

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

Held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 13th February, 2013
at St Michael and All Angels Church Hall, Maynard Avenue, Norton

PRESENT:-

Councillor Attwood (Chair)
Councillor Wilson (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Elcock, Hale, Kettle, Rogers, Sykes

OFFICERS:-

Mrs S Holmyard (Lead Officer to the Forum), (Assistant Director of Planning and Environmental Health) - (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Miss H Shepherd – Directorate of Corporate Resources

Together with 13 members of the public

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors L Jones and Marrey.

2 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum and in his remarks commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the Council. Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors introduced themselves.

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

A number of questions and comments were raised by local residents in relation to the following:-

Nature of questions/comments

Referred to

(1) Collapsed wall at Red Hill. The issue had been reported and works had commenced. However, it was considered to now be causing major traffic issues especially for buses in Cranbourne Road.

Director of the Urban Environment for a written response.

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| (2) | Several residents raised issues in relation to the road and pavements in Cranbourne Road, Stourbridge due to the closure of Red Hill and buses using it as an alternative route, causing vehicles to mount the footpath to enable them to pass. It was noted that this issue had also been raised direct with the Directorate of the Urban Environment. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (3a) | Lack of road signage on the Stourbridge ring road/Church Street, Stourbridge, alerting motorists to the diversions/road works at Red Hill. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (3b) | Who will be the delegated trustees for the Ernest Stevens Trust, now that Stourbridge Area Committee no longer exists. | Director of Corporate Resources for a verbal or written response. |
| 3(c) | Drainage at The Bell Hotel, Stourbridge. Rainwater down pipes are not attached to any drainage system so water is falling directly on to the footpath. | Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response |
| (4a) | Council Lettings Policy and the validation of respected tenants. Issue raised in relation to the requirement of a bank/building society providing a reference on the new application form, which they are refusing to complete. | Director of Adult, Community & Housing Services for a verbal or written response. |
| (4b) | All Members of the Forum requested that they be provided with a copy of the new lettings policy pack. | Director of Adult, Community & Housing Services for a written response. |
| (4c) | Drainage on Norfolk Road, Stourbridge. The road had recently been resurfaced, but the surface levels were incorrect causing water to congregate in the centre of the carriageway. | Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response. |
| (5) | Requesting a dropped kerb in front of 14 Maynard Avenue and if the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services could provide financial assistance with this. | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services to provide a written response. |

Other issues raised:-

- Potholes in the following areas:-
 - Norton Road, Stourbridge
 - At the junction of Pedmore Lane and Gauden Road, Stourbridge
 - The top of The Broadway, Norton
 - 2 large potholes in Heath Street, Stourbridge
 - Hagley Road, Stourbridge near to The Foley Arms
 - Community Forum Funding applications and how these would now be approved and what the current balance available was.
 - Possible discrepancy in the allotted Community Forum Funding balance and the position with regard to the annual payment of £10,000 that had previously been approved by the former Stourbridge Area Committee for refurbishment and ongoing maintenance of Mary Stevens Park gates.
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4 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Kettle raised concerns in relation to the trees in Stevens Road, Stourbridge. It was stated that this issue had previously been raised and ward members would be alerted to tree works planned in advance.

Councillor Elcock informed the Forum that a survey had been distributed to residents asking for suggestions as to where the preferred location of a 'teen shelter' and new benches within the Swanpool Park would be situated and that ballot boxes had been placed in three different locations in the area. He also stated that an open day had been arranged on the park for Saturday 23rd February, 2013. All were welcome to attend.

Councillor Mrs Rogers requested an update in relation to the re-construction of a wall in South Road/Charles Road, Stourbridge and when these works would be completed. Councillor Hale responded and stated that he had been informed that works would be completed by 18th March, 2013.

Members raised concerns in relation to blocked drains/gullies and flooding issues in the following areas:-

- Highpark Avenue/Bridgnorth Road
- Outside the Plough & Harrow Public House, Worcester Lane
- Eggington Road, junction with Merriden Avenue
- Area at the rear of The Crown Inn, Hagley Road, Oldswinford

Councillor Elcock raised concerns in relation to speeding traffic in Studley Gate, Stourbridge. Police present agreed to monitor the situation.

5 AREA GRANTS

The Lead Officer gave a verbal update to Members stating that no new applications had been received and highlighted the remaining balances available for the Forum.

6 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Thursday 18th April, 2013 at 6.30pm at Stourbridge Town Hall, Crown Centre, Crown Lane, Stourbridge.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.