

ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF AMBLECOTE, CRADLEY AND WOLLESCOTE, LYE AND STOURBRIDGE NORTH COMMUNITY FORUM

Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 12th November, 2013
At Providence Methodist Church, Windmill Lane, Colley Lane.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Herbert (Chair)
Councillor Perks (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Body, Crumpton and Hanif.

OFFICERS:-

Miss J Porter (Current Lead Officer to the Forum - Director of Children's Services), Ms A Grove (Prospective Lead Officer to the Forum – Head of Service – Youth Service) and Mrs K Taylor (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 22 members of the public.

15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillors Lowe, Mrs Martin, Partridge, and Mrs Walker.

16 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Forum. Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors and members of the public introduced themselves.

17 **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 questions/comments

- (1) A resident referred to the traffic lights at Colley Gate, in particular that due to the design of the junction, traffic would be flowing towards Windmill Hill from Lye after the lights had changed to red and traffic would then move across the junction towards Windmill Hill.

Councillor Body reported that he had attended a meeting regarding Air Quality and that the area was one of the worst in the Dudley Borough, and it had been suggested that moving the lay-bys for buses and traffic lights it could alleviate the problems. It was noted that the issue would be reported back to the Highways Division.

- (2) A resident referred to the misleading and incorrect road sign on entering the Borough from Cradley Heath along Cradley Road, which states 'Welcome to Halesowen'. This had been previously raised at a Forum meeting, and a response was given stating that the Marketing and Communications Team would contact the resident for further guidance, however this had not been done.
- (3) A request was made for the possibility of lights on the car parks in Lye, including the area behind the Church and Lye Medical Practice. Councillor Hanif undertook to investigate further.
- (4) A resident referred to the junction of Collis Street and King William Street, Stourbridge, in particular that Collis Street was no entry but a number of drivers ignored the no entry signs, putting pedestrians and other drivers at risk. It would be helpful if the pavements were extended to discourage this.

Councillor Perks reported that she had contacted the Highways Division, however the issue was witnessing the vehicles. Councillor Perks undertook to contact the local Neighbourhood Team to investigate further.

- (5) A resident referred to a large Conifer tree to the rear of his neighbouring property, which was close to the house and blocking sunlight, and raised concerns about sewers, foundations, the garden wall and cracking patio. Letters had been sent to the neighbours but there had been no response.

Other issues raised :-

- Concerns were raised regarding vehicles speeding through Oldnall Road, Wollescote.

Councillor Crumpton stated that a meeting had taken place and a report had been circulated to those present, including local residents, of the outcomes. He reported that the road had been deep cleaned due to the problems caused by oil spillages, and that it was anticipated that speed cameras and a rumbling strip would be introduced to reduce vehicles speeding. Councillor Crumpton undertook to contact the Highways Division to discuss timelines for completion.

- Concerns were raised in relation to the problems caused by parking by the Convenience Stores in Toys Lane. Councillor Body undertook to raise the issue again.
- Concerns were raised regarding the lack of speed limit signs when turning from Thorns Road onto Caledonia. Councillor Hanif undertook to investigate further.
- Reference was made to the intended opening of a Medical Practice in Lye. The Chair undertook to investigate further and report back to the resident.
- Concerns were raised in regard to the traffic congestion on Maple Tree Lane, and that it had been agreed that there was sufficient space to introduce a filter lane, however this was not introduced due to lack of finance. It was further noted that a sale notice had been erected on the car park.

Councillor Crumpton reported that development opportunities were being looked at for the land and that any development could resolve the issues of parking, and undertook to raise the issue again at the Cradley Action Group.

- A resident asked why Dudley Council could not take over the derelict buildings situated in Colley Gate.

Councillor Crumpton stated that the Council was aware of the buildings however there were a number of issues in respect of redeveloping. He stated that the buildings had been on the market for twelve months, and that it would be beneficial for an owner to purchase the entire building to redevelop. Councillor Crumpton invited the resident to attend the Cradley Action Group.

- A representative of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was in attendance. The Chair requested that members of the public look at the leaflets provided and raise any issues with the representative after the meeting.
- There is a table top sale taking place at Providence Methodist Church on 14th December, 2013.
- There is a Christmas event taking place at the Stambermill St Marks Scout Group on 6th December, 2013.

18 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Hanif commented on parking in Lower High Street, Lye and that the problems would shortly be resolved.
- Councillor Perks

- (a) Referred to Collis Street and the possibility of introducing a weight limit restriction, however the Group Engineer had informed her that this would not be possible.
 - (b) Reported parking problems in School Drive, in particular the restrictions on the car park caused by shrubs. A request had been raised to Greencare about the possibility of removing the shrubs to extend the car park and possibly alleviate the problems
 - (c) Circulated leaflets in relation to reporting rogue traders.
 - (d) Referred to an organisation, namely, Crossways Care, who provided respite care, and requested that anybody who knew of an elderly person who was unable to leave their home to contact the organisation.
- Councillor Body
 - (a) Reported on the three litter picking events in Cradley over a three month period, which were very successful, and thanked those who attended.
 - (b) Referred to a £250k grant awarded to Homer Hill Park, with the possibility of building changing rooms and further facilities on the park for members of the public to use
 - (c) Reported that an acoustic music club would commence from 8th January, 2014 on Wednesday evenings, free of charge.
- Councillor Crumpton
 - (a) That Cradley Library was currently closed for refurbishment, and that a limited service was being offered on Friday's at the Community Centre. It was anticipated that the library would re-open the first week in December.
 - (b) That following the success of Cradley Festival Week, ways on how to improve the festival for next year were being looked at.
 - (c) Referred to the events organised by Providence Methodist Church, in particular that there would be a food bank event taking place in November, and thanked all the volunteers who worked at Providence.
 - (d) Reported on problems in Mogul Lane caused by overgrown trees.
 - (e) Reported on the first Christmas tree being erected by residents from Tanhouse. The tree lights would be switched on on Saturday 7th December, and encouraged members of the public to attend.

(f) The improvements made to the car park and pathways at Wollescote Park

- There is a Meet People Event taking place in Dudley Town Hall on 19th November, 2013 to discuss Community Safety issues. For more information, please visit the website.
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19 AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on five applications for funding, and an application approved under delegated powers

The Lead officer reported on a letter received by Stourbridge Cricket Club thanking the Community Forum for the grant awarded to purchase two rain cover sheets.

Representatives from Stambermill St Marks Group; Unit 3 Sixty and Providence – No Strings Attached were in attendance and made comments on their application.

The Lead Officer referred to the application submitted that the application received by Stambermill St Marks Group was incorrect, and that a revised application would be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the action of the Lead Officer, in consultation with members of the forum, in recommending approval of an application in the sum of £1000 from Fast+Aid towards the purchase of a second vehicle for the Dudley area for faster responses to 999 emergency calls from the ambulance service, be noted.
- (b) That the application received from Stambermill St Marks Group be considered under delegated powers, in consultation with members, following receipt of the revised application.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £480 to Access in Dudley to purchase a version of photosymbols.

- (b)
 - (1) A grant in the sum of £1,004.90 to Dudley MBC Environmental Management Division for the provision of a Christmas tree in Lye – Christ Church, High Street.
 - (2) A request to investigate whether the existing tree in Tanhouse Lane / Chapel House Lane could be utilised, and the funds to be used elsewhere either for December, 2013 or December, 2014.
 - (3) That if the existing tree could not be utilised, then the full amount of £2009.80 be recommended for approval.
 - (c)
 - (1) In principle, a grant in the sum of £5000 to Unity3sixty Indoor Urban Recreation Centre, subject to planning permission being obtained and to the submission of further information on the overall funding of the project.
 - (2) That a further report be submitted to the Community Forum in due course following the receipt of the additional information referred to above and prior to any funding being released by the Director of Corporate Resources.
 - (d) A grant in the sum of £2000 to Providence – No Strings Attached to purchase a high quality video camera.
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20 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Tuesday 4th February, 2014, starting at 6.30pm at Amblecote Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Amblecote.

The meeting ended at 8.10. pm