

Your home

# YOUR FORUM

Bringing our communities together

## Dudley area

Castle and Priory, St James's, St Thomas's, Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood

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, 8th November, 2023 at 6.30pm  
Quarry Bank Primary School, High Street, Dudley, DY5 2AD

### Agenda

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies**
- 2. Notes** – To confirm the notes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 as a correct record
- 3. Dudley Interchange Disruptions** – To inform residents of upcoming works and bus disruptions and to answer queries
- 4. Have your say** – An opportunity for residents to raise issues in their area
- 5. Police and communities together** – Discussion on local policing and related issues
- 6. Forum funding** – A summary of recommendations on applications made for funding since the last meeting.
- 7. Date of next meeting** – Details are available on the following link:-

[Your Home, Your Forum Dudley](#)

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/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/your-home-your-forum/)

E-mail: [Community.Forums@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Forums@dudley.gov.uk)

Contact your neighbourhood policing team at:

[dudleycentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:dudleycentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

<https://twitter.com/DudleyTownWMP>



# Castle and Priory, St James's, St Thomas's, Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood

## 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.

### Castle & Priory



**Karl Denning**  
Labour  
07957 173256



**Keiran Casey**  
Labour  
Shadow Cabinet  
07800 792228



**Margaret Aston**  
Labour  
01902 677475

### St James's



**Cathryn Bayton**  
Labour  
Shadow Cabinet  
07795 528821



**Sara Bothul**  
Conservative  
07527 802211



**Caroline Reid**  
Labour  
01384 256692

### Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews



**Qadar Zada**  
Labour  
07305 552304



**Elaine Taylor**  
Labour  
07982 233903



**Damian Corfield**  
Conservative  
Cabinet  
07506 686955

### Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood



**Jackie Cowell**  
Labour  
Shadow Cabinet  
01384 839808



**Chris Barnett**  
Labour  
07711 318447



**Dr Rob Clinton**  
Conservative  
Cabinet  
07305 751066

### St Thomas's



**Shaneila Mughal**  
Labour  
07985 247857



**Adeela Qayyum**  
Labour  
07835 734792



**Shaukat Ali**  
Labour  
Shadow Cabinet  
07957 683696

**Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes**

<b>Forum:</b>	<b>Dudley</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at 6.30pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	Councillors: S Ali, M Aston, C Barnett, C Bayton, K Casey, Dr R Clinton, D Corfield, J Cowell, K Denning, S Mughal, A Qayyum and E Taylor Council Officers: S Griffiths, A Lawrence Police: PC C Harris and PC H Richards Members of the public: 26

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	
1. Chair and Vice-Chair	Councillor C Barnett was elected as Chair. Councillor K Denning was elected as Vice-Chair.	
2. Introduction, Apologies & declarations of interest	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ward Councillors introduced themselves. Apologies received from Councillors S Bothul, W Sullivan and Q Zada. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Have your Say	The Chair invited residents to speak on issues. The following is a summary of key issues raised at the meeting:	
	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Response / Follow Up Actions</b>
	<b>Libraries and archives services</b> Concerns about cuts and potential closure of services. A petition was in circulation for possible signature at the meeting.	Councillor D Corfield gave assurances about the future of services. Formal decisions would be made through the Council's decision-making process.

	<p><b>ID required at Elections</b>          Concern about process for obtaining Voter Authority Certificate, which had eventually been resolved with Electoral Services</p> <p><b>Cleaning of Dudley Market Place</b>          Concern that no action had been taken to clean the Market Place, despite several complaints, including the removal of bird droppings</p> <p><b>Provision of Bin Bags</b>          Delays in receiving bags had been the subject of several complaints</p> <p><b>Fly Tipping</b>          Concern about lack of responses to fly tipping in Watsons Close, Bishop's Close and the condition of land at Highfield Road/Corporation Road following the construction of new properties.</p> <p><b>Potholes</b>          Concerns that action not taken to deal with issues reported at various locations.</p>	<p>The Forum expressed general concerns about the lack of responses to issues, comments and formal complaints made to Dudley Council Plus and other Council Directorates.</p> <p>Issues had been raised with local Councillors. Councillor S Ali stated that it was unacceptable that Dudley Council Plus and relevant Officers were not providing feedback or responses. The Chair agreed that this was not acceptable and it was now necessary for Councillors to highlight these concerns further.</p> <p>Councillor D Corfield asked for issues to be emailed to him direct in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services.</p>
	<p><b>Maintenance of trees and green spaces</b>          A resident of Bratch Close referred to the need for the trees to be trimmed down and for green spaces to be maintained expressing concern about the general condition of the area and fly tipping etc.</p>	<p>These issues had been raised previously with a Ward Councillor, Dudley Council Plus and the relevant Council Teams.</p> <p>Councillor E Taylor repeated concerns about lack of responses and the view that Dudley Council Plus was not fit for purpose. The Chair asked that Councillors raise these</p>

		<p>concerns at the relevant Council Committees. Councillor C Bayton had spoken to the Deputy Chief Executive expressing her concerns that the Council was not responsive. This included concerns about Dudley Council Plus, answering telephones, issues raised via the Council website and the App.</p> <p>Councillor S Ali asked that representations be made on behalf of the Forum to formally express these concerns.</p>
	<p><b>Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre</b> A resident expressed the view that the Centre was a valuable community asset. However, with regard to the library link, books could not be transferred via the App.</p>	<p>The Chair agreed to follow up this issue.</p>
4. Police and Communities together	<p><b>Issue</b></p>	<p><b>Response</b></p>
	<p><b>Police Priorities</b> Clarification was given on Police Community Support Officers available to each Ward.</p> <p>Reference was made to a recent ‘crackdown’ on shoplifting. General concerns were raised about drug dealing, off road bikes, anti social behaviour and burglaries.</p>	<p>The Police stressed the importance of collaboration with residents and the community to share and gather intelligence and information. Reference was made to contacting the Police by telephone (using 101) or online via the West Midlands Police website.</p> <p><a href="mailto:Dudley.central@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">Dudley.central@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a> can be used to share intelligence with the local team.</p>
	<p>Councillor S Ali referred to the community garden at Lupin Road and requested Police support/presence in that area to deter anti-social/criminal activity.</p>	<p>Noted by Police representatives.</p>

	<p>Friends and residents of Buffery Park raised issues about homeless people and off-road vehicles deterring people from enjoying the Park facilities.</p>	<p>Police representatives indicated that support was given to assist homeless people where possible. Off road bikes was recognised as a major problem. The Police were unable to chase the drivers in vehicles due to safety concerns.</p> <p>The need for information and intelligence was reiterated. The Vice-Chair reported on recent successes in the Castle &amp; Priory Ward and urged residents to continue reporting issues and providing intelligence to the Police.</p>
	<p>Concerns about congregation of youths in Saltwells/Merry Hill</p>	<p>Police were aware of issues and urged people to make contact or report specific incidents so that action could be taken. Reference was made to rumours circulating on social media about recent incidents where investigations were ongoing. It was requested that the Police issue information to update local people wherever possible.</p>
	<p>Police Resources</p>	<p>The Forum recognised the pressure on Police resources within the constraints of Government funding. Councillor Dr R Clinton reported on recent positive discussions with senior Police Officers concerning policing resources in the area.</p>
<p>5. Funding Summary</p>	<p>The Chair summarised recent Grant Panel Funding recommendations as outlined below.</p>	

	<u>Name of Group/ Organisation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason for Funding</u>	<u>Amount of Funding Requested</u>	<u>Approved/Refused</u>
	Vicarage Prospect Tenants and Residents Association	April 2023	Funding to hold a Coronation Event (Dealt with under urgency powers)	£280	Approved
	High Oak Youth and Community Centre	May 2023	Weekly sessions for seniors and carers covering keep fit and health awareness	£5,000	Approved
	Cadrene Supported Living	May 2023	To establish a community hub for adults including the elderly and those with disabilities	£5,000	Approved
	Friends of Russells Hall Park	May 2023	To host a community day on Russells Hall Park in July	£1,995.56	Approved
	Priory Community Centre	May 2023	To replace old, outdated tables and chairs	£3,750	Approved
6. Date of next meeting	8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2023 – venue to be confirmed				

**Time meeting ended: 8.00pm**

**Your Home, Your Forum Dudley**

**Forum Funding Allocated Since the Last Meeting**



<b><u>Name of Group/Organisation</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Reason for Funding</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of Funding Requested</u></b>	<b><u>Approved/Refused</u></b>
Dudley MBC	Sept 2023	Christmas Trees Christmas Decorations/Lights <b>(Dealt with via email)</b>	£22,333.54 £2,368.95	Approved

As at 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 Your Home, Your Forum Dudley had a total amount of £90,882.34 remaining in the budget

**The Grant Panel meeting scheduled on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 was cancelled due to there being no funding applications for consideration.**