

Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

Forum:	Dudley North
Date and time:	Monday 7th November 2022 at 18:30
Venue:	The Royal British Legion, Ruiton Street, Dudley, DY3 2EH
Attendance:	<p>Councillors: M Howard, S Ridney, P Drake, M Evans, S Keasey, T Westwood, A Hughes, B Challenor and D Stanley</p> <p>Officers/ police: L Watson and H Jeavons – Liaison Officers; L Cooper and L Pearson – Community Development Workers</p> <p>Members of the public: 32 Market place: 12</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>England Illegal Money Lending Team- (Loan Shark Awareness) The Illegal Money Lending Team covers the West Midlands, working with organisations to help them become more aware of loan sharks and encourage reporting. They deliver talks and advice. You can find out more about their offer at: https://www.stoploansharks.co.uk/</p> <p>Hope House / Springs Church- (Debt Service & Hope House community support) Offering a debt advice service, youth group, period poverty support, uniform & warm coats; they can also help with food parcels. They have a café based in Gornal. Anyone can go along to have a free ‘cuppa and cake’, with an art group taking place too. Open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10.30-2.30pm – Go to https://springschurch.co.uk/hope-house to find out more about their offer.</p>

Sedgley Evening Townswomen's Guild- (Evening Townswomen's Guild and the Dudley Borough Over 50s Forum)

Offering a number of different group activities for older people. They would like people to also join the older peoples over 50s forum. They offer a walking group, craft classes, craft fairs, choir etc. The groups are based in Sedgley and Coseley. Find out more about their offer at:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/SedgleyEVETG/>

Winter Warmth Team- (Cost of living / Energy support information)

If you or anyone you know is struggling to keep their home warm, call the winter warmth helpline. They can provide advice on how to keep warm, how to use your heating efficiently, set programmers and thermostats, save energy and assist with understanding bills, switch energy suppliers to reduce the amount you are paying and check you are receiving any energy discounts you may be eligible for. Emergency measures available include - heated throws, temporary heating, fuel vouchers, supermarket vouchers, (criteria apply) - find out more at - <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/winterwellbeing>

Northway Neighbourhood Watch / Sedgley Hall Area Park Environment- (Neighbourhood Watch & Northway Park Awareness / Support)

Community group / Neighbourhood Watch, that works with residents to improve the Northway in Sedgley, to keep people informed about crime in the area and what to watch out for. They are also working together to improve the environment of Sedgley Hall Area Park and would also like volunteers to help.

https://www.facebook.com/people/Northway-Neighbourhood-Watch/100068630798037/?ref=py_c

Just Straight Talk- (Isolation and Loneliness)

Just Start Talking Project / Poms-Poms 4 Loneliness is part of, Just Straight Talk. They offer a number of groups in East Coseley for anyone to join – i.e., coffee mornings, craft, skittles, a men's group etc. The groups are aimed at anyone who might feel isolated or lonely. To find out more about what Just Straight Talk Offer, go to: <https://juststraighttalk.org>

To find out more about the Just Start talking project go to

<https://www.facebook.com/pompoms4loneliness>

	<p>Adult Community Learning- (Learning & Education) The Adult and Community Learning service provides learning opportunities for adults and families in Dudley borough. They have courses that are designed to help you to get a job or gain new skills for work. Other courses offer opportunities to improve your health and mental wellbeing, and they have family learning to help you support your children, with their schoolwork. To find out more go to: https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/adult-and-community-learning</p> <p>Climate Change Surveys- (Completing climate change surveys) Residents are being asked to complete the Climate change surveys, for Dudley Borough. Survey link below: https://online.dudley.gov.uk/surveys/yourboroughyourfuture2022/your_borough_your_future.htm</p> <p>Find out more at: https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/get-involved/your-borough-your-future-survey</p> <p>Noted: The opportunity to visit the marketplace was valued. Attendees found the information informative and helpful.</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. The purpose of the change was to encourage more people to participate in the meetings, contribute to the discussions about their local area, help come up with solutions, and work together to address local issues. It was also noted that the name of the forums had been changed to 'Your Home Your Forum' to tie in with the existing 'Your Home' campaign.</p>
<p>3. Election of Chair and appointment of Vice Chair</p>	<p>Councillor D Stanley was appointed as Chair of the forum and Councillor S Ridney as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.</p>

<p>4. Apologies and declarations of interest</p>	<p>Apologies: Councillors A Aston, A Millward and M Westwood and the Police</p>
<p>5. World Café event</p>	<p>The Liaison Officer introduced a World Café event. Everyone present took part in table discussions to share their ideas and knowledge, and identify opportunities to work together to improve the local area.</p> <p><u>Question 1</u> What Makes Dudley North a great place to live, work and play in?</p> <p>Topics of conversation were around: Church Networks; collective community as a strength and support network; green spaces and varied local community/village activities; historical importance and historical /geological sites; transport links and accessible shops and services; voluntary sector organisations and supportive local community groups; adult education opportunities.</p> <p><u>Question 2</u> What Would Make Dudley North an even better place to live, work and play in?</p> <p>Topics of conversation were around:</p> <p>Investment-Reinstating access to the civic amenity site (Anchor Lane) for North Dudley residents; improved play areas and youth facilities; proactive green space maintenance and litter clearing; maintenance of roads/kerbs and drains; improvements to adult social care Policing: Stricter licensing law enforcement; increased police presence on the streets; better CCTV for the safety of residents</p> <p>Transport: Traffic Calming Measures to reduce congestion; traffic filtering arrows to improve safety on Birmingham New Road; a more reliable bus service in Gornal</p> <p>Communication: More community involvement in decisions that impact people i.e., community forum format changes; clarity about plans for new housing and maintaining green spaces which are clearly communicated to local residents; local activities to be better advertised and regard given to older</p>

residents with the method of communicating information; encourage direct communication of concerns to the police and not using Facebook for these matters

Environment: More trees planted and extension of conservation areas in Sedgley and Gornal contributing to mental health and wellbeing of residents; green bin collections started too early and finished too early; lack of recycling facilities for litter picks

Local Community: More joined up working with different community groups will result in more activities, including litter picks and weed maintenance; lower business rates may encourage more diverse shopping facilities

Noted: Councillors would have preferred to use the time allocated for the 'World Café', to sit with their ward residents and talk about their locality, address and investigate any issues raised.

It was suggested that the 'Listening to You' and 'Working with You' agenda items, from the previous community forum meeting format, are reinstated. Residents also requested this opportunity.

Question 3

If together we could take action on one thing, to strengthen this area / community, what would be the most important thing we could do?

- Working together- Integration of communities; Policing 24/7 and visible community police officers
- Traffic moving freely
- Return to the old community forums so people can express their local views
- Local Council Office
- Plain speaking – cut the waffle
- Team-work and better communications with the neighbourhoods
- Clear overgrown weeds
- Clear drains
- Refund on plastic bottles to encourage people to take them back instead of littering

<p>6. Police and communities together</p>	<p>Noted: Police not present. Apologies sent to ward Councillors.</p> <p>Noted: The presence of the Police is an important opportunity for residents to raise issues pertinent to their immediate area. The fire service should also be invited to meetings as they have an important contribution.</p> <p>Noted: The meeting format needs to include the opportunity for residents to ask questions directly to Councillors and get a prompt answer. The current format of Your Home, Your Forum, doesn't include this opportunity. The format of these meetings needs to reviewed.</p> <p>Noted: Resident suggested that these meetings need to be more frequent and suggested quarterly meetings.</p>
<p>7. Forum funding</p>	<p>The Chair provided a summary of recommendations on applications made for funding. It was noted that there were no deferred applications.</p> <p>Noted: Funding summary shared. Community group funding applications were identified per ward.</p> <p>Noted: Funding applications for Christmas tree and On-Street Christmas lighting agreed.</p> <p>Noted: Resident asked about energy costs associated with Christmas tree and Christmas on-street lighting. The costs listed were a 'guestimate'. If the guestimate is less than the actual energy costs, the monetary difference should be credited back.</p> <p>Noted: Funding for 'Friends of Dormston' approved.</p> <p>Noted: New application approved but not included in the report or figures. Sedgley Ward Councillors approved a grant for Brockwood Animal Sanctuary.</p>
<p>8. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>The next round of Your Home Your Forum meetings will take place in April 2023. Details will be available on the following link in due course – Your Home, Your Forum Dudley North</p>

Time meeting ended: 20:50