

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Stourbridge
Date and time:	20th February 2023 – 18:00 – 20:25
Venue:	Pedmore High School, Grange Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge
Attendance:	<p>Councillors P Bradley, P Lee, D Borley, J Clinton, I Kettle, S Clark, K Razzaq, P Lowe and M Hanif.</p> <p>Officers/ Police: J Skeldon, J Pilkington, C Tromans, D Tiwana, Sergeant J Norgrove (Lye)</p> <p>Total Attendance: 4 marketplace attendees 2 CDWs 2 Liaison Officers 9 Councillors (present) 6 Councillor Apologies 18 members of the public</p>
Agenda item	Notes
1. Marketplace	<p>A marketplace event was held at the beginning of the meeting to enable people to find out about services, groups and activities in the local area.</p> <p>There were groups with market stalls.</p> <p>Market Stalls were Camphill Village Trust – Shared Lives and the Dementia Gateway Service, with each giving a brief presentation to the attendees.</p>

<p>2. Welcome and introduction to the meeting</p>	<p>The Liaison Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting, then briefly explained the attendee guidelines, the new format of the meeting, and the agenda.</p> <p>The Liaison Officer further explained that the Your Home, Your Forum meetings had replaced the former community forum meetings which had taken place for a number of years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>3. Apologies and declarations of interest</p>	<p>Apologies - Councillors K Shakespeare, L Taylor-Childs and T Creed (Norton Ward) A Lees (Pedmore & Stourbridge East) and C Eccles and A Hopwood (Wollaston & Stourbridge Town).</p>
<p>4. Update World Café event</p>	<p>The Liaison Officers provided an update on the issues raised at the World Café event held in November 2022.</p> <p>The topics that were provided updates on were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental issues (litter cleansing, park maintenance and preservation of green spaces) - Traffic issues (pedestrianisation, cycle lanes, 20 mph restrictions and speed watch) - Reduce rates/rents for shops in town centre - Planning issues (developing on greenfield sites and redevelopment) - Cllr communication and drop in centres. <p>No questions were raised as a result of the update provided.</p>
<p>5. Open floor to questions from members of the public</p>	<p>Q – How are surgeries advertised? A – There are currently no surgeries due to low attendance. However, members of the public can easily contact Councillors by email or phone.</p> <p>Statement – Member of the public raised an issue with not receiving a response from a local Councillor Q – A request was made for an update on the new Police Station in Stourbridge. A – (Councillors S Clark) Confirmed it was in the pipeline</p>

	<p>(Councillor I Kettle) Advised of a new police station at Castlegate</p> <p>Q – Members of the public raised concerns regarding large telegraph poles installed by BRSK internet as part of a national rollout.</p> <p>A – (Councillor P Bradley) Advised these were allowed to be installed under ‘permitted development’, however, residents can make a complaint after installation.</p> <p>JP – advised residents to contact planning duty planning officer with letters of objection/representation: https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-services/advice-and-guidance/duty-planning-officer/</p> <p>Q – Request made for BRSK to attend next Your Home, Your Forum meeting.</p> <p>Councillor P Bradley provided JS with contact details and JS will contact once date known.</p> <p>Q – Concerns were raised as to how BRSK operate. I.e. blocking off part of the road and it was also requested that BRSK better communicated the roll out of installation in the hope this may allay fear from residents.</p>
6. Police Update	<p>Update provided by Sergeant Norgrove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brierley Hill Police station due to close when Dudley opens. However, there will still be officer presence at Brierley Hill. - New Chief Constable, 60 new officers recently started on 101 Helpdesk and an extra push for civilian staff. It is also hoped there will be additional officers. - Police surgeries are run every 6 weeks for Lye/Amblecote <p>Q – The new police station is further away, it needs to be more central and consultation.</p> <p>A – Response officers will be based across the borough. In addition, technological advances are being made for reporting incidents.</p> <p>Q – What can be done with electric scooters as they are dangerous?</p> <p>A – Scooters can be derestricted. However, police will not get involved with chases of electric scooters.</p>

	<p>Q – When cars are parked fully on the pavement, is it worth sending pictures? A – If cars are blocking the road, then contact Police and Dudley MBC. Likewise, if cars are fully blocking the footpath. If there is only a partial blockage, then no. Always raise any obstructions on the Highway with the Council via Dudley Council Plus https://www.dudley.gov.uk/contact-us/</p> <p>Q – Member of the public increase in ‘Highway Cruising Signs’. A – The issue covers the West Midlands. If found in breach. then cars can be towed away.</p> <p>Q – Members of the public raised an issue about a fire in the subway at Market Street. A – There are lots of homeless people in the town, especially by the subway areas. Councillor S Clark advised that several homeless people have been offered accommodation, with some success, however, some were not homeless and Councillor I Kettle advised that some are professional beggars.</p>
<p>7. Update from Ward Councillors</p>	<p>P Bradley – Amblecote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting out and about more in Amblecote meeting as many of the public as possible with the street watch group (has 12 members) - Poppies on Holy Trinity Church Amblecote and Xmas fayre with Santa organised. - Summer fayre with over 200 residents - Park upgrades have been completed - Kerbs have been dropped, cycle paths created/maintained, hedges cut and potholes repaired <p>P Borley – Lye & Stourbridge North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lye action group taking proactive steps to improve the area - Working with the Wildlife Trust to improve the polluted River Stour. Dudley MBC now also involved. - Responding to residents concerns regarding housing issues - Other events are also being undertaken, such as Streetwatch and Litterpicking and supporting the PCSO’s <p>M Hanif – Lye & Stourbridge North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life in Lye core group has been established

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues raised about drinking and antisocial behaviour on the bridge on the Pennfields estate and the dirt and dust generated at Caledonia <p>P Lowe – Lye & Stourbridge North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mud/dust issues raised with regard to the Pedmore Road recycling site - Peters Hill/Caledonia estate recycling being collected day after scheduled collection for the past 10 weeks. <p>I Kettle – Pedmore & Stourbridge East Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severn Trent have made improvements to the dingle on Old Ham Lane - Wollescote Park walls have been reinstated at a cost of £350,000 - Illegal dog breeders uncovered in unusual location within borough - Bowling green fence installed at Wollescote Park to prevent antisocial behaviour - Play area has been upgraded - Tunnels at Chawn park, graffiti was used as a drug dealing site - Compliments were paid to the fantastic job at Stourbridge Junction car park walkway. <p>S Clark – Wollaston & Stourbridge Town Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCTV/Christmas lights in Stourbridge were a success - Broadway/Wollaston Xmas lights were a success - Paige Arms in Market Street is now in the process of being converted to flats and enforcement is underway on the former vet site. - CPO's are being looked at on commercial land - Made Forum aware that there had been fleet and staff issues in relation to recycling collections. <p>Norton Ward – No update</p>
8. Forum funding	<p>Chair provided a funding update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application received from Kids Orchard Centre. Kids Orchard Centre has been established for over 50 years helping disabled children and young people create the same opportunities for them as their non-disabled peers. A funding request was made for £4,990 facilitate support

	<p>sessions, providing an experienced listening ear, expert advice and help to signpost families to other local services relevant to families' specific needs.</p> <p>Decision - £4,990 approved to award to Kids Orchard Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application received from Side by Side Theatre Company. Side by Side Theatre company enable people with learning disabilities the opportunity to develop their skills in performing arts. A funding request was received for £5,000 to replace the existing water pipe with a larger water pipe due to low water pressure. Decision - £5,000 approved to award to Side by Side Theatre Company - Application received from the Stourbridge Institute. Stourbridge Institute has been established for over 180. The institute is used for recreation and leisure activities and has over 600 members from all age groups and multiple ethnic backgrounds. A funding request was received for £5,000 to replace the old boiler with more efficient heating, and also significantly improve overall insulation of the building. Decision - £5,000 approved to award to the Stourbridge Institute - Application received from We Love Carers. We Love Carers is a charity for carers run by carers, giving thousands of unpaid carers the support, information and advice, they need. A funding request was received for £3,750 to hold an awareness event to recognise those who have been outstanding in their support for carers and the ones that they care for, as well as acknowledge some exceptional carers. Decision - £3,750 approved to award to We Love Carers
<p>9. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Details will be available on the following link in due course for the next round of Your Home Your Forum meetings.</p>

Time meeting ended: 20:25