

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSWINFORD NORTH AND
WALL HEATH/KINGSWINFORD SOUTH AND WORDSLEY COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Tuesday, 4th February, 2014 at 6.30 p.m.
at St Mary's Church Hall, The Village, Kingswinford.

PRESENT: -

Councillor Blood (Chair)
Councillor Miller (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Billingham, Boleyn, Harley, Hemingsley, Jones and Tyler.

OFFICERS:

Mr J Butler (Acting Lead Officer to the Forum), Directorate of Urban Environment, Dr R Sims - Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), and Mrs L Jury –Directorate of Corporate Resources, together with 17 members of the public.

9. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor Mrs Simms and Iain Newman.

10. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting of the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath/ Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum.

11. **LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below.

Nature of questions/comments

- (1) A Community Funding Application was requested by Mr Penn in relation to funding to refurbishing a scout hut on site of Dawley Brook School. An application form was

given to Mr Penn at the meeting.

- (2) A resident complained about the on-going problems associated with parking in The Village resulting in residents being unable to leave their homes due to parked cars blocking their driveways and concerns were also expressed that emergency vehicles would not be able to access homes when necessary. In reply to the problem, the issue of alternative parking at the back of the Church Hall was discussed. It was noted that a site meeting had been scheduled for 27th March 2014 to discuss this issue and it was agreed that Peter Vangeersdaele be requested to consult with residents before the meeting to discuss ways in which to alleviate the problem.
- (3) A lengthy discussion ensued relating to the proposal to transfer by way of leasehold the land and buildings alongside the services currently provided at New Bradley Hall Residential Care Home, to a suitably skilled and experienced not for profit organisation. Concerns were raised once again regarding the lack of consultation with residents and the relevant Cabinet Member regarding this decision and a member of the Action Group questioned why a copy of the tender documentation he had requested had not been received. In reply, Dr Sims apologised that a reply to a question raised at the last Forum had not been replied to and gave an assurance that a reply would be sent by the end of the week. Referring to the tender documentation, Dr Sims reported that he would enquire why the information had not been sent. It was noted that the future of New Bradley Hall would be discussed in detail at the Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee on 4th March 2014 to which the public were invited to attend and it was agreed that a copy of the agenda would be sent to Mr Vanes and Mr Scott. Mr Vanes was advised to send in observations made on the consultation process to the Lead Officer of the Scrutiny Committee in advance of the meeting.
- (4) A resident raised concern regarding a change in the route of the 205 bus and it was questioned whether the change had been publicised, who had made the decision and why the public meetings previously held in the Council House with Centro had been discontinued. In reply, it was noted that alterations to bus routes had been publicised in the local newspapers and Cllr Harley replied that the meetings with Centro were still being held but at different locations around the borough and did not follow the previous format. It was noted that the next meeting would take place at Merry Hill and further information could be obtained from

the Centro website.

- (5) Referring to a recent press release from Dudley Council regarding budget issues, a resident complained that he had emailed money-making initiatives for New Bradley Hall to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council but had received no reply.

Other issues raised and/or answered on the evening:

- PC Ravenscroft presented the crime figures for January –February 2014 for the area. It was noted that there had been a slight rise in crime in the Kingswinford South area; a slight reduction in crime in Wordsley and Kingswinford North and Wall Heath figures had remained steady. The main priority noted was theft from motor vehicles, especially 4 x 4 vehicles of catalytic converters. Referring to the issue of parking in The Village raised by a resident earlier in the meeting, it was noted that the Police had been involved on occasions and supported Mr Davies’ proposal of alternative parking to alleviate the problem.
- Councillor Miller referred to a question submitted to him by a resident of Kingswood Road regarding the ongoing problems associated with parking in Kingswood Road and parking on footpaths in Park Street, Summer Street and Oak Street, Kingswinford. Councillor Miller reported that he would be visiting the resident the following day to discuss this issue further.

11. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

No issues were raised under this item.

12. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding.

At this juncture, Councillor Hemingsley declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the funding application submitted by the Wordsley & District Community Association as he is a member of the Committee.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:

That the Director of Corporate Resources:

- (1) Approve the application from Wordsley and District Community Association for funding of up to £5,001.34 to enable them to purchase new chairs and garden equipment to maintain their landscape garden area for the

use by the community and to foster a community spirit.

13. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Tuesday 25th March, 2014 at 6.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, The Village, Kingswinford.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm.