

**Action Notes of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and
Dudley Wood Community Forum**

**Monday 3rd November, 2014 at 6.30pm
at The Savoy Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton**

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor B Cotterill (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J Cowell, W Duckworth, D Sparks and E Taylor

Officers:-

A Tromans - Lead Officer to the Forum (Information Systems Manager, ICT Services) and K Griffiths - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 11 members of the public

17 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following general announcements, the Councillors and Council officers introduced themselves.

18 **Chairs Comments – The Big Question**

The Chair referred to the “The Big Question”, a budget consultation which offered the public the opportunity to inform Dudley MBC of the top five most valued Council services, in the light of the continued reduction in national government funding. He encouraged everyone present at the meeting to complete the forms circulated prior to the meeting and either hand them into an officer at the end of the meeting or return to the address printed on the form.

19 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments by Local Residents**

Subject

Concerns were raised in relation to the current system that deals with anti-social behaviour. A resident reported that she was a victim of anti-social behaviour which had been ongoing for two years. She explained, in detail, the nature of the matter and the worry, stress and anxiety that the issues had been having on the family. She indicated that she had not received any positive outcome. She reported that she had made an official complaint, however, she was still awaiting

Action

Referred for further investigation and a written response.

a response.

It was suggested that the resident contact the Ombudsman and the Chief Police Officer.

A Member of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team Panel expressed their support for the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and reported that current facts and figures proved that the work the Team carried out had been having a positive impact on the Dudley Borough.

The Chair requested that the individual speak to the Lead Officer after the meeting with a view to providing further details and examples of issues that were occurring and that the Lead Officer be requested to liaise with appropriate officers and respond directly.

General concerns were raised in relation to the role of Housing Managers.

Noted. The Chair reported that the Ward Members for Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety would be meeting with the Housing Managers in the near future to address the general concerns of the residents.

Reference was made to the condition of the roads on the Cradley Park Estate and queried when the work to resurface the roads would be carried out.

Referred for a written response.

Concerns were raised in relation to the barrier on the Black Horse playing fields. Requested that the barrier be locked to stop access on to the fields. A general comment was also made in relation to the heating in the facilities room being left on all week.

Noted and comments referred for consideration.

A number of general concerns were raised in relation to housing issues.

Noted. Referred to the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for consideration and action.

The Leader of the Council noted the ongoing issues and responded to specific points. He referred to the current Senior Management and Organisational Restructure and assured the Forum that the matter would be dealt with as a priority.

Issues relating to the relocation of Housing officers into the Harbour building at Merry Hill, in particular, inadequate parking and expenses being claimed by staff as a result of agile working.

Noted.

The Lead Officer responded to issues raised and outlined the current terms and conditions where staff would be eligible to claim expenses.

Issue raised in relation to caravans parked on driveways of properties on the Bowling Green Estate and queried the policy regarding this.

Referred for a written response.

Further discussion concerning Saltwells Nature Reserve, with particular reference to the progress on a new Wardens base.

Noted.

The Lead Officer updated the Forum on the current position and indicated that progress would be reported to the next Community Forum.

Reference was made to the site of the White Lion public house at the bottom of Buffrey Road and the car wash operating at the back of the building.

The Chair responded and assured the Forum that the matter would be dealt with.

A general issue was raised in relation to the old factory in Saltwells Lane. It was noted that the site was not secure and that youths had been reported for accessing the site.

Noted.

20 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

Subject

Action

Councillor Sparks referred to the potentially offensive graffiti on the Thorns Road, Quarry Bank and requested that it be removed.

Referred for action to be taken.

Councillor Cotterill referred to the grant previously approved to provide a lockable barrier to prevent fly tipping behind the garages off Heath Road and queried when the barrier would be provided. The Lead Officer updated the Forum on the current position and it was agreed that the Saltwells Tenants and Residents Association would conduct a 'door knock' of the residents surrounding the area to provide evidence that the residents had been consulted on the proposed works.

Noted.

Saltwells Tenants and Residents Association to action.

Councillor Cotterill referred, in detail, to the decision to withdraw the 297 bus route to Russell Hall Hospital and indicated that the decision had created a huge impact on the citizens of the Dudley Borough.

Noted. Referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment to liaise with Centro and National Express.

He reported that there was no direct bus route, following the withdrawal of the 297 bus route, from certain areas of the Borough, which had resulted in people having to use taxis.

He requested that a meeting be arranged with the senior managers of Centro and National Express to discuss this matter further.

21 **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

Application

Recommendation

Black Country Wheels

Refused as it did not meet local guidelines.

Netherton Cricket Club

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews Ward - approval of £2,000 to contribute towards the installation of CCTV for additional security.

Dudley MBC Environmental Management Division

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews Ward – approval of £2,211.08 for the cost to purchase, erect and remove trees, together with associated energy cost and lighting in Castleton Street and Highgate Road.

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward – approval of £1,034.80 for the cost to purchase, erect and remove trees, together with associated energy cost and lighting in High Street/Park Road.

The Chair confirmed the figures available for the Empty Shops Grant and High Street Innovation Fund and encouraged the public to think of ways to use the available funding.

22 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

- Monday 26th January, 2015 - 6.30pm - Woodside Community Centre
- Monday 16th March, 2015 - 6.30pm - Netherton Sports and Social Club

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.