

ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF COSELEY EAST/SEDGLEY COMMUNITY FORUM

Tuesday 28th January 2014 at 6.30 pm
at Christ Church C of E School, Church Road, Coseley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Caunt (Chair)
Councillor Ridney (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Baugh, Evans, Mottram and Mrs Westwood

Officers:-

Mr B Clifford (current Lead Officer to the Forum) (Assistant Director, Adult Social Care – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Mr S Cooper (Prospective Lead Officer to the Forum) (Head of Strategic Asset Planning) and Mrs M Johal (both Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with ten members of the public.

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Coseley East/Sedgley Community Forum.

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LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised issues and made comments as set out below.

Nature of issue/question/comment

- Given the budgetary cuts it was queried whether the number of local Ward Councillors should be reduced as it was considered that they did not have a substantial workload and reference was made to a particular Councillor that had attended only two meetings over a period of time. It was also commented that there were a number of Councillors that were from the same family and it was queried whether this should be allowed.
- An update on Sedgley Clinic was requested.

- Reference was made to the 7.5 tonne weight restriction on the Northway as requested at the last meeting and it was reported that the Group Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) had indicated that the request would be added to a list in 2014-15 for assessment for possible inclusion in a future year's annual Traffic Regulation Order programme. However, it was requested that support be given for inclusion in the next available programme.
- Responses had not been received to matters raised at the last meeting regarding police speed pad, box junction at Ettymore Road exit and Wodehouse Island sign post. It was reported that since the last meeting there had been two incidents both reasonably attributed to speeding on the Northway.
- Parking on double yellow lines opposite Vicar Street was again raised and the inadequate parking for parents and it was commented that Enforcement Officers do undertake enforcement action in Sedgley.
- Reference was again made to the car park at Tenscore and comments made about no demand for pitches in the area was refuted as sports teams that had been spoken to had made contrary remarks and it was requested that the car park be opened at weekends as a minimum.

In responding to the above Members made the following points:-

- Councillors had varying workloads depending on the area they represented and the majority of Councillors worked hard; however some other Local Authorities had taken the route to reducing Councillors.
- Rumours about Sedgley Clinic were incorrect and only the mental health section were moving but other services would remain.
- With regard to traffic calming measures on the Northway an exercise to ascertain an average speed check was awaited and would be conducted during April or May. There had been no further progress with regard to weight restrictions.
- Regarding the issues raised Members gave a commitment that they would be involved and support residents however an undertaking could not be given until details of proposed actions were made available.
- With regard to the car park at Tenscore the Chair stated that the decision to close the car park had been taken due to several incidents of anti social behaviour and the barrier had now solved the problem and residents were happy.

WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Caunt referred to a number of comments that had been made in local press coverages regarding the massive cost for refurbishing the wall on Gospel End Road and that the Council had been overcharged. He stated that works undertaken as part of the project had been enormous and gave a breakdown of the full extent of the works involved which justified the costs and further added that the project had been financed under the Safer Routes to Schools Programme.

AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding. The Lead Officer also verbally reported on a further application that had been received from All Saints Church since submission of the report.

Following a request from Members the Lead Officer to the Committee undertook to provide a breakdown of figures on the funding available for each Ward in future reports.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

1. That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-
 - (a) A grant in the sum of £5000 to Upper Ettingshall Methodist Church towards the costs of enlarging the existing kitchen to the community café, improvement of the access and refurbishment of the meeting room.
 - (b) A grant in the sum of £3009.00 to Coseley Comets Youth Marching Band for the provision of 2 new drums for the marching band to replace outdated instruments.
 - (c) A grant in the sum of £549.99 to All Saints' Church for the purchase of a new cooker.
2. That the Director of Corporate Resources refuse the following:-
 - (d) A grant in the sum of £1700.00 to Sedgley & District Age Concern towards the redecoration of the day centre including the main hall, restroom and toilets for the reason that the Group had already benefited from a number of previous grants that had been awarded by the former Area Committee.

- (e) A grant in the sum of £5000.00 to Unit3sixty for funding towards a new skateboard park in Stourbridge for the reason that funding from the Community Forum should be allocated to local initiatives to directly benefit the people of Coseley East and Sedgley.
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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Tuesday, 18th March, 2014 at 6.30 pm at Age Concern, Ettymoor Road, Dudley, DY3 3SG.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm