

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF HALESOWEN NORTH AND  
HALESOWEN SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at  
Hurst Green Primary School, Narrow Lane, Halesowen

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Hill (Chair)  
Councillor Taylor (Vice Chair)  
Councillors Bills and Vickers

**Officers:-**

S. Beckett (Customer Services Manager, Lead Officer) and S. Griffiths  
(Democratic Services Manager) both Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with 17 members of the public

21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors  
Mrs Shakespeare and Woodall.

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22 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

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23 **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:-

- (a) Question regarding the policy on resurfacing roads and dealing with  
potholes; does the Council have an approved programme of resurfacing  
and how long is the resurfacing work expected to last?
- (b) Request for action on the condition of Hobbs Shop in Halesowen; the  
derelict garage in Birmingham Street Car Park and to replant the  
removed trees in Peckingham Street and Hagley Street, Halesowen.

- (c) Request for the Cabinet Member for Transport to give an update on the review of the bus lanes in Halesowen Town Centre; these are considered to be ineffective and their removal would ease traffic congestion.
- (d) Request for a progress report on the situation concerning Maybrook House car park.
- (e) Problems associated with dog fouling and litter in Woodland Road, Olive Hill Road, Springfield Road and alleyways adjacent to Olive Hill School.

Other Issues raised and/or answered on the evening:-

- (a) Issues relating to potential Council budget savings, including the possibility of combining some Council Departments, savings on Committees and management costs and clarification of responsibilities. Reference was made to the ongoing budget consultation process.
- (b) Acknowledgement of recent improvements to the refuse collection and recycling service and assurances that the Council would be maintaining its weekly refuse collection service.
- (c) Concerns about specific bus routes and planned reductions by CENTRO. It was noted that individual issues should be raised with CENTRO through the appropriate consultation procedures.
- (d) The need to publicise the work and local projects undertaken through the Community Payback Team.

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#### WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Reference was made to the opportunity for residents to make observations concerning a planning application for residential development on land at Narrow Lane, Halesowen. Reference was also made to the progress on the development of the Holt Farm School site.

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#### AREA GRANTS

The Lead Officer reported on two applications for funding from the Community Forum local area grants budget.

Councillor Bills reported that the previously approved Leaps and Bounds funding had now been requested and gave a positive update on the project.

A representative of the Friends of Coombeswood Wedge was present at the meeting and addressed the Forum concerning their application.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:

That the Director of Corporate Resources

- (1) Approve the application received from Lapal Colts Football Club for up to £1,598 for a set of goals to be used by members of the football club, school pupils and members of the scouts, guides and brownies.
- (2) Approve the application received from the Friends of Coombeswood Wedge for £442.18 to provide hand tools for use in conservation and footpath clearing projects, working in conjunction with Dudley Council wardens.

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at Lapal Primary School, Halesowen.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.