



Community Forum Action Notes



Forum: Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum

Date and time: Monday 9th March, 2020 at 6.30pm

Venue: Halesowen College, Whittingham Road, Halesowen, B63 3NA

Attendance: Councillor Simon Phipps (Chair)
Councillors Ian Bevan, Andrea Goddard and Ruth Buttery

Officers: Mandy Wilcox (Liaison Officer) and Davinder Tiwana (Community Development Worker)

Police: PC Higgitt and PC Green

Members of the public: 17

1. Apologies and declarations of interest: Councillors Jake Cooper and Laura Taylor

2. Police and Communities Together

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action/Response</u>
Police reported that they were working with Halesowen College together with an advice surgery dealing particularly with knife crime and drugs. They were also working with Halesowen Business Improvement District concerning a new cop shop.	Noted
The Police reported that there were now 7 PCSOs covering the Halesowen area and the recruitment of more cadet groups in the area was ongoing.	Noted

Junior PCSOs in schools – The Police were working with students looking at issues with Police and building on relationships with young people.

Noted

Establishing Street Watch Scheme.

It was advised that a Street Watch group was being established at the College looking at incidents.

School Surgery at Earls High School, Leasowes High School and Windsor High School had been established.

The Surgery involved working in the communities, providing talks around anti-social behaviour and other issues.

The Police commented on working with young children which involved traffic/littering.

It was noted that this promoted a positive image of the Police with the children. The School and the Police were working with children at all levels of learning and skills, which made the children more confident with the Police and the Police being a positive role model.

The Police reported the crime levels for Belle Vale and Hayley Green and confirmed that there was a 0.47% reduction from this time last year.

It was advised that the reduction was due to patrols in the area, education in schools, knife arches and various and other activities.

A question was raised regarding why the level had reduced.

A query was raised concerning the class level of drugs.

The Police confirmed that it was limited to social cannabis. The Police had taken a dog into the College three or four times and had not found drugs, however, they had discovered grinders on site. It was also advised that they had come across abandoned knives at the graveyard.

The Police advised that feedback of information was important and to report any information to Halesowen Police Station. Street Watch groups were covering alleyways after school with the Police as well as doing patrols.

Councillors and members of the public thanked the Police for the work being undertaken.

Noted.

Councillor Bevan commented on the work being undertaken around various schools and queried whether this could take place in more schools.

It was advised that schools would need to participate in the programme, which involved training staff and children, uniforms and road safety. The training needed to be at level that groups of teachers and children could talk to problem parkers. The children took down registration numbers, issue informal tickets and hand over to parents. PCSOs provided training for this.

Speed Watch Groups

Speed Watch Groups were being made up of residents in areas. This involved training, insurance and getting vehicles to slow down. Andrew Tromans (Labour Party Candidate for Belle Vale) working with PCSO Bayliss on community speed watch. Andrew to provide further details at the end of the meeting.

It was noted that there were more missing people in the area than burglaries.

Training had been given by the Church and Dementia Friendly to shop keepers etc.

Councillor Buttery commented on positive work and gave thanks to (Police) Mike Sanders and Officers in Greencare concerning the anti-social behaviour surrounding the Meadowbrook Road area.

Noted.

Issues raised concerning surrounding parking at Fairmile Road and Tesco Express

The Police advised that they would communicate with Tesco regarding this. A question sheet was provided for feedback.

Concerns raised regarding anti-social behaviour at Wychbury Court/Andrew Road

Anti-social behaviour at Wychbury Court/Andrew Road area had been reported on several occasions to the Police and the Council. A question sheet was submitted for response.

Heathfield Road

It was advised that youths were taking drugs and that it had been reported together with the registration number. Police advised that they were looking into this and requested to take details at the end of the meeting from the resident reporting this.

Issues were raised concerning coach parking, speeding by students, litter and drink driving at Furnace Lane and area around the College

A Street Watch group had been set up in the area and the Police were looking into all issues raised with the College. It was advised that the College and coach company needed to work together on this. Councillor Phipps commented that at the latest meeting the College had accepted that they needed to do something about the parking of coaches. The Police advised that they would communicate with the coach companies.

Parking issues

Councillor Phipps clarified that the Council considered traffic regulations every year. Councillor Phipps had asked for a review but would take some time to do. It was advised that a Council enforcement vehicle had taken photographs and offenders were fined, however, this only covered yellow zig zag lines outside schools

Future meetings – it was requested that future meetings to take place at the Hope Centre and Highfield Lane Yemini Centre

Noted

3. Listening to you

Subject

Action/Response

Query raised concerning the parking on Andrew Road for residents only

Councillor Phipps advised that the Council had tested this in Stourbridge, however, the scheme had been removed for various reasons e.g. charges, payments did not guarantee spaces. Councillor Phipps had asked the Housing Officer to undertake an official survey and advised that he would follow this up.

Concerns were raised regarding the closing of Age UK Dudley and what could be done by the Council.

It was noted that the impact on other services and what it needed to target was being looked at and that the Cabinet member would be taking this forward.

Issues regarding green bins raised at the last meeting.

Councillor Phipps responded that a time extension for collections would be looked into at a future budget. Councillor Phipps confirmed that the service was free and the tip in Stourbridge accepted garden waste (open from 8am to 4pm daily with Thursdays being open to 6pm in the summer months). A question sheet was provided for a response.

Littering at Junction 3 M5

It was advised that this would need to be taken up with the Highways Agency

4. Working with you

Subject

Action/Response

Meadowbrook Road

Councillor Buttery confirmed that the situation at Meadowbrook Road was being dealt with by Police and Officers of the Council - cutting back bushes and reinstatement of path; Portsdown Road footpath being cut back; Huntingtree Park parking on the grass verge and the planting of trees was being progressed.

Query regarding both Halesowen Community Forums being held on the same night.

Noted.

Issue raised regarding the pocket of grass, fallen trees and damage to properties at Bournes Crescent/Thornhill Road.

Councillor Bevan advised that he was looking into issues at Bournes Crescent and on the change of use of shop at Thornhill Road.

Councillor Phipps reported that following the Council budget setting, it had been agreed that the Council would maintain the closed Church Yard four times per year rather than twice per year.

Noted.

5. Funding

Applicant

Black Country Radio

Recommendation

Funding application for £4,659.34 by Black Country Radio agreed

Meeting ended at: 8.35pm