

## Your Home, Your Forum Meeting Notes

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| <b>Forum:</b>                | <b>Brierley Hill</b>  |
| <b>Date and time:</b>        | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 6.30pm</b>   |
| <b>Venue:</b>                | <b>Arise Church, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 7HS</b>  |
| <b>Attendance:</b>           | <p>Councillors W Little, (Chair), K Archer, P Atkins, A Dale, A Davies, S Edwards, S Greenaway, P Harley, D Harley, L Johnson, E Lawrence, K Lewis and K Westwood</p> <p>Council Officers: Manjit Johal (Liaison Officer) and Marissa Westwood (Community Development Worker)</p> <p>Police: Inspector Steven Crowe and Sergeant Kirsty Bonnan</p> <p>Members of the public: 37</p> |
| <b>Meeting end time:</b>     | 8.10 pm   |
| <b>Agenda item</b>           | <b>Notes</b>  |
| 1. Welcome and introductions | The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the house keeping arrangements.   |
| 2. Apologies                 | Councillors M Cook and M Webb   |

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| 3. Declarations of Interest | None   |
| 4. Minutes                  | The minutes of the meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> October, 2024 were approved as a correct record.  |
| 5. Community Safety         | <p>Mark Wilson (MW) (Community Safety Officer) was in attendance and provided a brief presentation on the work of the Team.</p> <p>It was noted that the Team led for the Authority on supporting communities to develop solutions that help tackle crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>MW offered to undertake awareness sessions on extremism should anyone be interested. Contact details were made available, as follows:- <a href="mailto:mark.wilson@dudley.gov.uk">mark.wilson@dudley.gov.uk</a> 01384 816883</p>  |
| 6. Dudley Have Your Say     | <p>Mark Wilson (Community Safety Officer) informed the meeting about the upcoming survey.</p> <p>The following was noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dudley borough residents would be able to have their say on community safety issues.</li> <li>• Dudley’s community safety partnership ‘safe and sound’ would shortly be asking local people what should be done to help make the borough a safer place</li> <li>• People who live, visit or work in Dudley borough will be able to say what they think the big community safety issues are by completing a survey online <a href="http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org">www.dudleysafeandsound.org</a></li> <li>• The survey would be open until the end of March.</li> </ul> |

|  | <p>Further information was available on the safe and sound website<br/> <a href="http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org">www.dudleysafeandsound.org</a></p>   |  |                     |  |  |   |  |  |
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| <p>7. Have your say</p>  | <p>The Chair invited residents to speak on issues. The Following is a summary of key issues raised at the meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="562 464 2074 1407"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="562 464 1171 552"><b><u>Issue</u></b></th> <th data-bbox="1178 464 2074 552"><b><u>Response/Follow up actions</u></b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="562 557 1171 810"> <p><u>Kingswinford Post Office</u> – A resident asked about progress and whether there had been any interest in opening a Post Office in Kingswinford.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1178 557 2074 810"> <p>Councillor P Atkins reported that an application was to be submitted but details were not as yet known.</p> <p>The Leader suggested that providing the facility at the library could be looked at as option B.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="562 815 1171 1407"> <p><u>Off Road Motor Bikes</u> – Several complaints were made about nuisance caused by off road bikes at various locations and enforcement action was queried.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1178 815 2074 1407"> <p>MW explained about draft proposals being looked at as part of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Inspector Steve Crowe also referred to dedicated police teams that had run successful operations in seizing off road bikes. He also explained about upcoming planned operations aimed at tackling the issue. All were encouraged to report incidents through various channels to provide intelligence so that police resources could be targeted at appropriate sites.</p> <p>Ward Councillors were also available to report issues.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> |  | <b><u>Issue</u></b> | <b><u>Response/Follow up actions</u></b> | <p><u>Kingswinford Post Office</u> – A resident asked about progress and whether there had been any interest in opening a Post Office in Kingswinford.</p> | <p>Councillor P Atkins reported that an application was to be submitted but details were not as yet known.</p> <p>The Leader suggested that providing the facility at the library could be looked at as option B.</p> | <p><u>Off Road Motor Bikes</u> – Several complaints were made about nuisance caused by off road bikes at various locations and enforcement action was queried.</p> | <p>MW explained about draft proposals being looked at as part of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Inspector Steve Crowe also referred to dedicated police teams that had run successful operations in seizing off road bikes. He also explained about upcoming planned operations aimed at tackling the issue. All were encouraged to report incidents through various channels to provide intelligence so that police resources could be targeted at appropriate sites.</p> <p>Ward Councillors were also available to report issues.</p> |
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|  | <p><u>Fens Pool Gates</u> – The gates leading to the field had been taken off and barriers had not been replaced,</p>  | <p>The Fens Pool Canal and River Trust were responsible for maintenance issues.</p>   |
|  | <p><u>Regeneration Schemes</u> – Reference was made to anti-social behaviour and fly tipping issues at public houses that had been closed for a while ie Foresters Arms and Brockmoor House. It was queried whether regeneration schemes were available for the sites.</p> | <p>The Leader stated that bids for funding could be placed for regeneration schemes. There was currently a number of premises on a list and it was dealt with on a first come, first served basis.</p> <p>Councillor K Westwood stated that a fourth planning application in respect of Brockmoor House had now been approved for retail, but details were sketchy. With regard to Foresters Arms it was noted that it was privately owned and attempts were being made to track the owner.</p> <p>The Community Safety Officer also asked that issues relating to anti-social behaviour be reported to him via email to enable resources to be targeted at affected areas.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Parking on Pavements</u> – Concerns were raised about people parking their cars on pavements causing access difficulties for those with</p>  | <p>The Chair acknowledged the issues and dangers caused by cars parked on pavements. He referred to a recent motion considered at full Council that had been unanimously supported to take action and a</p>   |

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|  | <p>disabilities, particularly around the Dell Stadium.</p> <p>Inconsiderate parking issues around schools was also referred to.</p>                       | <p>survey would initially be conducted to identify nuisance areas.</p> <p>The Leader asked that car parking obstruction issues be reported to the Council so that intelligence can be gathered and Enforcement Officers allocated to 'hotspot' areas, including around schools.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the parking strategy would look at introducing free residential permits.</p> <p>The Chair indicated that parking enforcement around schools, to include educating parents, could be looked into.</p> <p>It was requested that issues with specific roads be reported to Ward Councillors for action to be taken.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Derelict Bungalow</u> – It was reported that a bungalow at Pleasant Close had been vacant for 11 years and complaints had been made about rats.</p> | <p>The Leader undertook to pursue the matter.</p>  |
|  | <p><u>Kingswinford Traffic Flow and Safety Upgrade</u> – The current position was queried as works had stopped.</p>                                       | <p>The Leader stated that works had stopped because of the chaos caused by the sequence of traffic and consequential queues. It was working better now</p>   |

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|                                    |  | and he undertook to chase up progress with the second phase. |
| 8. Police and communities together | <p>Inspector Steve Crowe provided statistical information, and in doing so, reported His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services (HMICFRS) had formally recognised West Midlands Police for improvements and progress made in their call handling. Currently, on average, 101 calls were being answered within 10 seconds.</p> <p>A short presentation was made on the national Online Home system that allowed people to report crimes which was accessible from the West Midlands Police website. The completed form would be directed to the local Neighbourhood Police Team for actioning.</p> <p>Inspector Steve Crowe responded to queries and stated that Brierley Hill police station would be closing towards the end of the year. Moving forward, the intention was to have police officers out and about in the community to speak to residents about issues and problems in the area.</p> <p>A resident referred to attacks on shops and that the police would not accept the CCTV footage. A discussion took place around the quality of CCTV footage. The Leader requested that where particular premises were concerned, residents should speak to their Ward Councillors to pass on intelligence.</p> <p>Reference was made to rising crimes involving youngsters with weapons and it was queried whether there were schemes in place to visit schools with a view to educating pupils. Inspector Steve Crowe explained about the various police initiatives that took place across schools and sharing of information. Further, the Chief Constable was passionate about this issue and had a robust stance in educating youngsters and was of the view that any child caught with weapons would be dealt with custodially.</p> |  |

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|                                | <p>Councillor K Lewis referred to the large number of staffing changes over the years and queried when consistent permanent staff would be in place. In responding, Inspector Steve Crowe explained that it was the nature of the role and staff were rightly taking up promotions. New staff were coming in with different skill sets, which can be deemed to be positive.</p> <p>Councillor A Davies referred to the closure of Brierley Hill Police Station and expressed his view that the new base at Castlegate was not in the right location. Reference was also made to a notice of motion at full Council regarding police station closures. In responding Inspector Steve Crowe stated that he was unable to influence the decision and reiterated the need to have police officers out and about in the community, as it was more effective.</p> <p>In concluding, Inspector Steve Crowe reiterated the need for residents to use the channels available to report crimes to enable intelligence to be gathered and action to be taken.</p> |
| <p>9. Date of next meeting</p> | <p>To be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Details of future meetings will be available on the following link thereafter:- <a href="#">Your Home, Your Forum Brierley Hill</a></p>  |