

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

**Tuesday 15th March, 2016 at 6.30pm
at Quarry Bank Community Centre, Sheffield Street, Quarry Bank**

Present:-

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

Officers:-

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

Together with 14 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 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments by Local Residents**

Subject

Action

An update was requested on the current progress position with regards to Saltwells Nature Reserve.

The Lead Officer stated that he had been advised that there were no further developments to report at the present time. It was suggested that to attract funding for the site it was recommended that an independent group, separate to the Council, be established.

Members expressed their support in developing the Saltwells Nature Reserve as it was considered an ideal location that could be used for educational purposes by local schools, but in the current condition and without any facilities, this would not be possible.

Councillor D Sparks informed residents that the Nature Conservation Strategy was currently under review and out for public consultation.

It was agreed that the Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews and Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood Ward Members would work collaboratively to form a group and progress this issue forward.

A resident referred to a small strip of land adjoined to 73 Darby End Road that the occupier of the property wished to purchase to extend his driveway. He had been advised by Council Officers that he would need to purchase the whole site for this to be possible. It was stated that if the whole site was to be purchased, this could impact upon access rights to the allotment site.

The Chair commented that this particular issue had been ongoing for several years and that there was too much bureaucracy and not enough rationale given when considering this type of application.

It was agreed that Ward Councillors would arrange a meeting with the occupier of 73 Darby End Road and relevant officers to agree a solution to this issue.

A resident referred to the rubbish and overgrown trees and shrubs on the land at the rear of Coppice Lane, where a factory once was, and requested that it be cleared.

Councillor B Cotterill confirmed that the land was owned by Westfield Merry Hill and that the issue had been reported and an external company had been employed by Westfield to clear the area.

A resident referred to tenants requesting to turn their front gardens into driveways to prevent damage to their vehicles when left on the road. However it was stated that if works was not completed by the Council or that the kerbs in front of the driveways had not been dropped, tenants had been warned of possible eviction, but that the costs charged by the Council to undertake this work was astronomical.

Councillor D Sparks stated that there would be a full review of all charges and one of the focuses would be on the charge for dropped kerbs and as to whether this work needed to be undertaken by the Council.

A resident requested dog fouling enforcement on the pathway/accessway leading from Thorns Road to Park Road, Quarry Bank and for dog stencils encouraging residents to 'pick up', similar to those used in Lye and Netherton Park, be marked out along the pathway. It was also requested that a dog fouling bin be put on the pathway, near to Park Road, that could be used when the park gates were locked.

Referred for a response/action.

Councillor D Sparks requested that the Communications and Public Affairs Team develop a campaign encouraging residents to 'pick up' and inform perpetrators of the consequences if they were caught not doing so.

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

Subject

Action

Councillor J Cowell requested that Democratic Services and the Participation Development Officer communicate future meeting dates to avoid clashes with Community Forums and Tenants and Residents Association meetings.

Noted.

Democratic Services to circulate the draft Council calendar of meetings to the Participation Development Officer for information.

Councillor B Cotterill requested hardcore surfacing to be placed on the grass verge at the bottom of Woodland Avenue.

Referred for a response/action.

Councillor Q Zada referred to the ongoing issue with regards to the correct spelling of Fulwood Crescent. It was requested that signage and Council IT systems be amended so that the spelling of the road was consistent.

Referred for a response/action.

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

Application

Decision made since the last meeting

Netherton Islamic Trust

£1000 Approved

Application

Recommendation

Dudley Water Ski Club	Approve £1000 in total, £500 allocated from Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and £500 allocated from Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood.
Fusion Youth Group	Refused, as members were mindful that there was no certainty that the organisation would continue beyond the period of the funding applied for.
Quarry Bank in Bloom	Approve £5000, to be allocated from Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward High Street Improvement Fund.
Quarry Bank Music Club	Approve £2900, to be allocated from Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood.

32 **Dates, time and venues of future meetings**

The draft dates of the Community Forum meetings for the 2016/17 municipal year, subject to Council approval in May 2016, were noted.

33 **Comments made by the Chair**

The Chair referred to Councillor W Duckworth, who would be standing down as a Councillor in May, 2016, and expressed his appreciation to him for the work that he had done during his time as a Councillor.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm.