

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON/PEDMORE AND  
STOURBRIDGE EAST/WOLLASTON AND STOURBRIDGE TOWN COMMUNITY  
FORUM**

Held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2014  
At Chawn Hill Church, Chawn Hill, Stourbridge

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Attwood – Chair  
Councillor Mrs Rogers – Vice-Chair  
Councillors Elcock, Hale, L Jones, Kettle, Marrey and Sykes.

**OFFICERS:-**

Andrew Leigh (Lead Officer to the Forum), (Head of Services (Housing Strategy and Development) (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Helen Shepherd (Democratic Services Officer) (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with 15 members of the public.

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25 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum and the local Councillors and Council Officers introduced themselves.

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26 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor C Wilson.

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27 **LISTENING TO YOU - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below:-

- A resident asked if the public footpath would remain open once work at the collapsed wall at Redhill, Stourbridge commenced.

The Lead Officer confirmed that the road would be closed to all traffic but that a pedestrian route would remain open.

- The Lead Officer provided an update in relation to the collapsed wall at Redhill, Stourbridge, however residents raised concerns in relation to the disregard by the Council to purchase the land/wall owned by West Midlands Police and of the safety aspects of the inspections and work taking place on the wall. Councillor L Jones requested that a report/briefing note in relation to this issue be submitted to a future meeting.

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28 WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

No issues were raised under this item.

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29 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding. It was noted that several additional applications had been received since publication of the report and would therefore be presented verbally.

AGREED:-

- (1) That the application from LIFE Centre (Stourbridge) for the sum of £5000 for the start up costs for the first year of a Debt Advisory Service for Stourbridge, be deferred and that the Lead Officer be requested to write to the Applicant regarding further funding avenues that may have been identified and with a request that they consider submitting a new application to all the Community Forums within a 7 mile radius of the premises that the Debt Advice Service would operate from.
- (2) That the applications from two local scouts who had been selected to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Japan in July 2015 requesting the sum of £2995 per application, be withdrawn as requested by the applicant.
- (3) That the application from Friends of Wollescote Park (Stevens Park Wollescote) for the sum of up to £10,000 to fund a new and attractive gateway entrance feature to the park, symbolising the history of the area and showing visitors and passers-by that the park is actually a park, be withdrawn, as requested by the applicant.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

That the Director of Corporate Resources:-

- (1) Approve the application from 9<sup>th</sup> Stourbridge Oldswinsford Scout Group for the sum of £2500 to help contribute to the renewal of the groups patrol tents and the purchase of a new smaller mess tent which is used for food preparation, dining and storage.
- (2) Approve a contribution in respect of the application received from Pedmore Cricket Club in the sum of £1000 only to help purchase materials and hire equipment in preparation for Cricket Force weekend.

- (3) Approve a contribution in respect of the application received from Dudley Arts Council in the sum of £3000 only to support the delivery of the Black Country Festival across the whole of the Dudley borough.
- (4) Approve the application from the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas's Church for the sum of £454 to provide security grills for the halls external boiler flue and the window to the ladies toilet which have been subject to vandalism and a point of entry for burglars.
- (5) Approve the application from Remember the Fallen in the sum of £1560.57, which equates to the total cost to complete the project once the £590 that had been raised to date had been deducted, so that Private Harry Whitwell's name can be added to the Stourbridge War Memorial.
- (6) Approve a contribution in respect of the application received from Access in Dudley in the sum of £350 only for the update and printing of the group leaflets and the purchase of other promotional material such as pop-up banners, rulers, pens and keyrings in order for Access in Dudley to reach a greater number of the local community by promoting the group and services on offer.
- (7) Approve the making of a grant in the sum of £2338.39, representing 50% of the requested funding, to KMS Events CIC to contribute to the arrangement of a day of poetry, spoken word and associated arts on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate Black Country Day.

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### 30 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the draft dates of the Community Forum meetings for 2014/15 municipal year, subject to Council approval in June 2014, would be:-

- 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2014
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014
- 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2014
- 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2015
- 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

Venues for these dates to be confirmed.

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The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.