

ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF COSELEY EAST/SEDGLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

Tuesday 5th November 2013 at 6.30 pm
at Age Concern, Ettymore Road, Sedgley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Chair)
Councillor Ridney (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Baugh, Evans, Mottram and Mrs Westwood

Officers:-

Mr B Clifford (current Lead Officer to the Forum) (Assistant Director, Health Reform Programme Lead – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Mr S Cooper (Prospective Lead Officer to the Forum) (Head of Strategic Asset Planning) and Mrs M Johal (both Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with eight members of the public.

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Coseley East/Sedgley Community Forum.

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LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised issues and made comments as set out below.

Nature of issue/question/comment

- Complaints made about yellow lines that had been placed on Nicholds Close, Coseley and that it caused parking problems as there was no where for residents and visitors to park. Also parking problems were created by people using Coseley Train Station and that vehicles were being double parked on the bend at Christchurch C of E School which was dangerous.

In responding the Vice-Chair stated that parking restrictions had been placed around the area because of complaints made by residents that they were being blocked in by people using their cars to drop off and pick children up from school and from people using Coseley Train Station. However, she undertook to ascertain the times of the restrictions owing to some confusion. Ward Members also stated that consideration would be given to removing restrictions from streets if requested by residents. During the debate the meeting were informed that attempts had been made to try and persuade Centro to provide adequate parking for their customers but the final response from them was that they would not extend parking facilities in Coseley.

- Dissatisfaction expressed about the possible increase in levy rates for Community Associations.
- Complaints made about the volume and speed of traffic around the area, particularly on the Northway and that there was no weight restriction which led to large commercial vehicles using the road which caused problems as they did not have sufficient room to manoeuvre. It was requested that consideration be given to introducing a weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes on the Northway.
- Although not in this jurisdiction a signpost at Wodehouse Island on the A449, and when using satellite navigation systems, directed traffic (particularly heavy goods vehicles) to Walsall via Sedgley. It was suggested that relevant Authorities be contacted to agree to direct heavy vehicles to use the Birmingham New Road to get to the Black Country Route and then on to Walsall. It was also requested that consideration be given to introducing a 7.5 tonnes weight restriction on Wodehouse Lane or at the Sedgley Boundary on Gospel End Road.
- The proposed housing development at Baggeridge Brick Works would generate additional vehicles and extra traffic from prospective residents and there would also be additional heavy goods vehicles using the roads whilst construction takes place. This further supported the need for the introduction of a 7.5 tonnes weight restriction on Gospel End Road.
- Complaint made about speeding on the Northway, particularly at the Wolverhampton Road end and several incidents that had occurred were referred to. Complaints had been made to the Police and to the Council and fixed penalty notices had been issued and other measures had taken place but with limited effect. It was requested that consideration be given to an overall engineering solution to minimise the facility to travel at speed.
- Traffic coming into the Bull Ring from the Dudley direction was halted by traffic lights outside the Clifton which created problems as it consistently blocked egress from Etymore Road. It was requested that consideration be given to a box junction being provided at that location.

- There were ongoing parking violations of double yellow lines opposite Vicar Street and it was suggested that consideration be given to increased parking wardens and police attention for a period of time to issue enforcement notices.
- A request that the disused toilet facilities opposite All Saints and the Police Station in Gospel End Street be demolished. In responding the Chair reported that the site had been sold.
- It was queried why the car park at Tenscore was locked at certain times as it discouraged use of the playground and sports pitches and it was requested that consideration be given to extending the opening hours. In response the Chair reported that the decision to close the car park at certain times had been made because of anti social behaviour and problems being experienced such as people driving their cars onto the football pitches and doing “wheelies” and demolishing the fence.
- A representative from the Clinical Commissioning Group referred to public consultation in relation to provision of urgent care in Dudley and circulated information and forms for feedback in this regard.

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WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Ridney

- (a) Referred to previous discussions regarding public toilet facilities at Roseville and stated that there were no disabled facilities in Roseville at all and she was of the opinion that facilities could be made available in the area with community support. She asked that residents submit their views direct to her to enable a case to be made for the provision.
- (b) Thanked those that helped in clearing the Remembrance Gardens in Roseville.

Councillor Evans indicated that he was pleased with the new footpath in Gospel End Street and it was now safer for people to walk on.

Councillor Caunt referred to the query raised at the last meeting about traffic calming at Tipton Road/Gate Street and indicated that the matter was being investigated with a view to including any works in the next financial year.

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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 three further applications that had been received from Unit3sixty, St Andrews Methodist Church and Bayer Street Allotment Association since submission of the report.

Following consideration of the applications it was agreed to defer the following applications:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £5000 to Unit3sixty towards capital set up costs for an indoor recreation centre pending further information to be submitted on the number of participants from the Coseley East/Sedgley Wards that used the existing facilities run by the organisation.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £5102.04 to St Andrews Methodist Church for a new entrance to the Church pending submission of three quotes for undertaking the work.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

- 1. That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-
 - (a) A grant in the sum of £2162.20 to Dudley MBC – Directorate of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management Division) for the provision of Christmas Trees at Vicarage Road (Roseville) and Sedgley (Bull Ring).
 - (b) A grant in the sum of £5000 to Sedgley Community Association for Christmas Lights in Sedgley.
 - (c) A grant in the sum of £3000 to Bayer Street Allotment Association to replace existing gates and install more fencing for security reasons.
- 2. That the Director of Corporate Resources refuse the following:-
 - (d) A grant in the sum of £1000 to Fast+Aid Charity No 1147703 to fund the purchase of a second vehicle to be used in the Dudley area so that they can respond quickly to 999 calls for the reasons that funding from the Community Forum should be allocated to local initiatives to directly benefit the people of Coseley East and Sedgley.

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Tuesday, 28th January, 2014 at 6.30 pm at Christchurch C of E School, Church Road, Coseley, WV14 8YB.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm