

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF GORNAL/UPPER GORNAL AND
WOODSETTON COMMUNITY FORUM**

HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2013

**AT THE LOWER GORNAL BRITISH LEGION, RUITON STREET, LOWER GORNAL,
DUDLEY**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Branwood (Vice-Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillors Mrs Ameson, A Aston, S Turner and Wright

Officers:-

Mr D Lowndes (Lead Officer to the Committee) (Assistant Director Culture and Leisure) – (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mrs K Buckle (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with twenty one members of the public

11 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Casey.

12 INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and Members introduced themselves.

**13 THE DUDLEY GROUP OF HOSPITALS NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
FOUNDATION TRUST.**

A verbal presentation was given by Mr D Stenson, Governor of the Dudley Group of Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust relating to the changes in the National Health Service and how these would affect the Dudley Borough.

Mr Stenson invited those present to attend an annual meeting on 4th September, 2013 which would be held at Russells Hall Hospital and outlined the purpose for the meeting.

He referred to a service review that was being undertaken and the changes that had taken place in relation to the Dudley Primary Care Trust and those responsibilities which had been transferred to the Council.

Mr Stenson advised that Health Watch, Dudley were recruiting members to their Board.

Councillor S Turner advised that as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board in Dudley and as Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing the re-organisation of the health service was ongoing and strategic work was being undertaken by the Council in relation to this with various meetings with professionals taking place in order to implement the changes.

Mr Stenson outlined the purpose of Patient Panels advising that this would involve patient involvement in local general practitioners surgeries in order to investigate how practices meet the needs of their patients and suggest any improvements that should be undertaken.

13 LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response.

Nature of question/comment.

- 1 Complaints were made relating to the increasing numbers of fridges and freezers that were being abandoned on road sides, particularly in Cotwall End Road and Summit Place, Gornal Wood.
- 2 A request that litter bins be provided in the Boundary Hill and Brookdale areas of Gornal Wood.
- 3 Complaints were made of anti social behaviour in Elan Close, Lower Gornal and a request was made for the closure of the public right of way between Elan Close and Humphrey Street, Lower Gornal.

A representative from the Police who was present stated that he would request further policing of the area.

Councillor S Turner to speak to Sergeant Crookshank to request that the area is policed day and night.

- 4 A request that information be provided in relation to re-offending Council tenants and the eviction process and in particular how long this process would take.

The Chair referred to the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team who were contactable through Dudley Council Plus.

- 5 A request that grass cuttings be removed following the mowing of grass verges and other land by the Council and in particular in Autumn Drive and Kennedy Crescent.

- 6 A query in relation to grass verges that were previously mowed by the Council but are no longer mowed and in particular the verge in Autumn Drive.

Councillor S Turner requested those present provide details to their Ward Councillors who would raise the issue with the appropriate Officer.

- 7 A request that the trees in Turner Street at the rear of Elan Close to Humphrey Street, Lower Gornal be pruned, as these were overgrown.

- 8 A request that the litter be removed from the pathway between Elan Close and Humphrey Street, Lower Gornal.

- 9 A query was raised in relation to the outcome of an application to change the use of the Pupil Referral Unit at the Sycamore Centre,

Councillor S Turner undertook to contact Councillor Crumpton in relation to this.

- 10 A query was raised in relation to an agreement entered into by McDonalds in Upper Gornal to undertake a litter pick of the area.

Councillor A Aston to speak to the relevant Officers in the Directorate of the Urban Environment as to whether this agreement existed and was being adhered to.

Other issues raised:-

- The Chair confirmed that funding had been approved in order to install a Closed Circuit Television in Gornal Village and that this would be linked to the live monitoring centre in Sedgley.
- The Chair advised that a meeting was to take place between Councillor S Turner, the Director of the Urban Environment and Councillor Wood, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture, in relation to the possible creation of a Recreational Play area in Stickley Lane, Lower Gornal.

14 WORKING WITH YOU: TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

No issues were raised by Members.

15 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on two applications for funding and the Lead Officer referred to a further two applications that had been received.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £525 to Friends of Sycamore Adventure towards the hire of attractions and entertainment for a fun day.
 - (b) That the Area Forum approved the grant application from Fast + Aid in principle on the basis that it should be referred to all other forums in the borough and considered as a borough-wide application and that the amount to be awarded be dependent on support being forthcoming from the remaining nine Community Forums.
 - (c) That a grant in the sum of £5,000 to the Woodsetton Charitable Trust be supported in principle subject to the successful funding application with external sources. In the event that the amount received from external sources be lower than the figure indicated in the application, the Area Forums grant would also be reduced proportionately.
 - (d) That a grant in the sum of £7,500 to the Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre be supported in principle subject to the Lead Officer circulating the application to Members and confirming the level of grant awarded in accordance with the funding guidelines.
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16 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Tuesday, 5th November, 2013 at 6.30 pm at the Baggeridge Social Club, 1 The Straits, Lower Gornal, Dudley.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm