

**Have  
your say**

# **Community FORUM**

**Serving the wards of**

**Belle Vale and Hayley Green & Cradley South  
community forum**

The Community Forum is a way for people to play a part in important issues affecting the local area. Please come along if there is something you want to raise with us. Contact information for your local Councillors is printed on the back of this agenda.

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at 6.30 p.m.  
at Earls High School, Furnace Lane, Halesowen, B63 3SL**

## **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Listening to you**
  - Questions and comments from local residents
- 3. Working with you**
  - Topics raised by Local Councillors
- 4. Community Forum - Love Your Community Fund**
  - Councillors to make a recommendation based on a report of the Lead Officer
- 5. Date of Next Meeting:**
  - to be determined at the Annual Council Meeting in May, 2015.

**Action notes from previous meetings can be viewed on the Council's website  
[www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)**

# Belle Vale/Hayley Green & Cradley South Community Forum

## Your Ward Councillors

The contact information for your local Councillors is shown below. Please take the opportunity to come along to your local Community Forum and let us know about the issues that matter in your local area.

### Belle Vale



Councillor Robert James  
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Councillor Ian Cooper  
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### Hayley Green & Cradley South



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**Report to Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum**

**Wednesday 25 March 2015**

**Report of Lead Officer**

**Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Fund**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget and the High Street Innovation / Empty Shops Grant for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

**Background**

2. The 10 Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the Community Forum Funding Budget. More recently each Community Forum has received a one-off allocation of funds from the High Street Innovation / Empty Shops Grant. The guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are corporate guidelines only and it is ultimately for each Community Forum to decide on individual applications.
3. The two Community Forums in Halesowen – Halesowen North & Halesowen South and Belle Vale, Hayley Green & Cradley South – have tended to make reference to one another with regards to decisions on allocations of funding for projects local to the Halesowen area.
4. Copies of applications referred to in this report have been sent to Members prior to the meeting.

**New Applications for Consideration at this Meeting**

**General Fund**

5. At the November 2014 meeting of Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum the approvals for expenditure resulted in there being no General Fund monies remaining for allocation in 2014/15. Applicants have been made aware of this and advised that whilst their submissions will be considered it will not be possible to make any allocation to successful projects until the new financial year – 2015/16.

## **6. Halesowen Carnival**

The organisers of Halesowen Carnival have requested a grant of £5,000 from the two Community Forums covering the Halesowen area, towards the estimated £9,500 cost of staging the Carnival in 2015. The costs are in association with hire of equipment, fees for road closures and insurance cover.

It is proposed to raise the remainder of the funds through fund raising activities such as auctions and raffles and by submitting other grant applications.

Copies of the application form and associated papers have been made available to Members prior to the meeting.

Halesowen North & Halesowen South Community Forum has received the same application for consideration.

The Halesowen Carnival committee is a recently established organisation and is therefore unable to submit accounts. The committee is in the process of making banking arrangements and establishing an account.

*I recommended that Members consider whether a grant of up to £2,500 should be approved from the 2015/16 General Fund which would represent 50% of the total amount requested from the two Community Forums covering the Halesowen area.*

## **High Street Innovation Fund**

7. No applications for support from the High Street Innovation Fund have been received.
8. The approach adopted by other Community Forums will be reported verbally at the meeting on 25 March 2015.

## **Finance**

9. Taking account of all previous commitments from this Community Forum, the current balance of funding available from the General Fund for distribution by the Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum is **£-6.16**. Details have been forward to Members prior to the meeting.
10. The Empty Shops/High Street Innovation Grant allocation for the Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum has been revised following allocations made at the February meeting and stands at **£11,887.75**. Details have been forward to Members prior to the meeting.

## **Law**

11. The Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence to act in the interests of the community.
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.

## **Equality Impact**

13. This report complies with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

## **Recommendation**

14. That:-

- i) The Community Forum considers the applications referred to in this report and makes recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



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**Andy Webb**  
**Head of Sport and Physical Activity**

Contact Officer: Andy Webb  
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## **List of Background Papers**

- The application forms on which this report is based have been sent to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under the terms of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Appendix 1 Corporate Guidelines for Considering Funding Applications.

## **Community Forums**

### **Guidelines for considering funding applications**

Every funding application will be considered on its own individual merits by Community Forum Elected Members, who will take into account the funding available and make recommendations on each application to the Council's Director of Corporate Resources.

Applications will be considered only from voluntary and community organisations that are based in Dudley borough. Applications should be submitted through a parent organisations e.g. a sports club rather than an individual team within a club.

Applications are to be submitted at least 21 days before a Community Forum meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. Later applications will be considered at the next available Forum meeting. Elected Members can make recommendations on genuinely urgent applications between Forum meetings.

A decision on an individual application will not be seen as setting a precedent for the consideration of any other applications received by the Council or another Community Forum.

All expenditure must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council's legal powers and demonstrate good value for money. Quotations must be provided in line with the Council's procedure rules. Details are set out in the application form.

### **Guidelines for considering applications**

The following guidelines are to assist Elected Members in considering funding applications. Individual Community Forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. Funding may be spent on "capital" and/or "revenue" schemes. (**Capital:** one-off expenditure on buying, constructing or improving land, buildings, equipment or vehicles; **revenue:** expenditure on running costs of projects or

activities, including staff costs and the purchase of consumables and services from third parties. Priority will be given to one-off, time-limited, or start-up spend, rather than ongoing running costs which should normally be funded by the organisation itself).

2. Schemes should contribute to the aims of the Community Strategy and not conflict with Council policy. Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups and should make a difference in the local area.
3. Funding applications may be submitted to more than one Community Forum depending on the area(s) of benefit. Each individual Forum shall retain discretion over its own funding allocation. A recommendation made by one Community Forum shall not create an expectation that it will be supported by another Forum.
4. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources e.g. running costs and repair and maintenance of new/improved buildings and equipment.
5. Individual funding applications should be for a maximum of £5,000 unless there are exceptional circumstances. Organisations will be encouraged to match fund or seek further funding through other means. Priority will be given to schemes that might generate such funding.
6. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to the Community Forums (or former Area Committees) within the previous three years.
7. Representatives of organisations submitting applications are encouraged to attend the Forum meeting and to speak if they wish in support of their applications.
8. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the commitment is spent within nine months; otherwise the funding will be returned to the Council. A fresh application would need to be submitted and approved in order for the funding to be released.
9. In appropriate circumstances, funding may be given on condition that certain items of equipment purchased with the funding are made available for use by other organisations.

### **High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding Applications**

10. One-off funding has been made available in the 2014/15 financial year for projects which improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area, with preference to the borough's centres and High Streets.
11. The Council will decide which source of funding successful applications will use, but as guidance for applicants High Street Innovation / Empty Shops Grant funding will be considered for the following:-

## **Eligible proposals**

- Proposals will be considered either for Capital or Revenue activities.
- Proposals of up to £5,000 in value (including VAT where applicable).
- Proposals are preferred for projects within the Borough's defined Principal or Local Centres, but applications may be considered in any location where benefits to the local economy or environment may be demonstrated.
- Proposals that show a partnership approach (between for example business and the Community will be preferred).

## **Ineligible proposals**

- Proposals which create ongoing revenue costs for the Council. Proposals must demonstrate how any improvements will be maintained.
- Proposals which are required as a direct result of a planning condition, enforcement action or any other statutory consent.
- Proposals that do not have the agreement of the owner or occupier of land or property affected.
- Proposals that do not have a realistic prospect of being granted planning permission.

## **Suggested areas of expenditure**

- Proposals to improve the appearance or condition of empty commercial or retail premises.
- Proposals to improve vacant or unsightly land.
- Match funding to support funding bids for the above.
- Activities and events to support centres economic vitality.