

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Dudley
Date and time:	Wednesday 21st February, 2024 at 6.30pm
Venue:	Wellington Road Community Centre
Attendance:	Councillor K Denning (Vice-Chair in the Chair) Councillors S Ali, C Bayton, S Bothul, K Casey, Dr R Clinton, D Corfield, A Qayyum, C Reid and E Taylor Council Officers: S Griffiths, W Erpen and M Cartwright 3 representatives of West Midlands Police 30 Members of the public

Agenda item	Notes
1. Introduction, Apologies & declarations of interest	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ward Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Councillors M Aston, C Barnett, J Cowell, S Mughal and Q Zada. There were no declarations of interest.
2. Notes	The notes of the meeting on 8 th November, 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Have your Say	The Chair invited Councillors and residents to speak on issues. The following is a summary of key issues raised at the meeting:	
4. Police & Communities Together	Issue	Response / Follow Up Actions
	Anti-Social Behaviour Concerns were expressed by a resident of Kate's Hill regarding various ongoing anti-social behaviour problems and lack of communication between agencies involved.	The Police relied on information provided by residents to build up intelligence. Residents were encouraged to use the 101 service for non-emergencies and the internet/web chat to continue to report issues and incidents.
	PCSOs in the Dudley Area Councillor C Reid referred to the numbers and visibility of PCSOs in the Dudley area.	The Police acknowledged this issue and referred to ongoing restructuring and recruitment initiatives.
	Wolverhampton Street and Southalls Lane, Dudley Councillors C Bayton, C Reid and a local resident referred to anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and issues with CCTV cameras, which had been reported to the Council and the Police.	The issues were noted and would be raised further by Councillors with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.
	Off Road Vehicles/Bikes Councillors and residents raised ongoing concerns at various locations including Saltwells, Netherton and Bumble Hole Nature Reserve. Councillor Dr R Clinton referred to recent personal experience of	The Police were aware of these ongoing issues and acknowledged difficulties in tackling the problem. Reference was made to the pursuit policy of West Midlands Police, the importance of gathering evidence/intelligence and the use of other tactics such as drones.

	<p>confronting a group of youths on bikes in Netherton.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about lack of feedback. It was suggested that more publicity should be issued on social media concerning police activity.</p>	<p>The Vice-Chair reported on recent successes in the Castle & Priory ward and encouraged residents to continue reporting problems and gathering intelligence where it was safe to do so, without risking personal safety.</p>
	<p>Parking at Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre Concerns were expressed about parking on double yellow lines and on pavements and the lack of action taken on previous complaints. Reference was also made to similar problems around Kates Hill Primary School.</p>	<p>The issues were noted by Ward Councillors and the Police. Reference was made to offences of obstructing the public highway and the process of self-referral. Individuals should not risk their personal safety when gathering evidence.</p>
	<p>Begging in Dudley Town Centre A resident asked a question about the approach to tackling begging and rough sleeping in Dudley Town Centre</p>	<p>Councillor C Bayton referred to successful joint working with the Police, Street Cleansing and the Homelessness Team to address issues in the Town Centre. There was a need to take a balanced and collaborative approach to deal with issues sensitively and appropriately.</p>
	<p>Traffic Issues in the Woodside Area A resident raised safety concerns arising from the volume of traffic and heavy vehicles in the Woodside area</p>	<p>Councillor E Taylor referred to problems caused by irresponsible driving and issues of enforcement. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield)</p>

	with specific reference to Stourbridge Road and Canal Street. Reference was made to the new houses built in this area, which exacerbated the problems.	noted the issue and referred to options such as speed restrictions and traffic calming in appropriate circumstances.
	Road Markings in Southalls Lane, Dudley A resident referred to yellow lines/keep clear markings which were frequently abused and which now required repainting.	Councillor C Bayton to email the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield).
	Friends of Netherton Library Concerns were expressed about the possibility of cuts to library services. The Friends Group were actively promoting the use of the library and wished to protect this valuable community service.	The Forum noted the comments made.
	Traffic Safety in Dudley A resident raised concerns about traffic safety in the Dudley area and specifically referred to the junction at Blackacre Road/Duncan Edwards Way.	Councillor S Ali undertook to raise this issue and the lack of responses. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield) indicated that this location should be considered as a work in progress as part of the wider plans affecting Dudley Town Centre.
	Installation of Telecommunications Masts/Poles	Councillors S Ali, K Denning and C Bayton acknowledged the concerns raised by many residents and referred to numerous meetings that had taken place on this subject. Residents were

	<p>A resident raised concerns about the installation of a telegraph pole by BRSK at Spring Parklands Estate.</p>	<p>encouraged to raise concerns with their local Councillors. Guidance on Frequently Asked Questions was available on the Council's website and in the Your Borough Your Home magazine.</p>
	<p>Wheelie Bins/Rubbish on Pavements in Dudley Town Centre A resident referred to problems being experienced in the Town Centre. Specific reference was made to New Street and Castle Street.</p>	<p>Fly tipping issues had been reported and this was acknowledged as a wider issue. Reference was made to properties that had been converted into flats where bins should be kept in a storage area. This would be raised by Councillors as a planning issue, particularly in the context of additional Town Centre developments. Issues would be referred to the Enforcement Team in cases where the designated storage areas were not being used.</p>
	<p>Bishop's Close, Kates Hill A resident queried the position on the creation of a bin store at Bishop's Close.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield) indicated that the current situation would be checked.</p>
	<p>Dudley Market Place – Cleaning A resident referred to the need for ongoing action to clear bird droppings and clean up Dudley Market Place.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield) to raise with the Neighbourhood Delivery Manager.</p>
	<p>Reporting on My Dudley App A resident referred to the lack of responses to issues raised on the My Dudley App, including: - Broken paving slabs at St John's Road/Peel Street - Overgrown Weeds</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield) asked that specific issues be emailed to him.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdated posters in Dudley Council Plus - Barriers stored in the disabled access area at Dudley Town Hall 	The Vice-Chair (Councillor K Denning) would raise this issue.
	<p>Housing Stock Condition Survey Reference was made to the remit and scope of work being undertaken by Savills on behalf of the Council.</p>	The Team Manager (Housing Estates & Communities) undertook to take specific details of the concerns raised by the resident. It was noted that the Council had commissioned a full housing stock condition survey and that any serious issues raised in individual property inspections would be investigated as a matter of urgency.
5. Date of next meeting	To be confirmed in new municipal year.	

Time meeting ended: 7.50pm