pilot for wider community engagement was eventually discontinued when the Area Committee had established itself.
7. At the present time there are no specific links between the Cradley Forum and the Area Committee. On the assumption that the Forum continues to operate, it would be helpful to establish clearer links (by, for example, co-ordinating meeting dates and reporting the minutes of the Forum to the Area Committee).

Finance

8. The cost of supporting the Cradley Forum is met from existing budgets.

Law

9. Under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has the power to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area.
10. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

11. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.



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Area Liaison Officer

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