

## Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

<b>Forum:</b>	<b>Stourbridge</b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 – 18:00</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Stourbridge Institute.</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<p>Councillors P Bradley, P Lee, D Borley, L Taylor-Childs, J Clinton, I Kettle, C Eccles and S Clark</p> <p>Officers/ police: J Skeldon and J Pilkington (Liaison Officers), C Tromans, D Tiwana and A Stan (Community Development Workers), C Howes, V Marshall and X Davies (Press Office/CAPA), K Aherne (Waste Management) Sergeant R Treacy (Stourbridge) and Sergeant J Norgrove (Lye) (Police)</p> <p>Total Attendance: 56</p>
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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>There were groups with market stalls.</p> <p>Riverside House Project <a href="https://www.riverside-house.org.uk/">https://www.riverside-house.org.uk/</a>.</p> <p>K Aherne and X Davies from Waste Management with information on climate change and survey: <a href="https://www.dudley.gov.uk/news/your-borough-your-future-your-views-matter/">https://www.dudley.gov.uk/news/your-borough-your-future-your-views-matter/</a></p> <p>Dudley's Winter Warmth team, providing leaflets and information to residents on how to keep warm this winter.</p> <p>CVT (Shared Lives)</p>

	Dudley Falls Prevention Service
2. Welcome and introduction to the meeting	<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>
3. Election of Chair and appointment of Vice Chair	Councillor P Lee was appointed as Chair of the forum and Councillor J Clinton as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.
4. Apologies and declarations of interest	Apologies - Councillors K Razzaq, P Lowe, M Hanif, T Creed, K Shakespeare, A Lees and A Hopwood.
5. World Café event	<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>There were five tables, each with the same 3 questions to consider. It was well received although it was felt that a microphone would be useful for next time. Feedback was provided from each table at the end.</p> <p><b>Question 1 - What makes Stourbridge a great place to live, work &amp; play? What do we love about this place eg: history, culture, physical/natural environment, people, facilities?</b></p> <p>Friendly 😊  Parks &amp; green spaces</p>

*Canal Network*  
*Nightlife*  
*Shopping*  
*Good public transport links*  
*Schools are good! King Eds College etc*  
*Close to the countryside*  
*Good police – visible*  
*Creative*  
*Rich history*  
*Mary Stevens Park & Café*  
*Health Hub not advertised enough*  
*Communications bus & rail very good*  
*Clock in the High Street*  
*Leisure Centre is very good*  
*Good Health Care Corbett’s Hospital*  
*Library*  
*Good Schools*  
*Golf Course*  
*Great for Football & Rugby*  
*Bonded Warehouse Canal Trust*  
*People who live here*  
*Good transport links*  
*Close to the Countryside*  
*Good open spaces*  
*Excellent medical provision*  
*Good schools*  
*Variety of organisations to join*  
*Town Hall – cinema & shows*  
*Mary Stevens & Wollescote Parks*  
*Several sporting clubs*  
*Parking*  
*Household recycling*  
*Several churches*  
*Stourbridge in Bloom*  
*Artistic*  
*Good volunteers*  
*District history – buildings & canals*

*Good library*  
*Thriving theatre group*  
*Leisure centre*  
*The people*  
*Plenty of green spaces*  
*Community*  
*Close to open countryside*  
*Good schools*  
*Access to major roads & rail networks*  
*Culture & history*  
*Semi-rural*  
*Intriguing history*  
*Many facilities parks etc*  
*High & medium level of housing standards*  
*Middle income groups*  
*Joint highest contributor of total council tax*  
*Library*  
*Learning opportunities*  
*Lovely parks – Mary Stevens*  
*Generosity*  
*Amenities*  
*Parks*  
*Local people*  
*Community spirit*  
*Because of green spaces lots of wildlife*  
*Welcoming Black Country*  
*Businesses*  
*Schools*  
*Friendly people*  
*A great team-spirit*  
*Independent shops*  
*Diversity, ethnicities & LGBTQ+*  
*Stourbridge Town Hall*  
*Amazing green spaces*  
*Open green spaces*  
*We are pushing for sustainability*  
*Creativity – the arts*

*Tram & Dudley Tram  
Canal  
We can make all things in Stourbridge  
Excellent transport ie: trains & buses (bijou able to be)  
Stourbridge just feels safe  
The people are friendly  
History – glass making etc  
George the Station Cat  
Access to local nature  
Sports facilities  
Glass mile – museums  
Good transport services  
Local to greenbelt  
Close to NHS services  
Heritage & culture  
Canals & waterways  
Parks & urban green spaces  
Educational opportunities  
People  
Close to open countryside & clean air*

***Question 2 – To focus on future aspirations: What would make Stourbridge an even better place to live, work & play in?***

*Better buses to Wolverhampton  
Stourbridge High Street needs investment  
Pedestrianisation  
More cycle lanes  
Better night life  
Less beggars  
Own police station  
Regular litter cleansing  
Regular street cleansing  
Park maintenance  
More seating  
Maintenance & repair of buildings – especially Market Street  
Vocational college  
Independent shops*

	<p><i>Increase parking times</i></p> <p><i>Enforce alcohol free zones</i></p> <p><i>Evening events to attract wider variety of people</i></p> <p><i>More police patrols</i></p> <p><i>Quicker health procedures for example: fast track access to specialist services</i></p> <p><i>Preservation and care of all green spaces</i></p> <p><i>If the tyrannical behaviour of headteachers was controlled so they could not alienate &amp; divide communities</i></p> <p><i>Increase in cycle routes /lanes</i></p> <p><i>20mph limit for cars in built up/residential areas</i></p> <p><i>Investment in local community facilities &amp; clubs</i></p> <p><i>Stronger promotion of voluntary groups ie paths using social media</i></p> <p><i>More public involvement in council decisions like this forum</i></p> <p><i>Police back on the beat – more visibility</i></p> <p><i>Link generation gaps etc – activities for old &amp; young combined</i></p> <p><i>Better, less restrictive access to community – owned spaces eg schools</i></p> <p><i>Improved access to doctors &amp; dentists</i></p> <p><i>More reliable transport links</i></p> <p><i>More opportunity to connect people</i></p> <p><i>More opportunities in the education sector for kids to get involved</i></p> <p><i>More readily available information how to look after our town</i></p> <p><i>Regular update of recreational areas</i></p> <p><i>Better &amp; simpler kerbside recycling</i></p> <p><i>High street investment</i></p> <p><i>More care parks</i></p> <p><i>Keeping on top of our parks &amp; leisure complexes</i></p> <p><i>Green care investment</i></p> <p><i>Speed watch control</i></p> <p><i>Police visibility</i></p> <p><i>Better education primary level on dropping rubbish</i></p> <p><i>Find ways to make the ring road blend in better</i></p> <p><i>More independent shops in Stourbridge</i></p> <p><i>More patrols from the police</i></p> <p><i>Stop developing on green field sites</i></p> <p><i>Redevelopment of some of the car parks ie by the tip in Stourbridge</i></p> <p><i>Tell landlords off</i></p> <p><i>Listen to everyone to work together</i></p>
--	---

*Refurbish derelict houses/sites like in Stoke/Liverpool & sell them cheap but they need to renovate them with a mortgage rather than using green belt etc to build new homes*  
*Less litter & fly tipping*  
*Refurbish Ryemarket car park*  
*Pedestrianize Stourbridge High Street*  
*Electric bikes in more areas*  
*Cycle lane networks*  
*Investment in all parks*  
*Encourage landlords to let empty shops or use windows for displays*  
*Connectivity within town*

**Question 3 – To focus on making things happen: If you could take action on one thing to strengthen this area/community, what would be the most important thing we could do:**

*More local community interaction events*  
*More cultural understanding*  
*More respect related education in schools*  
*Local area pride*  
*Variety of shops – market days*  
*Connectivity*  
*Parking enforcement*  
*Create spaces for pedestrians*  
*Support new independent businesses*  
*Reduce rates*  
*More interaction between the police and the public*  
*New Police Station in Stourbridge*  
*More youth provisions, services and pride in our area*  
*Safer Area*  
*More co-ordination of services = police/council/youth workers*  
*Ability to communicate more easily with the Cllrs*  
*Make place feel safer*  
*Councillors drop-in centre – regularly (Ryemarket – Saturday mornings)*  
*More PCSO's visiting anti-social areas*  
*Be prepared to challenge landlords who allow bad behaviour from their tenants from other countries*  
*Crime*  
*More police*  
*More regular forums*  
*Stop developing & building new homes, utilise what is already there*

	<p><i>Reduce rates fir shops in the town centre</i>  <i>Planning with a vision for the future for our community with people as a priority</i>  <i>Visionary people-based planning not crisis planning for the future</i>  <i>For DMBC to actually listen and support community groups not just box-tick to please central government</i></p>
<p>6. Police and communities together</p>	<p>A discussion took place on local policing and related issues.</p> <p>'Q' are questions from members of the public, and 'A' are the responses given by the police.</p> <p>Q The public want to feel safer. Great concern expressed about the increase of car crime and burglaries.  <i>A It was acknowledged that further resources would be a nicety. Currently, there is a recruitment drive for an additional 20,000 officers within the Dudley area to receive the benefit of approx. 60 new officers. However, there will be an impact in training these new officers.</i></p> <p>Q Traffic speeding issues were raised, people are going 60 mph in residential areas such as Heath Street.  <i>A The Police advised a 'speed check' could be done in the area, but this would not solve any long-term problems. Police suggested that Community Speed Watch groups could be established. It was also acknowledged that the speed cameras around Stourbridge ring road were using obsolete film and did not work.</i></p> <p>Q Antisocial behaviour raised at Wollescote Park.  <i>A The Police advised that they need to work with the community regarding the offences committed. They are unable to catch the offenders once they have left the scene.</i></p> <p>Q One member of the public described how she had felt let down by the Police when hosting an event at Mary Stevens Park where the proceeds of the event were stolen. It is understood that there is CCTV coverage of part of the park, it is up to the Police to follow this up not a member of the public who will not be allowed access to the CCTV.  <i>A Sergeant explained that that there is a grading system to calls: threat, risk and harm with finite resources available and that more technology is being used to identify offenders.</i></p>



	<p>Q Lack of visibility of police officers raised as an issue.</p> <p>A <i>The Police advised that the limited resources available need to be best placed. I.e: a police officer is visible in Lye High Street every day, where possible. Street Watch is also a great thing to have in place.</i></p>
7. Forum funding	<p>The Chair provided a summary of recommendations on applications made for funding and invited Councillors to consider any deferred applications from the Community Grant Panel.</p> <p>Chair confirmed that all Christmas Tree light funding applications had been approved.</p> <p>A representative from Stourbridge and District Chamber of Trade thanked the Forum for approving the grant for Christmas lights/decorations and also made them aware that there may be a Stourbridge Carnival in the future year.</p>
8. Date of next meeting	<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.</p>

**Time meeting ended: 20:30**