

Your home

YOUR FORUM

Bringing our communities together

Stourbridge area

Amblecote, Lye and Stourbridge North, Norton, Pedmore,
Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town

Forums involve local people, councillors, the police and other organisations working together to come up with ideas and solutions to improve the local community and area.

Wednesday 21st February, 2024 at 6.30pm

Gig Mill Primary School, (Entrance for Car Park & Hall on playground) Poole Street, off Heath Farm Road, Norton, DY8 3AU

Agenda

1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies**
2. **Notes** – To confirm the notes of the meeting held on 9th November, 2023 as a correct record
3. **Have your say** – An opportunity for residents to raise issues in their area
4. **Police and communities together** – Discussion on local policing and related issues
5. **Updates from Ward Councillors**
6. **Date of next meeting** – Details of future meetings will be available on the link below following the Annual meeting of the Council in May [Your Home, Your Forum Stourbridge](#)

Action notes from previous meetings and further information about Your Home, Your Forum meetings can be accessed by clicking on the following link [Your Home, Your Forum meetings](#). If you or anyone you know is attending the meeting and requires assistance to access the venue/ facilities, please let us know in advance using the contact details below and we will do our best to help you.

For more information about Forums:

Visit our website www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/your-home-your-forum/

E-mail: Community.Forums@dudley.gov.uk

Contact your neighbourhood policing team at:

stourbridge@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

<https://twitter.com/stourbridgewmp>



Amblecote, Lye and Stourbridge North, Norton, Pedmore, Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town

Your Ward Councillors

The contact information for your local Councillors is shown below.
Please take the opportunity to attend your local forum and let us know about
the issues that matter in your local area.

Amblecote



Pete Lee
Conservative
Deputy Mayor of Dudley
01384 484472
07769 667248



Paul Bradley
Conservative
Deputy Leader
of the Council
Cabinet
07812 435833



Kamran Razaq
Conservative
07808 802398

Lye & Stourbridge North



Mohammed Hanif
Labour
01384 375998
07779 623975



Pete Lowe
Labour
Group Leader
01384 350579
07949 590460



Dave Borley
Conservative
07850 716403

Norton



Steve Clark
Conservative
Cabinet
07989 202808



Tony Creed
Conservative
01384 372945
07904 197178



**Laura Taylor-
Childs**
Conservative
Cabinet
01384 980030

Pedmore & Stourbridge East



Ian Kettle
Conservative
01384 392354



Angus Lees
Conservative
01384 390604



James Clinton
Conservative
07929 724086

Wollaston & Stourbridge Town



Andrew Tromans
Labour
07856 941012



Cat Eccles
Labour
07453 789968



Alan Hopwood
Conservative
07792 523238

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Stourbridge
Date and time:	9th November 2023
Venue:	Pedmore Cricket Club, Pedmore Hall Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge, DY9 0ST
Attendance:	<p>Councillors: P Lee, M Hanif, C Eccles, I Kettle, P Bradley and S Clark.</p> <p>DMBC Officers: James Skeldon (JS), Carol Tromans and Alexandra Stan. 7 representatives from the Housing department were also present.</p> <p>Members of the public: 13</p>

Agenda item	Notes
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies	<p>Councillor C Eccles welcomed everyone to the forum and introductions were made by all Councillors present.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors P Lowe, K Razzaq, D Borley, A Tromans, A Lees, J Clinton, L Taylor-Childs, T Creed, A Hopwood.</p> <p>Council Officer/Forum Liaison Officer, Jayne Pilkington and Police representatives Sergeants J Norgrove and I Mohammed.</p>
2. Notes – 22 nd June 2023.	<p>Councillor C Eccles advised the minutes of the meeting had been recently issued and asked if there were any questions.</p> <p>A resident advised that he raised 2 direct questions from the previous forum and is yet to receive a reply. <i>JS took the residents details and will liaise directly in chasing up responses.</i></p>

	<p>Resident(R) – When notice goes out regarding the forum then a link should be attached to the details on CMIS. In addition, do not issue any notification until a complete set of papers have been provided.</p> <p>Minutes were agreed and noted.</p>
<p>3. Residents – Have your say</p>	<p>The Chair addressed the room advising this was the section where residents can have their say and requested that people be kind, considerate and respect other people’s views.</p> <p>1) JC - where is the report back from the ROC meeting in Lye that happened 2 months ago?</p> <p>Councillor M Hanif advised the report was circulated 3 days ago and can be forwarded on. The report was only circulated to attendees. He advised that those that had signed up to the WhatsApp group may have already received it and it would be shared further shortly.</p> <p>2) MR said that the capital for the Christmas Tree/ Lights is too much.</p> <p>The Chair advised the costs are for trees and implementation and costs have gone up.</p> <p>R stated the reason why the costs increase is because the locations are moved and new electricity supplies have to be installed.</p> <p>The Chair advised this is not the case with locations/electricity supplies and we are looking at live trees which are more sustainable and would reduce costs; we are asking people where these trees should go.</p> <p>R asked if the money is just transferred internally.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed this is correct and the process has been raised with officers of the Council.</p> <p>R asked if the Council could look at sponsors to provide funding for Christmas trees.</p> <p>The Chair advised that sustainability and costs are continuing to be looked at.</p>

Councillor P Lee stated that small trees are being planted to save cutting down trees. However, it was acknowledged that it may take some time for the trees to grow substantially.

Councillor M Hanif has an appointment with Council officers to see where trees can be planted/placed for future years.

- 3) R asked what is happening to Stourbridge and it's environment when compared to Halesowen.

The Chair stated that Halesowen were fortunate and had a dedicated Business Improvement (BID) who did many positive initiatives for the town including nice planters. A Stourbridge BID is currently being proposed and work has commenced with a view to a start date of 1st April 2025. In addition, there is also a proposed large regeneration programme planned for Stourbridge with significant investment.

- 4) R stated that the environment getting into the town is unpleasant and unsafe at night advising that friends have been attacked in the subway and requested that the subways are closed. A request to have access to the town centre via well lit crossings was made.

The Chair agreed with the concerns raised and has witnessed members of the public dangerously crossing the ring road and that crossings would assist.

R There has been a petition to have pedestrian crossings installed on South Road and raised the question if traffic lights could be installed on the crossing by the leisure centre.

The Chair advised that along with Councillor A Tromans they are looking at road safety, however, some of the issues are down to driver education and they are trying to do something to assist.

Councillor P Bradley made attendees aware that £3m is being invested into Stourbridge and it is being looked at how people (to include cyclists and drivers) come into town. Subways are to be looked at in phase 2 of the project, but there will be a public consultation enabling residents to have their say.

R raised the issue that subways are not easily accessible to people with mobility difficulties.

Councillor P Bradley advised that level access and well lit areas were being looked into.

- 5) R stated that subways are important and valuable for cyclists. An approach could be to keep the subways open for cyclists and pedestrians can use other means of access (additional crossings on the ring road).

Councillor I Kettle stated that there are significant tailbacks, congestion and poor air quality in Stourbridge with the town trying to get rid of 55,000 economically per day, due to mobility of labour.

Councillor M Hanif advised that previous attempts had been made to get the order pedestrianised.

Councillor I Kettle made attendees aware that 20,000 - 30,000 working people could leave the area if tailbacks/congestion worsened.

R said that the whole thing (Stourbridge ring road/crossings/subways) needs to be rethought and remodelled and that the previous idea of using subways only for cyclists was a good idea.

- 6) R said that at 08:00 the Old Quarter in Stourbridge is being used as a cut through and it is very difficult to cross the roads. Traffic needs slowing down, there was previously discussions on having the speed limit reduced to 20mph, what's happening to that.

The Chair told attendees that along with Councillor A Tromans a petition had been handed to the Head of Highways in the summer and they are awaiting an update. Also, Councillors have been working in conjunction with Greenfields Primary School, lining the streets getting children involved to make drivers aware. Furthermore, working with Environmental Health to encourage people to stop leaving their engines running. It would be great to see all roads off the main ring road at 20mph and this is something we are continuing to look at.

R advised of an overhanging hedge at the end of Clifton Street where pedestrians have to walk in the road. (JS took details of enquiry and raised with Dudley Council Plus).

R stated that ideas had been raised a long time ago and proposals had very little chance of succeeding.

- 7) KC stated that Dudley MBC were wasting volunteers' time. 2 interim Head of Services for Housing had been engaging with the resident, requested they attend meetings and made promises, but have now left the authority. KC questioned what had happened with the Council.

KC mentioned meeting etiquette for Councillors not to reveal embargoed information. Following a meeting at Saltwells EDC resident was asked not to discuss the information that was disclosed.

KC advised that after years of campaigning, bollards had been erected, however, Suzanne Webb MP took credit for getting them installed. It left residents feel they are being abused by those in power.

- 8) JC asked if there were any date for Lye regeneration.

Councillor M Hanif advised no specific dates but in progress.

Councillor P Bradley made attendees aware that a bid had been placed through the levelling up fund, but had been unsuccessful and they needed money for the design code which was a pilot that would be used across various councils up and down the country, but different funding streams were required to take the project forwards and the West Midlands Combined Authority has been approached.

R suggested to approach Suzanne Webb for funding.

- 9) TW requested feedback on the Dudley tram, advising that it would be a cheaper cost to stay on the principle main lines to Stourbridge junction. Freight could be transferred at night and the lines could be used for the tram during the day. The current proposal destroys various areas of land and urged support in getting the tram connected to the main junction. The attendees were asked what they thought of this.

R stated that although freight was only transported 2/3 times a week, previous resident had complained about the noise.

	<p>It was also stated that this was an interesting idea in terms of cost saving and the money saved could be reinvested.</p> <p>R said that the tram stopping in Merry Hill was a good thing.</p> <p>The Chair agreed that there are 2 sides to everything.</p> <p>Councillor P Bradley made attendees aware that although the concept of using the existing lines is an interesting one, there are lots of complexities that would need to be considered and things are still a work in motion. There is also the potential of having a turntable at Merry Hill, but at present, things are very fluid.</p> <p>The Chair advised she has recently spoken to Slug.</p> <p>R further said that using the tram line not metro trams should be considered, it is cheaper than creating new tracks and reduces pollution and overall cost to the environment.</p> <p>Councillor P Lee said that trams can be linked into towns, whereas trains take people away from towns.</p> <p>R advised that tram runs on standard lines the same as trains.</p>
<p>4. Police and Communities Together</p>	<p>The Police sent their apologies, however, an update was provided and read out by the Chair. Details are on Appendix A.</p> <p>R questioned why there was no report on drugs.</p> <p>The Chair advised the report was from the neighbourhood team, not the response team.</p> <p>R said that PCT used to hold separate meetings and should reconsider doing this.</p> <p>The Chair said she would speak with Sergeant Norgrove.</p>

	<p>R agreed that it would have been nice if the police attended.</p> <p>R stated notices are not clear.</p> <p>Councillor M Hanif made attendees aware that there is a large notice board in Lye which is very good for displaying useful information.</p> <p>The Chair asked for any ideas for better placed posters.</p> <p>KC stated that local schools were also used, but are now making things too expensive. R urged the Council to apply pressure to offer an economical charge. Primary school in Wollaston previously charged £8 p/h, this has now increased to £250 for 3 hours. The headteacher refuses to engage with the local public – this is moving away from communities.</p> <p>R advised there was a noticeboard in the Rye Market opposite the toilets.</p>
<p>5. Updates from Ward Councillors</p>	<p><i>Councillor P Bradley provided an update on the Amblecote Ward</i> – Clockfields estate had been recently adopted by Dudley MBC. Some remedial works on potholes had been completed on the entrance to the estate. Poppies visible on Hillfields Road 2023 poppies to commemorate remembrance and armistice day. On 9th December 2023 behind Sainsbury’s in Withymoor will be a Christmas event with a few stalls and a grotto for children.</p> <p><i>Councillor M Hanif provided an update on the Lye & Stourbridge North Ward</i> – Core group called, Life in Lye which meets monthly which is looking at various activities and working on many things and ROC meeting held on 18th October 2023 in Christ Church – the report is out and due to be responded to shortly</p> <p><i>Councillor I Kettle provided an update on the Pedmore & Stourbridge East Ward</i> – several road repairs have been completed. Quad bikes are being introduced to treat weeds and recent road markings (white lines) have been improving the road system.</p> <p><i>Councillor C Eccles provided an update on the Wollaston & Stourbridge Town Ward</i> – The ticket office at Stourbridge has been saved. On 11th November 2023 at the Bonded Warehouse there is a military vehicle parade along with music and entertainment. On 12th November 2023 at the War Memorial there will be a</p>

	<p>remembrance service. Also, there are a lot of new businesses open and the Chair asked if these could be supported.</p> <p>R stated they were dismayed the Council were spending £100k on quad bikes for weeding, which will mean more chemicals will go on to people's property. Many people are not looking forward to this.</p>
<p>6. Forum funding</p>	<p>The Chair summarised the recommendations of the Grant Forum meeting on the 30th October 2023.</p> <p>Applications Approved</p> <p>Disability in Action were awarded £500 to purchase materials to make poppies for Amblecote Church for Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>Christmas Trees £11,493.51 and Christmas Lights £9,092.17 funding was approved.</p> <p>Age Concern request for funding was deferred whilst Councillor C Eccles made a site visit. The site visit had been completed and Councillor C Eccles confirmed that she was happy with the findings and this had been shared with Grant Panel Members – a decision letter was due to go out and they should hear soon.</p>
<p>7. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>21st February 2024</p> <p>Further details can be found by accessing the following link:- Your Home, Your Forum Stourbridge</p>

Time meeting ended: 8pm