

**Action Notes of the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and
Stourbridge Town Community Forum**

**Wednesday 18th March, 2015 at 6.30pm
at Chawn Hill Church, Chawn Hill, Stourbridge**

Present:

Councillor N Barlow (Chair)
Councillors C Elcock, I Kettle and H Rogers

Officers:

R Sims (Acting Lead Officer) (Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector), M O'Meara (Self Management Programme Manager, Public Health, Directorate of People Services) and H Shepherd (Democratic Services Officer, Directorate of Resources and Transformation)

Together with 9 members of the public

28 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed those present and Members and Officers introduced themselves.

29 Apologies for Absence

Councillors M Attwood, C Hale, L Jones and I Marrey.

30 Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents

Subject

Action

Fly-tipping issue that had been raised at the last meeting had still not been resolved. Clarification was required as to whether Council Officers, as part of their employment contract, were required to report such an offence.

The Acting Lead Officer to investigate the incident and request the remaining rubbish to be removed and respond direct to the resident.

Request for Councillors and residents to support the campaign for the local empty railway line that runs from Halesowen, through three Black Country Towns, to be reinstated as an intercity passenger line rather than solely used as a freight line service, to help reduce road congestion in the borough.

Parking issues at Mary Stevens Park.

Poor attendance at Community Forum meetings by Ward Councillors and residents.

The poor condition of the road surface and pavements at The Heathlands, Stourbridge, following its recent resurfacing. It was considered to be in a worse condition than before the works were undertaken. A comment was also made with regards to the quality of the materials that had been used.

Members supported the scheme in principle and suggested that the resident contact his local ward Councillors and MP to progress the campaign.

The Acting Lead Officer to forward comments to Highways Officers and the Leader of the Council.

The Acting Lead Officer and Chair to the Forum agreed to write to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council expressing residents continued concerns in relation to the parking issues at Mary Stevens Park.

The Acting Lead Officer to speak with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and suggest that this issue be included in the work programme for 2015/16 municipal year.

The Chair confirmed that several Councillors were unable to attend the meeting due to illness and work commitments and apologies had been submitted on their behalf.

The Chair also stated that the Community Forum meetings were advertised in press releases and on social networking sites, but would raise the issue at a future Community Forum review meeting.

The Acting Lead Officer to raise awareness of future meetings with Tenants and Residents Associations and the Participation Team.

Referred for a response/action.

31 **Public Health – Self Management Programme**

M O'Meara, Self Management Programme Manager, Public Health, gave a brief presentation on the free Self Management Programmes that were available to residents that had a long term health condition or were a carer to someone with a long term health condition. The programmes were developed to help improve residents' quality of life by giving new skills and information to help manage their condition. Leaflets on the range of programmes available were circulated at the meeting.

Residents that wished to partake in any of the courses available were requested to contact the Self Management Programme team direct.

A resident suggested that posters advertising the range of programmes available could be placed on Tenants and Residents Associations notice boards and circulated to Participation Teams and Home Affairs to encourage further take-up.

32 **Working with you: Topics raised by Local Councillors**

Subject

Action

Councillor Elcock raised a concern in relation to Badgers causing damage to properties in Roman Road and Sandy Lane but that the Council was unable to provide any help due to the animals being protected.

Affected residents should contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or the Wildlife Trust who could provide some assistance in managing the situation.

33 **Community Forum Funding**

No applications were received within the required timescale to be considered at this meeting. The update report submitted was noted.

The Chair referred to a letter that had been received from UNIT3SIXTY expressing thanks for the grant of Community Forum funding and referred to their progress to date.

34 **Dates, Time and Venues of Future Meetings**

The draft dates of the Community Forum meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year, subject to Council approval in May 2015, were noted.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm