

**Action Notes of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and
Dudley Wood Community Forum**

**Monday 26th January, 2015 at 6.30pm
at Woodside Community Centre, Highgate Road, Dudley**

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor B Cotterill (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J Cowell, W Duckworth and E Taylor

Officers:-

A Tromans - Lead Officer to the Forum (Information Systems Manager, ICT Services) and K Griffiths - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Resources and Transformation)

Together with 8 members of the public

23 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following general announcements, the Chair introduced the Councillors and Council officers.

24 **Dudley Town Centre Regeneration**

The Lead Officer to the Forum gave a verbal update on key points that demonstrated the steps that the Council was currently taking to support businesses and investment in Dudley Town Centre.

Members referred to the popularity of German/Victorian Markets and suggested similar themed markets be held in Dudley Town Centre to increase the footfall. Mention was also made to the high cost of public transport and Dudley being connected to the wider Borough, which had been raised with Centro.

The Chair thanked the Lead Officer for the update and hoped that the regeneration initiatives would bring back trade and investment opportunities to the town centre.

25 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments by Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Concerns were raised in relation to rubbish on front gardens of properties on the Holly Hall Estate, with particular mention to Cochrane Road and requests that regular home checks be carried out to prevent the problem.

Referred for a written response.

<p>Reference was made to two vacant properties on Cochrane Road and it was requested that consideration be given to leasing the properties to suitable families that will take pride in their home and gardens.</p>	<p>Noted and comments referred for consideration.</p>
<p>General concerns were made in relation to rubbish being strewn across roads in the Borough and adverse comments regarding trailers and vehicles repeatedly using the Stourbridge waste centre.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Issues were raised in relation to obstructive parking outside Woodside Community School and Children's Centre and on the corner of Oakwood Crescent. It was noted that the Police were aware of the issues; however no action had been taken. It was requested that the matter be investigated and appropriate action taken.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>
<p>It was suggested that red lines be positioned outside schools and that traffic wardens be employed to police particular areas.</p>	<p>Lead Officer to investigate further and arrange for a written response.</p>
<p>General concerns were raised in relation to Hospital car park charges. Reference was made to staff having to pay car park charges and having to go through the process of claiming the money back.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>A representative from Healthwatch Dudley circulated a leaflet and explained the service they provided and indicated that she would be available at the end of the meeting should any member or member of the public want to speak to her regarding healthcare issues.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Concerns were raised in relation to re-designating the number of bedrooms in properties. A resident referred, in detail, to his personal situation since the legislation on Bedroom Tax had been introduced. He indicated that residents were confused as to the definition of a bedroom and enquired what the criteria was to determine whether a room counted as a bedroom or not.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>

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

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action</u>
A number of Councillors referred to the new pedestrian crossing at Pedmore Road. Members indicated that the crossing would be better utilised if a pedestrian entrance was provided to the Merry Hill Centre leading from the new crossing. It was noted that some work to that area was currently in progress.	Noted.

27 **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Duke of Edinburgh Association	Refuse as it did not meet local guidelines.
St John's Church, Dudley Wood	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward – approval of £5,000 to fund electrical work on sockets and lighting to improve facilities for community use.
Enlight Projects	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward – approval of £5,000 for the cost of updating equipment, staff costs and building hire costs to support their work with young people.
Bowling Green Tenants and Residents Association	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward – approval of £500 to contribute towards a neighbourhood watch celebration event.
Quarry Bank Darby and Joan Club	That the application be considered as an urgent decision prior to the next Community Forum to avoid any further delay.

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

- Monday 16th March, 2015 - 6.30pm - Netherton Sports and Social Club

The meeting ended at 7.10pm.