

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NETHERTON, WOODSIDE AND ST
ANDREWS/QUARRY BANK AND DUDLEY WOOD
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Monday 17th March, 2014 at 6.30 pm at
Quarry Bank Community Centre, Sheffield Street, Quarry Bank, DY5 1EA

PRESENT:-

Councillor Cotterill (Part Chair) and Zada (Chair)
Councillors Cowell, Sparks and Wood

Officers

Mr A Tromans – Lead Officer to the Forum (Information Systems Manager, ICT Services) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Corporate Resources) and Ms Nichola Dakin (Dudley Council Plus)

Together with twenty five members of the public.

Councillor Cotterill acted as Chair to the meeting for the commencement of the proceedings and Councillor Zada thereupon took the Chair on his arrival.

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INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Community Forum and following the making of other general announcements the local Councillors and Officers introduced themselves.

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LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

Nature of question/comment

- (a) The yellow bollard on the triangle outside Lloyds Bank needed to be shortened or relocated as it was blocking the field of vision when turning right from Northfield Road onto Halesowen Road.

The Chair undertook to pursue the matter.

- (b) Concerns were expressed about the state of Lawnwood Road, particularly outside some properties and photographs of the road showing where tarmac had cracked right across the road were circulated. It was requested that consideration be given to urgent repair works being undertaken. It was also stated that the road was very narrow which resulted in vehicles having to park on the grass verge, large vehicles obstructing the road and damage being caused to parked vehicles. It was stated that parking bays would not resolve the matter and it was requested that consideration be given to widening the road. Councillor Cotterill was of the view that the widening of the road was currently unlikely given the Council's current budget position.

The Chair indicated that he would speak to the appropriate Officer with a view to carrying out an inspection of the road with a view to an assessment being made on any repair works.

Other Issues raised and/or answered on the evening:-

- Concerns expressed about the high levels of pollution in Netherton and it was queried what action was being taken to address the problem.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture stated that the matter was being considered and there were three new Air Quality Action Plans which were available on the Council's website for viewing. The Lead Officer undertook to provide copies of the Plans to the questioner concerned.

- Inconsiderate parking was causing concern, particularly from vehicles parked outside the Arts Centre on Northfield Road, as it was difficult for residents to get their vehicles in and out of their drives. Further problems were caused as traffic could not turn right into Northfield Road which resulted in traffic using the surrounding roads, particularly Cross Street, which was very narrow. Problems also occurred from people using Ballard Road and Recreation Street to access facilities in that location.

The Chair stated that discussions were ongoing with a view to managing the problem and consideration was being given to several options such as extending the triangle outside Lloyds Bank and installing traffic lights. Concerns about the lack of parking and improvements to signage to existing car parks were being considered.

- It was suggested that the empty lane currently marked not to be used when approaching Cinder Bank Island to take a left turning into Peartree Lane be opened up to make it a three way lane to alleviate traffic congestion.

- The need for a permanent speed camera fixture at Cinder Bank Island was requested.

The Chair reported that a speed survey would be conducted around Cinder Bank Island in the next financial year. Councillor Sparks also reported that some speed camera fixtures were not operational as cameras had been taken out because of budget problems and that the police were now using and introducing digital cameras.

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WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Sparks

- (a) Thanked Officers for completing the erection of the bollards on Park Road, Quarry Bank.
- (b) Informed the meeting on an issue that had been raised by parents of children attending Mount Pleasant School whereby vehicles were conducting u-turns at Mount Pleasant traffic lights back into Thorns Road which was a safety concern. It was requested that a camera be installed to capture the culprits.
- (c) Referred to the passageway at the top of Queens Street and requested that consideration be given to increasing the frequency of sweeping given the number of takeaways in the vicinity.

Councillor Wood referred to the mental health walk in facility at Woodside and informed the meeting that the service was to be closed due to funding being withdrawn by the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group and she raised concerns that there was no alternative provision being made.

The Chair undertook to speak to the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee with a view to providing a response.

Councillor Cotterill

- (a) Referred to potholes on Dudley Wood Road and requested that proper repairs be undertaken and not just a temporary measure that had been proposed.
- (b) Complained about the oversized fence at the top of Saltwells Road and stated that it could be seen from a distance.

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CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

The Lead Officer to the Forum updated the meeting on responses that had been received in relation to queries raised at the previous meeting.

The Chair asked that any further issues or discrepancy with the information provided be raised with him at the end of the meeting with a view to following the matter up.

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AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding. The Lead Officer also verbally reported on a further application that had been received from Dudley Arts Council since submission of the report.

Arising from the presentation of the report the Leader of the Council stated that he had raised concerns about the number of applications that were being sent to all Community Forums for consideration and stressed that grant applications were for the local community to undertake activities locally and specific to the Ward concerned.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £268.44 to Bumble Hole Conservation Group for funding to produce leaflets, booklets and a DVD for visitors to the Bumble Hole Visitor Centre.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £268.44 to West Mercia Scout County for funding to support a resident to attend an international scouting jamboree in Japan.

That the Director of Corporate Resources refuse the following:-

- (c) A grant in the sum of up to £5000 to Dudley Arts Council for funding to hold a Black Country Day in July as it was not a local event and was not specific to the Ward concerned.

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DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was reported that meetings of the Community Forum would be held on the following dates subject to Council approval on 5th June, 2014:-

Monday 23rd June, 2014 (venue to be confirmed)
Monday 1st September, 2014 (venue to be confirmed)
Monday 3rd November, 2014 (venue to be confirmed)
Monday 26th January, 2015 (venue to be confirmed)
Monday 16th March, 2015 (venue to be confirmed)

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.