

**Action Notes of the Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's
Community Forum**

Wednesday 5th November, 2014 at 6.30 pm
at Wrens Nest Community Centre, Summer Road, Dudley.

Present:-

Councillor K Finch (Chair)
Councillors K Ahmed, S Ali, M Aston, A Finch and M Roberts.

Officers:-

S Griffiths (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Democratic Services Manager)

Together with 17 members of the public.

15 **Apologies**

Councillors A Ahmed, S Arshad and S Waltho.

16 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillors and Officers introduced themselves.

17 **Castle and Crystal Credit Union**

The Forum received a presentation from the Business Finance Manager of Castle and Crystal Credit Union.

18 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Issues relating to green space on Russells Hall Estate and its use for sport and recreational activities.

Action

The Council's Green Care team had undertaken works following a site visit. Further work was required to address drainage issues. Councillor M Roberts reported on ongoing work to form a Friends Group for Russells Hall to assist with funding applications and to encourage community involvement. The Forum supported all the ongoing activity to improve the amenities and facilities on the Russells Hall Estate.

<p>Traffic issues relating to the closure of Blackacre Road, Dudley and ongoing issues in surrounding streets.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed responded to a range of issues raised by local residents at the meeting. Further information was requested concerning the risk assessment and comments of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the closure of Blackacre Road. The situation would be reviewed six months after the reopening of King Street.</p>
<p>Issues relating to blocked drains and litter at Bushey Fields Road/Overfield Road, Russells Hall</p>	<p>The ongoing issues were noted.</p>
<p>Parking Issues at Russells Hall near to the Blue Submarine chip shop and the possible provision of box markings on the roadway.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed stated that box markings would be considered, however, the necessary legal procedures would have to be followed, which could be a lengthy and costly process. Illegal parking on pavements would be raised with the Police at the next PACT meeting.</p>
<p>Concerns were expressed about street lights being turned off at night (Pearce Close, Russells Hall).</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed stated that this issue was being considered, however, this would mainly affect rural areas.</p>
<p>Traffic/speed calming measures for Oakham Road, Dudley.</p>	<p>Councillor S Ali stated that this was a long standing issue and an update was given on the current position. Following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, a scheme for traffic calming measures had been produced for consideration by ward Councillors and local residents.</p>
<p>Parking issues outside schools in Milking Bank, Russells Hall and Roberts Street.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed stated that the Council was working in partnership with the Police to address the issues. Residents were encouraged to report matters to the Police if drivers were breaking the law.</p>
<p>Fly tipping on land adjacent to Watson's Green Road, Kates Hill, Dudley.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>
<p>Anti social behaviour caused by noisy motor scooters and motorbikes on Kates Hill Estate, Dudley.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>

<p>Flats on Russells Hall Estate – concerns relating to the anti social behaviour of a tenant and issues concerning the housing allocations policy.</p>	<p>The Chair reported on the process for dealing with anti social behaviour via the Anti Social Behaviour Team and the policy of allocating properties based on housing need. Information on the individual tenant would be passed to the relevant officer.</p>
<p>Condition of the slabbed area outside the shops in Summer Road, Wrens Nest, Dudley.</p>	<p>The Estate Manager had visited the site. It was confirmed that this area was the responsibility of the shop keepers.</p>
<p>Replacement of fencing at vacant land in Myrtle Road, Wrens Nest, Dudley.</p>	<p>Councillor A Finch confirmed that this was housing land and he would contact the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.</p>
<p>Development of a new Community Centre for the North Priory Estate</p>	<p>The Chair reported that discussions had taken place with the Leader and Senior Council Officers. Ward Councillors had been proactively involved in making representations. It was hoped that positive progress could be made in the near future.</p>
<p>Road cleaners cleaning the streets before the refuse collection in the Wrens Nest area.</p>	<p>The comments were noted.</p>
<p>A resident requested information on what was happening to the land on Meadow Road, Dudley.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>
<p>A resident raised queries concerning areas of block paving in Dudley market place, which were covered by tarmac.</p>	<p>Referred for a written response.</p>
<p>Query concerning the market stalls in Dudley High Street.</p>	<p>Councillor K Ahmed gave a progress report and stated that, once completed, the market stalls would be at the same level as previously.</p>

Working with you – Topics Raised by Local Councillors

Councillor S Ali reported on the forthcoming remembrance service in Grazebrook Park.

Councillor M Roberts reported her concerns regarding synthetic substances being offered for sale to children.

The Lead Officer reported on Dudley's Festival of Remembrance Concert (6th November) and events taking place in Dudley on Remembrance Sunday (9th November) and Armistice Day (11th November, 2014).

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

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Claughton Youth Centre	Approval of a contribution of £1,500 (St Thomas's ward)
Black Country Wheels	Refusal - priority given to schemes of direct benefit to the wards covered by this Community Forum
Whole Child Foundation	Approval of a contribution of £500 (St Thomas's ward)
Arc Aid Charity Shop	Refusal of both applications – priority to be given to schemes that contribute to the community strategy and which directly benefit the wards covered by this Community Forum. The Forum acknowledged the good work undertaken by this charity, however, raised concerns about setting a precedent in relation to similar applications from other charitable organisations.
Dudley MBC – Environmental Management Division	Approval of £1,289.72 for the Stone Street Square Christmas Tree. (St James's ward) The application for a Christmas Tree at Milking Bank was deferred for a recommendation to be made by the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair and ward Councillors, following confirmation of the details of the proposed location.
Duke of Edinburgh Award Association	Deferred for further information on the direct benefit to the wards covered by this Community Forum.

Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Future meetings noted as follows:-

Wednesday 28th January, 2015 (St Thomas's Community Network)

Wednesday 18th March, 2015 (St Barnabus' C of E Church)

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm