

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF GORNAL/UPPER GORNAL AND
WOODSETTON COMMUNITY FORUM**

HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2013

**AT THE BAGGERIDGE SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE, 1 THE STRAITS, LOWER GORNAL,
DUDLEY**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Casey (Chair)
Councillor Branwood (Vice-Chair)
Councillor S Turner.

Officers:-

Mr D Lowndes (Current Lead Officer to the forum) (Assistant Director Culture and Leisure) – (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Ms J. Jennings (prospective Lead Officer to the forum) (Head of Communications and Public Affairs – Chief Executive's Directorate) and Mrs K Buckle (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

together with sixteen members of the public

11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Ameson, A Aston and Wright.

12 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

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

13 **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 question/comment.

- 1 Residents of Temple Street, Gornal Wood handed in a Petition requesting traffic calming measures in Temple Street, referring to a blind bend and several accidents and near misses that had occurred. They referred to heavy traffic that accessed the road which was causing a danger to local residents, residents of a nearby residential home and two schools in Zoar Street. The Lead Officer to the Committee undertook to forward the Petition onto the relevant Officers and confirmed that a written response would be given to the first named Petitioner.
- 2(a) The signage in Moden Hill, Upper Gornal warning of the unsuitability for heavy goods traffic was now facing the wrong way due to recent heavy winds resulting in heavy goods traffic attempting to access the road and causing a danger.
- 2(b) Problems with a sharp bend and parked vehicles on the Sedgley end of the Ridgeway were referred to and a request for white lines to denote the sharpness of the bend were requested. The Chair undertook to request relevant Council Officers to attend a site visit to both Moden Hill and the Ridgeway.
- 3 The street sign at the end of Louise Street and Summitt Place in Lower Gornal had been wrongly positioned failing to warn motorists of the no entry. Council Officers were requested to change the position of the signage.
- 4 Incidents of anti social behaviour in Gornal Village including dog fighting were raised and Councillor S Turner responded stating that the new Sergeant was taking a much more robust approach which had resulted in arrests and preventative work was ongoing. He also referred to a new online system that was being introduced in order for local shop owners to report such problems. Details of the new camera that was to be installed in Gornal Village which would be linked to Sedgley Police Station and monitored twenty four hours every day were provided.

A Member of the Gornal Tenants and Residents Association confirmed that she would raise the above concerns at the forthcoming PACT meeting.

- 5 Concerns were raised in relation to the cutbacks in the Social Care budget and whether members of the public would be consulted on those cutbacks.

Jan Jennings referred to the “Your Council Tax The Big Question Budget Consultation” leaflet that had been distributed to those present which was requesting members of the Borough to voice their views on what they valued most and least about their Council Services. She also referred to a survey which could be completed on the internet and advised that adverts had appeared in the local press and details of the consultation could be accessed through public facing areas such as libraries. Once details of those areas that residents of the Borough valued the most had been obtained a further consultation would take place with service users and stakeholders.

The Vice-Chair advised that work was continuing on how services could be delivered differently as there would be more emphasis on reducing the cost of delivering those services.

The Vice-Chair referred to the closure of two small units with the same number of beds being provided at one location rather than two. He confirmed that there would be extensive consultation with residents in the Borough in relation to Care Homes. He confirmed that consultations would commence the following week in relation to the Social Care budget cuts for 2014/15.

Councillor S Turner outlined details of the extensive budget cuts resulting from a reduction in Government Funding over a five year period.

Doctor J Rathore representative from the Clinical and Commissioning Group referred to money which was to be set aside by the group next year in order to work closely with the Council in relation to social care in order to deliver a service whereby people received home care rather than spend a large amount of time in hospital beds. He referred to continuing work with the Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that there was a strategy in place where there was sufficient capacity in order to meet older peoples demands for care. He outlined the amount of the money that would be set aside to the Group in order to work on the most effective way that the money could be used for this purpose.

Councillor S Turner referred to work that would be undertaken in order to deliver savings to hospitals by freeing up hospital beds.

Dr J Rathore also referred to continuing work with the Council in order to provide patients with social care packages at home, in residential and nursing homes.

In responding to a member of the public’s concerns Dr Rathore referred to the Friends and Family Test feedback forms which could be completed by Hospital in and out patients.

- 6 Concerns were raised in relation to the state of alleyways on the Old Park Farm Estate and recurring problems with these on Parkes Hall Road. The Chair requested members of the public to advise himself or Councillor A Aston of the problematic areas and they would raise issues with the relevant Officers.
- 7 Concerns were raised in relation to blocked drains in Gornal and Councillor S Turner urged those present to raise their concerns and provide details of the areas where there are blocked drains to either himself or the Vice-Chair.

Ms Brazier of Dudley Council Plus referred to the Council's Street Cleansing Division advising that those staff may be diverted to other areas for example where there had been accidents in order to clear roads from glass and debris and also from oil spillages.

- 8 A query was raised in relation to the outcome of an application to change the use of the Pupil Referral Unit at the Sycamore Centre.

The Chair advised that an up date would be provided at the Tenants and Residents Association Meeting that was to take place on the following Monday and indicated that discussions were ongoing.

- 10 A concern was raised in relation to the cost that theft and misappropriation was posing for the National Health Services and whether measures were being taken to investigate these issues.

Dr J Rathore responded stating that there was a counter fraud scheme which operated in the National Health Service and this would target high value fraud and that there were security devices installed in hospitals in order to prevent petty theft.

- 11 A request was made for consideration to be given in relation to those plastic items that could not be recycled within the Dudley Borough.

Ms K Brazier of Dudley Council Plus referred to trials that had been carried out in parts of the Borough during the last two years, advising that certain plastic items bearing a triangle logo could not be recycled within the Borough and due to transport costs these would not be accepted as recyclable items as it would be too expensive to resource due to transport costs. She also advised that the roll out of the new recycling system was to be completed by spring 2014.

The Chair referred to the attendance of Dr J Rathore representative from the Clinical and Commissioning Group.

Dr Rathore gave a verbal presentation on the consultation that was taking place in relation to urgent care in order to ascertain patients views on how they would wish to access urgent care.

He advised that there were plans to create an urgent Care Centre at Russells Hall Hospital. He referred to leaflets that were available at General Practitioners surgeries and that members from the Clinical Commissioning Group were canvassing for patients views. The consultation would continue until the end of December, 2013 and any changes would be implemented in 2014.

Dr Rathore advised of the ability of the Clinical Commissioning Group to be able to provide General Practitioner appointment time for patients by using the monies that were invested in current Walk In Centres. He confirmed that following the closure of General Practitioner's surgeries at 6.30pm there would be an area located at the local Accident and Emergency Department which patients could access out of the hours of 8.30am and 6.30pm which would be staffed by General Practitioners.

The Chair and Councillor S Turner urged the public to engage with the Consultation, as concerns were raised about the lack of provision that may result from the proposed changes.

15 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on two applications for funding. The Lead Officer also referred to a further two applications that had been received and an Addendum to his report in relation to four further applications for funding that had been received.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

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

- (a) A grant in the sum of £3,500 to Gornal Business Watch towards the total cost of £5,000 to purchase new decorations, the installation costs and any maintenance requirements of the full Christmas Decorations Scheme in Gornal Village to be met from the Gornal Ward funding allocation.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £2009.80 to Dudley MBC Environmental Management Division for Christmas Trees in the Gornal/Upper Gornal and Wodsetton Wards divided equally between the two wards for the purchase, installation and energy costs for the Christmas trees in each ward.
- (c) A grant in the sum of £276.80 to Ellowes Hall Tenants and Residents Association to purchase a flag together with the costs of prize certificates for the children from local schools who took part in the design competition.

- (d) A grant in the sum of £2,205 to Lower Gornal Darby and Joan Club towards a total project cost of £4,332 towards the cost of a range of electrical and associated works at their venue.
 - (e) A grant in the sum of £1,000 to the Old Park Farm Tenants and Residents Association to meet part of the costs of providing for a community fun day.
 - (f) A grant of £5,000 to the Woodsetton Charitable Trust, to be met from the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Ward funding allocation.
 - (g) A grant of £7,500 to the Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre, to be met from the Gornal Ward funding allocation, for security fencing and a new clubhouse.
- 2 That the Director of Corporate Resources refuse the application received from Unit3sixty for the sum of £5,000 to meet part of the costs of creating a local community enterprise/facility for young people in Stourbridge.
-

16 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Wednesday 29th January, 2013 at 6.30 pm at The Upper Gornal Methodist Church, Kent Street, Spills Meadow, Dudley.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm