

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIERLEY HILL/BROCKMOOR AND
PENSNETT COMMUNITY FORUM**

HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 25TH MARCH, 2014

AT THE BROCKMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, PENSNETT ROAD, BROCKMOOR,
BRIERLEY HILL

PRESENT:-

Councillor Jordan (Chair)
Councillors Foster, Harris, Islam and J Martin.

Officers:-

Mr I Curnow (The Divisional Lead on Commissioning and Procurement) –
(Directorate of Children's Services) (Lead Officer to the Forum) and Mrs K Buckle
(Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with sixteen members of the public

34 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor M Wilson.

35 INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and Members introduced themselves. The Chair outlined the purpose of the Forum meeting.

36 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 Query/Complaint

1. A resident of Elgar Crescent, Pensnett referred to re-surfacing work that had taken place in Elgar Crescent last year. However due to heavy rainfall road surfaces were breaking away, with the rain running down the centre of the roadway causing dangerous driving conditions and damage to vehicles. Photographs of the area were circulated to Members and a Petition was received from the resident.

Councillor Foster requested that the Director of the Urban Environment write to each resident of Elgar Crescent to explain the current situation with re-surfacing and what action would be taken to address the problem.

- 2 Could the gullies and drains be cleared in Tennyson Street, Pensnett as following recent re-surfacing work and heavy rainfall grit was running off the road into gullies and drains.
- 3 A local resident referred to her actions being questioned in relation to helping an injured swan on Fens Pool Nature Reserve and requested details of who the Council contacted to deal with injured swans. She also advised that she had provided the Warden at Fens Pool Nature Reserve with contact details for an Officer at the Swan Sanctuary.

The Chair commended the Member of the public for helping injured swans on Fens Pool Nature Reserve.

- 4 Concerns were raised in relation to illegal parking in Elgar Crescent, Pensnett and surrounding areas requesting that wardens patrol the areas in order to take enforcement action against the perpetrators.

Councillor Foster advised that the Moving Traffic Order in Elgar Crescent would be enforceable by the Police and those who witnessed these offences should contact the Police as due to the lack of resources and prioritisation the Police may be unable to patrol the area.

Councillor Foster advised that in relation to those parked on double yellow lines there were council Enforcement Officers who would deal with ticketing.

Councillor Foster urged those present with concerns in relation to illegal parking to attend the forthcoming Police and Communities Together meeting which would take place on 22nd April, 2014 at 6.30pm at the Brockmoor Community Centre as this would be the most appropriate forum in which to raise those concerns.

Councillor Foster also requested the Council to inform the Neighbourhood Policing Team that this matter had been raised at the Community Forum.

Councillor J Martin referred to the Police Surgery which would take place on 4th April, 2014 at 6.30pm at the Brockmoor Community Centre.

- 5 In responding to a question raised relating to the up to date position regarding the Round Oak Steel Workers Memorial, Councillor Islam advised that meetings were continuing however, there remained the issue of available resources to commission the work required.
- 6 Concerns were raised in relation to the failure of the Police to deal with stray horses on the highway.

The Chair recommended that those with concerns attend the Police and Communities Together Meeting referred to above, to raise their concerns.

Councillor Harris referred to the “Say No to the Waste Site Campaign”, advising of the background in relation to a planning application made by Clean Power for a recycling site on the old Steel Freight Terminal, Brierley Hill which had been refused by the Council’s Development Control Committee. She advised that Clean Power and Network Rail had referred the matter to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol and a Planning Enquiry would take place in June, 2014.

Councillor Harris stated that all six Ward Councillors had established a Working Group with local residents to form an Umbrella Group called “SNOW”, in order that the Group can attend the Enquiry as a third party to provide the views of the local community advising that they are against the Waste Site and the reasons for this.

Councillor Harris advised that a further public meeting would take place at the beginning of June and it was hoped that a poster campaign would take place together with displaying banners objecting to the facility. She also referred to the number of objection letters that had been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.

Councillor Islam urged those present to provide any information or their thoughts in relation to the issue to the Ward Councillors in order that a robust argument could be put forward objecting to the facility.

Councillor Foster reported that monies had become available to the Council to conduct major improvement roadworks and the Council were to conduct a Consultation with Members of the public on major road improvements.

Councillor Foster referred to the meeting of the Pensnett Tenants and Residents Association on 2nd April, 2014 when Ms Evelyn Bradley of the Friends of Fens Pool Nature Reserve had been invited to explain the work undertaken by the Group and gain support for the continuing work.

Councillor Foster also referred to a Community Litter Pick which had been arranged by the Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association and would take place at 11am on Saturday 5th April, 2014 and following this there would be a general meeting of the Association on Monday 7th April, 2014

38 COMMUNITY FORUM GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on two applications for funding that had been received which were referred to in the report submitted.

The Lead Officer also reported on five additional applications for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

1. That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of in the sum of £180 to the Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch representing one tenth of the grant sought to replace computers in equal contributions from each Ward with a recommendation that the full Application be submitted to the remaining nine Community Forums for consideration due to the Samaritans providing a Borough wide service.
 - (b) A grant in the sum of £2,500 to the Bromley Table Tennis Club representing 50% of the cost to support the Clubs transmission into the Pensnett Sports Hall.
 - (c) A grant in the sum of £1583.34 to Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association to provide funding for a Community evening in connection with the Black Country Day and family activities at the Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill.
2. That the Director of Corporate Resources be recommended to refuse the applications received from:-
- (a) Dudley Arts Council for the sum of £5,000 to support the delivery of the Black Country Festival across the Borough.
 - (b) Access in Dudley for the sum of £3,411.60 for the provision of promotional materials to support awareness raising.
 - (c) KMS Events for the sum of £4676.78 to support the event at the Red House Glass Cone on Sunday 13th July supporting the Black Country Day.
 - (d) The Y Project for the sum of £5,000 to refurbish a room to support working with young people on digital printing projects and enterprise.

39 DATES, TIME AND VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Future meetings of the Community Forum would be held on the following dates, subject to approval at Council in June, 2014,

- 1st July, 2014
- 10th September, 2014
- 11th November, 2014
- 4th February, 2015
- 24th March, 2015

Commencing at 6.30pm at venues to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm