

**Action Notes of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and
Dudley Wood Community Forum**

**Monday 16th March, 2015 at 6.30pm
at The Savoy Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton**

Present:-

Councillor Q Zada (Chair)
Councillor B Cotterill (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J Cowell, W Duckworth and E Taylor

Officers:-

A Tromans - Lead Officer to the Forum (Information Systems Manager, ICT Services) and K Griffiths - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Resources and Transformation)

Together with 12 members of the public

28 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following general announcements, the Councillors and Council officers introduced themselves.

29 **Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor D Sparks.

30 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments by Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Reference was made to conifer trees being planted on Council properties, which were being allowed to grow out of control, causing problems for new tenants, preventing sunlight to neighbouring properties and interfering with TV reception aerial signals. The resident referred to a particular property affected by overgrown conifer trees by no fault of her own and requested that the branches be trimmed or the tree taken down.

Referred for a written response.

It was noted that the matter had been report on a number of occasions by various Councillors and Council officers, however, no action had been taken.

The resident and Members also queried whether there were any policies/restrictions in tenancy agreements in relation to planting and maintenance of fast growing trees and whether surveys were carried out on trees in need of pruning as part of the void management process.

Detailed discussions/updates concerning Saltwells Nature Reserve, with particular reference to the proposals for a new Wardens base and the situation regarding the replacement of the previous warden. Reference was also made to:-

- Historic anti-social behaviour problems returning due to the lack of a warden on site.
- Comparisons made between nature reserves in the Dudley Borough and how these were financed.
- Reference made to the funding received from the lotto fund and what the funding was used for.
- Suggestion made to contact the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) to help with alternative sources of funding.
- The sum put aside for the Council (£150,000) and queries raised as to whether the funding was still earmarked for the purpose of this development once match-funding was available.

The Lead Officer noted the ongoing issues and responded to specific points. He indicated that he would be available at the end of the meeting for further discussion on the matter.

It was suggested whether organisations from the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's Ward could offer support to help identify alternative funding opportunities.

A representative of Netherton Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) referred to options available for funding to illuminate the anchor in Netherton.

In relation to a recent incident involving the Police, a query was made as to who was responsible to be recharged in cases where front doors were destroyed by the police as a result of forced entry.

Lead Officer to confirm whether the £150,000 reserved for the development was still available.

Councillors of Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's Ward to provide support and explore the possibility of forming a 'friends of the reserve' group.

Noted. The Chair encouraged the representative of Netherton TRA to apply to the Community Forum for funding.

Referred for a written response.

Would the Council recharge the tenant or was there a route to recharge the police and would the cost be required upfront prior to repairs being carried out?

Mention was made to fly-tipping on Bath Street, off Coppice Lane with a request that the matter be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Referred for a written response.

Queries made in relation to the repair work currently being undertaken on Cinder Bank, causing queuing traffic. It was noted that maintenance work was currently being carried out to reinforce a collapsed wall.

Noted.

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

Subject

Action

Councillor W Duckworth referred to problems with queuing traffic on Crossley Street, which was causing delays on Halesowen Road and requested that a Traffic Survey be carried out. Following comments by Councillor E Taylor, it was noted that a feasibility study had been requested to be carried out in that area.

Referred for consideration and action.

Councillor B Cotterill referred to the paved area at the top of Quarry Bank High Street, which was being used for parking and causing difficulty for pedestrians. It was noted that there was adequate alternative parking nearby and suggested that either the existing railings be extended to prevent access to vehicles or arrange for bollards to be installed.

Referred for consideration and action.

Councillor B Cotterill referred the barrier at the rear of Saltwells Road and queried when the barrier would be provided.

The Lead Officer to provide the exact location of the site the barrier would be positioned and representatives of the Saltwells Tenants and Residents Association to conduct a 'door knock' exercise to consult residents.

32 **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

Application

Wallheath Prince Albert Football Club

Recommendation

Deferred for further information to be submitted by the applicant.

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

Subject to the approval of the Council at its annual meeting in May, 2015, the provisional dates of the Community Forum for 2015/16 were as follows (all 6.30pm with venues to be confirmed):

- Tuesday 16th June, 2015
 - Wednesday 2nd September, 2015
 - Tuesday 3rd November, 2015
 - Tuesday 26th January, 2016
 - Tuesday 15th March, 2016
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The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.