

**Action Notes of the Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote and Lye and Stourbridge
North Community Forum**

**Wednesday 4th February, 2015 at 6.35pm
at Amblecote Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Amblecote**

Present:

Councillor C Perks (Chair)
Councillor G Partridge (Vice-Chair)
Councillors P Bradley, M Hanif and P Lowe

Officers:

A Grove (Lead Officer - Head of Youth Service), K Taylor (Democratic Services Officer) and C Bennett, Warm Homes Officer, Dudley MBC

Together with 5 members of the public

26 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors R Body, T Crumpton, T Herbert and P Martin.

27 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote, Lye and Stourbridge North Community Forum.

28 **Winter Warmth Presentation**

Ms C Bennett, Warm Homes Officer gave a verbal presentation on the winter warmth services which was available to all residents. It was noted that visits were undertaken at properties in order to provide advice on obtaining loft insulation and cavity wall insulation and assistance with bills and price checking in order to secure more affordable utility providers.

It was noted that those who were struggling to keep warm would be provided with portable heaters, blankets and energy saving light bulbs. Ms Bennett further reported on ways in which a resident or someone on their behalf could contact the service and request a home visit.

Leaflets providing a guide to keeping warm and well at home during the winter months, together with contact details, were circulated and all those in attendance thanked Ms Bennett for the presentation given.

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

Subject

Action

A resident referred to the missing gates at the entrance of Homer Hill Park, and although the gates had been retrieved; they had been notified that in order to replace the gates they would have to sought planning permission and funding.

Councillor Partridge apologised for the difficulties caused and undertook to investigate further.

Concerns were raised in relation to the Limes Flats, adjoining Homer Hill Park, in particular, that a metal fence had been erected on Trust land facing the flats, therefore denying use of trust land for recreation, which the Charity Commission had not approved.

Referred for a written response.

Reference was made to the park track on Homer Hill Park leading to Slade Road and the proposed 20mph speed limit through the park which is too fast. The give way lines at Slade Road fail to determine shared priority with pedestrian park users.

Referred for a written response.

Issues were raised in regard to the CCTV at Midland Heart development at Homer Hill which overlooks the park and park track – No licences in place to allow operation of cameras so children and house holders are at risk of infringement of human rights legislation.

Referred for a written response.

Concerns were raised by a resident in relation to the potential conflict of interest by the Highways Department in relation to the consultation and plans in respect of the pathway on Homer Hill Park.

Referred for a written response.

Councillor G Partridge also undertook to investigate further.

A resident referred to issues raised concerning the lack of public parking at Wollescote Park, which was raised at a number of Community Forums, and thanked the Chair for her response.

Members acknowledged the issues raised and suggested that it would be beneficial to involve the local community Friends of Groups.

A resident raised concerns in relation to the lack of consultation in relation to Homer Hill Park. Referred for a written response.

Issues relating to accidents and obstruction caused by parking in Hillbank Road and Butchers Lane, Cradley. Referred for a written response.

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

Councillor Partridge referred to the ongoing work in relation to traffic schemes, in particular, the possibility of introducing no parking zones in Cradley. Noted.

Councillor Partridge referred to the consultation in respect of maximising public houses sites. Noted.

Councillor Partridge referred to the possibility of creating local Tenants and Residents Associations. Noted.

Councillor Lowe reported on the success of the Big Question consultation, in particular, that the expenditure of the consultation had been minimal. Noted.

Councillor Lowe reported on the pending announcements in relation to the rent and council tax rate freezes. He also requested that resident's feedback on the wording of the letter that would be sent to all residents in the borough. Noted.

Councillor Hanif referred to parking issues surrounding Thorns Primary Schools, with particular reference to the need of additional signage on the carriageway. Noted.

Councillor Hanif referred to the derelict car park on Valley Road, and that a Friends Group would be set up to look at converting half of the car park to a playground. Noted.

Councillor Perks referred to the resurfacing of paths in Amblecote, in particular, in Collis Street and near Vicarage Road. Noted.

31 **Community Forum Funding**

At this juncture, the Chair declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to the funding application submitted from Friends of Amblecote, as she had been actively involved in the development of Amblecote in Bloom.

Stourbridge Glassboys Under 11 FC	Approve a contribution of £1,000 in principle, however should other funding become available the contribution be withdrawn.
Amblecote History Society	Approve £500.
Friends of Amblecote	Approve £1500.
1 st Peters Hill Girls Brigade	Refused – does not meet the criteria.

32 **Other Business**

A resident referred to the possibility of merging Community Forum meetings with PACT meetings, however following consultation with those who attended PACT meetings, it was deemed that combining the meetings would not benefit local residents.

33 **Date, Time and Venue of Future Meeting**

Wednesday 25th March, 2015 (Lye Community Centre)

The meeting ended at 8.15pm