

## **Action Notes of the Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Community Forum**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at 6.30pm**  
**at the Upper Gornal Pensioners Club, Kent Street, Dudley**

### **Present:**

Councillor K Casey (Chair)  
Councillor S Turner (Vice Chair)  
Councillors A Aston, D Branwood, D Perks and R Scott-Dow

### **Officers:**

J Jennings (Lead Officer) (Head of Communications and Public Affairs) and  
K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with 23 members of the public

## 30 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and there followed introductions.

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## 31 **The Stroke Association**

Ms V Gill, Stroke Awareness Presenter for the Dudley Borough gave a verbal presentation to raise awareness of the Stroke Association together with the services they offered. She advised of the genetic and medical factors that increased the risk of strokes together with the preventative measures that could be taken, including maintaining a healthy diet and exercise. It was noted that Dudley Stroke Association offered support, advice and operated as a signposting service.

Ms Gill advised that the Association carried out reviews on anyone who had suffered a stroke within the Dudley Borough in order to prevent re-admissions, carrying out home visits, providing telephone support and activities such as light exercise. The six weekly course offered by the Expert Patient Programme was referred to and it was noted that the Programme was provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group and targeting those suffering from anxiety and problems with sleeping.

In concluding the presentation Ms Gill referred to the FAST message that had been extensively televised in relation to the warning signs of a stroke.

Ms Gill distributed leaflets and invited questions from those present.

Members thanked Ms Gill for the presentation on the Stroke Awareness Association and for attending the meeting.

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

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action</u>
Concerns were raised in relation to illegal and inconsiderate parking outside Roberts Primary School and on the corner of Clarence Street, Upper Gornal and also the danger posed by a delivery van reversing out an alley adjacent to business premises in Clarence Street and a request that a bollard be installed to prevent access to delivery vehicles.	The Chair to liaise with appropriate Officers regarding the installation of the bollard.
Concerns relating to visibility problems for drivers crossing the junction of Inhedge Street and Badger Street, Upper Gornal caused by parked vans causing obstruction and a danger to both pedestrians and drivers.	To be dealt with by Councillor D Perks .
Concerns in relation to the cost of installing dropped kerbs contributing to inconsiderate parking problems and a query in relation to whether home owners could instruct their own contractors to install dropped kerbs following obtaining the relevant planning permission.	Councillor Scott-Dow to liaise with appropriate Officers.
Issues in relation to inconsiderate parking of commercial vehicles. The Chair advised those present to provide the Council with details of the companies involved.	Noted.
A query in relation to letters forwarded to residents in Park Road, Lower Gornal relating to a change in the system to their refuse collections should they fail to drag their bins to the grass verge for collection and problems with assisted collections in Park Road. The Vice Chair requested the questioner to provide details of those residents experiencing problems with assisted collections.	The Vice Chair to liaise with appropriate Officers.

A request that the traffic Island in Wood Avenue, Lower Gornal be removed or made smaller and if neither was possible could the island be tidied up in view of cracking and missing brickwork and could the signage be replaced. The Vice-Chair advised of the requirement to consult with local residents as the island may produce traffic calming measures.

Referred for a written response.

A request that double yellow lines that were removed from the road in Board School Gardens, Upper Gornal be replaced.

Referred for a written response.

A request that residents of Board School Gardens, Lower Gornal be informed of the type of commercial enterprise that applied for permission of change of usage from the private accommodation that was for sale in Board School Gardens which was being advertised as a commercial property. The Chair advised that local residents would be consulted once a change of usage application had been received by the Council's Planning Section.

The Chair to continue to monitor.

A suggestion that following the closure of the Lower Gornal Youth Club on Friday evenings due to staffing problems, that volunteers be approached in order that the Youth Club could re-open on Friday evenings. The Vice-Chair advised that some voluntary groups had approached the Council in relation to providing activities at the Youth Club.

The Vice-Chair to liaise with appropriate Officers.

A request that the fly tipping in Hermit Street, Upper Gornal be removed and measures be taken to prevent future fly tipping.

Referred for a written response.

Incidents of anti social behaviour were referred to. Given the sensitivity of the matter, the Vice-Chair undertook to discuss the matter with the questioner following the meeting. Councillor Branwood referred to the change in the Council's lettings Policy whereby applicants for council housing being required to satisfy requirements that

Vice-Chair to discuss with the questioner.

they had lived in the Borough for a period of two years.

The Vice-Chair provided an update in relation to the provision of further parking spaces in Gornal Village and the proposed new supermarket that would provide both additional parking and toilet facilities. Noted there were ongoing negotiations with Eggingtons Chemist regards land issues and there was a consultation taking place regarding the new parking spaces.

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33 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

No topics were raised.

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34 **Community Forum Funding**

The following application was received and an update received.

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Gornal Community Fun Day	Approved the sum of £2,567.29 from Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward.
Black Country Community Radio.	Application withdrawn as the organisation were unsuccessful with their submission for a community radio licence. The approved funding from each Ward be returned to the Community Forum Funds, £2,000 in total.

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35 **Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings**

Future meetings of the Community Forum would be held on the following dates, subject to approval at Council on 21st May, 2015,

- 15th June, 2015
- 2nd September, 2015
- 2nd November, 2015
- 25th January, 2016
- 14th March, 2016

Commencing at 6.30pm at venues to be confirmed.