

Action Notes of the Brierley Hill and Brockmoor & Pensnett Community Forum

Wednesday 4th February, 2015 at 6.30pm
at Insight for Carers, Insight House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill

Present:

Councillor K Jordan (Chair)
Councillor Z Islam (Vice Chair)
Councillors J Foster, R Harris and J Martin.

Officers:

I Curnow (Lead Officer) (Divisional Lead – Commissioning and Procurement) and
K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with five members of the public

22 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and Members introduced themselves.

Councillor R Harris referred to the illness of Councillor M Wilson and her hospitalisation. The Chair requested that a letter wishing Councillor M Wilson a speedy recovery be written on behalf of Members of the Forum.

23 **Apology for Absence**

Councillor M Wilson

24. **Winter Warmth**

Ms J Pritchard, representative from Public Health, gave a verbal presentation on the winter warmth services, circulating leaflets providing a guide to keeping warm and well at home during the winter months. It was noted that help could be provided with obtaining loft insulation and cavity wall insulation and there were schemes that would assist with bills and provide assistance with price checking in order to secure more affordable utility providers. It was stated that those who were struggling to keep warm would be provided with portable heaters, blankets and hot water bottles.

Details in relation to the promotion of the winter warmth services were provided and in responding to the Vice-Chair's questions regarding the provision of thermometers Ms Pritchard advised that these were available in public libraries and via public health professionals.

Ms Pritchard agreed to provide Members with thermometers in order that they could distribute them to their constituents and to provide details of those community groups who had received the winter warmth presentation.

Ms Pritchard agreed to investigate methods of distributing winter warmth leaflets together with thermometers and requested those present to advise her of any community associations that required details of the service.

A member of the public suggested that the winter warmth presentation could be given at Tenants and Residents Association meetings and it was also suggested that the service could be promoted on vacant stalls at Brierley Hill market.

The Vice-Chair suggested that a press release be organised from the Brierley Hill and Brockmoor & Pensnett Community Forum promoting the winter warmth service.

Ms Pritchard agreed to distribute winter warmth leaflets to Members via their pigeon holds and Members thanked Ms Pritchard for the presentation.

25. **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action</u>
A query was raised in relation to the lack of advertising of the Community Forum, as although articles advertising the other Forums had appeared no such advert appeared in either the Dudley or Stourbridge news for the Brierley Hill and Brockmoor & Pensnett Community Forum.	Referred for a written response.
Concerns in relation to potholes on the island adjacent to Swan and Queen Street, Pensnett and another outside the bus stop adjacent to St Mark's School, Pensnett.	Referred for a written response.

26. **Working With you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

Councillor R Harris referred to the celebrations in relation to the 50th Anniversary of the Chapel Street estate, Brierley Hill advising that it was hoped that a working party could be formed comprising of the Chapel Street Tenants and Residents Association and the Church in order to

celebrate the anniversary. It was also hoped to provide an exhibition comprising of photographs in order to display the memories of those past and present residents. The residents of Chapel Street were to host a day of celebration. Councillor Harris referred to the demand for accommodation in Chapel Street and the fact that Chapel Street was an extremely popular residential area. Those present from Insight for Carers advised that the venue at Insight House, would be made available to organise and host events in relation to the celebration.

The Vice-Chair expressed his support for the event advising of the importance of people feeling part of a community and suggested that local papers, libraries and the Archive building in Dudley should be accessed in order to obtain memorabilia. Councillor Foster suggested also using the Black Country Bugle for historical purposes.

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

The Lead Officer reported on the successful Applications granted at the previous meeting to the Pensnett Tenants and Residents Association, the Dudley MBC Environmental Management Division, St James Methodist Church, the Dudley Duke of Edinburgh Award Association and Nine Locks Community Association.

Recommendations made in respect of an Application received and discussed following the meeting was as follows:-

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
St Marks Church Pensnett	That the Application be deferred until the first meeting of the next municipal year.

28. **Date, Time and Venue of next Meeting.**

The Future meeting was noted as follows:-

Tuesday 24th March, 2015 (Fens Pool Community Centre)

The meeting ended at 7.40pm