

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Dudley
Date and time:	Wednesday 8th November 2023 – 6.30pm
Venue:	Quarry Bank Primary School
Attendance:	Councillors: K Denning (Vice-Chair), S Ali, C Bayton, Dr R Clinton, D Corfield, J Cowell, E Taylor and A Qayyum Council Officers: S Griffiths, J Scott, A Lawrence and W Erpen Police: PC A Clements and PC A Billington Members of the public: 11

Agenda item	Notes					
1. Introduction, Apologies & declarations of interest	The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ward Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies received from Councillors M Aston, C Barnett, S Bothul, K Casey, S Mughal, C Reid and Q Zada. There were no declarations of interest.					
2. Dudley Bus Station closure	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Issue</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Response / Follow Up Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Redevelopment of Dudley Bus Station Coree Kirby, Engagement Executive from the West Midlands Combined Authority shared news of the closure of Dudley Bus Station from the 15th of January 2024 and outlined plans to re-route buses through Tower Street and Ednam Road.</p> <p>Promotional activity will now follow to make sure everyone is aware of the changes to services and how it affects them.</p> </td> <td> <p>The Chair outlined the need to make sure accessible formats are used for any communications and that local businesses need to be advised on impacts.</p> <p>Residents suggested Dudley Library and Dudley Council Plus and Churchill Precinct as heavy footfall areas to support information sharing.</p> <p>A better understanding of the security and CCTV coverage for Tower Street and Ednam Road was requested by Police.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Issue	Response / Follow Up Actions	<p>Redevelopment of Dudley Bus Station Coree Kirby, Engagement Executive from the West Midlands Combined Authority shared news of the closure of Dudley Bus Station from the 15th of January 2024 and outlined plans to re-route buses through Tower Street and Ednam Road.</p> <p>Promotional activity will now follow to make sure everyone is aware of the changes to services and how it affects them.</p>	<p>The Chair outlined the need to make sure accessible formats are used for any communications and that local businesses need to be advised on impacts.</p> <p>Residents suggested Dudley Library and Dudley Council Plus and Churchill Precinct as heavy footfall areas to support information sharing.</p> <p>A better understanding of the security and CCTV coverage for Tower Street and Ednam Road was requested by Police.</p>	
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	<p>Questions were raised on how people would find out more information, the provision of security and CCTV coverage and whether additional bins and street cleansing had been put in place.</p> <p>The new Dudley Interchange is due to open during the summer of 2025.</p>	<p>Cllr D Corfield, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services, confirmed the Council's new Rapid Response Teams would be able to address any litter related issues.</p> <p>Cllr S Ali emphasised the need to keep traffic flowing through the Town.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed for all feedback received which would be followed up.</p>
<p>3. Have your Say</p>	<p>The Vice-Chair invited residents to speak on issues. The following is a summary of key issues raised at the meeting:</p>	
	<p>Issue</p>	<p>Response / Follow Up Actions</p>
	<p>Parking issues near Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre Ongoing problems of people using the new leisure centre parking cars in a way that blocks street and driveways along Cascade Way.</p>	<p>Cllr D Corfield shared an update of the outsourcing of parking enforcement which will address ongoing problems in recruiting staff. The new service aims to be operational by the end of the year. Councillor S Ali suggested new signage would be required to support future enforcement action.</p>
	<p>Parking obstructions outside schools Concern over obstruction of streets and pavements during school drop of and pick up times. Kate's Hill initially mentioned but other schools are as relevant.</p>	<p>Kate's Hill mentioned by a resident causing ongoing daily nuisance with Councillors adding that every school in the area has the same problem with Cllr E Taylor suggesting CCTV cameras would be useful outside of Schools. PC Clements offered to follow up with a Parking Operation although the Forum acknowledged that the problem often returns after a few days.</p>
	<p>Council Bank Account Changes Concern that letters sent out to residents are such a poor standard due to the production being outsourced.</p>	<p>This has previously been followed up by a Revenue & Benefits Officer.</p>

	<p>Town Hall Accessible Entrance Safety concern expressed that this area is being used as a storage yard for gas cannisters and parking barriers.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
	<p>Outdated displays Dudley Council Plus Frustration that window displays are outdated despite a resident mentioning this to staff.</p>	<p>The resident handed over posters that he has personally removed from the Dudley Council Plus window display.</p>
	<p>Portersfield Consultation A resident questioned whether funds used could have been better spent on dealing with the many outstanding maintenance issues in the local area. Examples cited included blocked drains, potholes, litter, and overgrown vegetation.</p>	<p>Cllr D Corfield commented that Portersfield sits within the Leaders Portfolio so he could be contacted about that. In response to outstanding maintenance issues, he suggested these be raised directly with him for follow up</p>
	<p>Rough Sleepers Dudley High Street A resident expressed concern over the growing number of rough sleepers and people asking for money in the High Street.</p>	<p>Cllr C Bayton outlined steps taken by the Council's Homeless Team with PC Clements adding that Police are progressing proactive management plans through linking up with support agencies highlighting recent success of St James's House and The Minorities.</p>
	<p>Nuisance / ASB in residential areas A resident outlined how ongoing nuisance during the early hours is caused by parked cars with loud music and leaving litter.</p>	<p>PC Clements asked for details to be shared with him for follow up by the neighbourhood team.</p>
	<p>River Stour A resident asked for support to address longstanding pollution of the river Stour mentioning previous work by community groups to improve access alongside but not the actual waterway.</p>	<p>Cllr D Corfield commented that the Canal & River Trust would have a role to play and agreed to seek a response from the Council's Environmental Team.</p>

	Highways & Environmental update Cllr D Corfield shared headlines from a new briefing report that is provided to summarise work completed by teams.		The information would be shared with Members of the Forum. Cllr D Corfield will bring updates back to future meetings.		
4. Police and Communities together	Issue		Response		
	Local area update PC Billington shared positive news that Police have had recent successes in responding overnight crime including to burglaries in part due to extending duty to 4am allowing a faster response. Burglaries to obtain car keys remains a problem along with off road bikes.		Cllr E Taylor queried whether it was 101 or 999 calls that the team were responding to. PC Clements commented that all crime reports are assigned a priority of 1 to 8 with Priority 1 such as burglary in progress requiring an immediate response from the nearest available officers.		
	Building a local picture Police value collaboration with residents and the community to gather intelligence and build a picture of what is happening in the local area.		Information can be reported by telephone (using 101) via the website or by emailing the local team at Dudley.central@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk		
5. Funding Summary	The Vice-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>
	Dudley MBC	Sept 2023	Christmas Trees Christmas Decorations/Lights (Dealt with via email)	£22,333.54 £2,368.95	Approved
6. Date of next meeting	21 st February 2024 at 6.30pm Wellington Road Community Centre, 27 Wellington Road, Dudley, DY1 1UB				

Time meeting ended: 7.55pm