



Community Forum Action Notes



Forum: Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett

Date and time: Monday 3rd September 2018 at 6.30pm

Venue: Bank Street Methodist Church, Brierley Hill

Attendance: Councillors R Harris (Chair), J Foster (Vice-Chair), S Craigie, Z Islam, J Martin and K Jordan

Officers/police: J Pritchard (Liaison Officer), C Tromans (Community Development Worker)

Members of the public: 32

1. Apologies and declarations of interest: None

2. Police and Communities Together

Subject

Action/Response

No Police representatives attended the meeting.

Members of the public can speak to a PCSO every Friday from 10.30-1.30 at Brierley Hill market.

Cllr's Harris and Foster to write/ speak to the Chief Superintendent to express their disappointment at the lack of Police attendance.

Additional Item: Three Villages Medical Practice

Subject

Dr Ruth Tapparo from Three Villages Medical Practice shared information on the public consultation, which is currently taking place around proposals to close the Wollaston branch surgery. All patients have been contacted, and the reasons for the proposed closure have been explained. Two public consultation meetings have also taken place. If the closure goes ahead, services at the Wollaston branch will move to the Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre.

Action/Response

People can respond to the consultation, which runs until 19th September 2018 by completing an electronic or paper survey. Further information is available from <http://www.3villages.co.uk/>

A decision will be made on 19th October 2018.

3. Brierley Hill High Street

Subject

A number of groups have expressed concerns about Brierley Hill High Street – a drop in footfall, vacant units, crime etc. There has been no cohesive way of bringing the community together to take action.

Representatives from the Brierley Hill Action Group invited everyone present to attend their meetings.

Empty shops – there is interest in vacant premises but priority is being given to finding the right tenants.

Action/Response

Brierley Hill Action Group has been formed and the Brierley Hill Forum has been revived to help provide a platform for the community and traders to identify what is needed and to take action to improve the high street.

Next meeting is on 20th September at 6.00pm at St Michael's Church. Alan Lunt, Strategic Director from Dudley Council will be present to discuss plans for the Metro.

Members of Brierley Hill Forum have gathered some information on vacant properties – these are clustered together in some areas, giving the impression that the problem is worse than it is. Vacancy level stands at 12%.

Criminal activity – Trading Standards have carried out operations on the High Street to seize counterfeit cigarettes and have taken one retailer to Court. Noted.

Traders have created a network to ensure they can work together to address some of the problems with criminal activity.

Christmas – costs have been received for a Christmas tree and lighting at the Civic Centre. The majority of those present expressed a preference for a tree at the Moor Centre and a suitable existing tree at the Civic Centre to be dressed with lights. Additional costs to be obtained for dressing an alternative tree opposite the Civic Centre.

4. Listening to you

Subject

Action/Response

Representatives from Friends of Marsh Park and Lawyers Field provided an update on activity at the community orchard and garden. The group is also involved in litter picks, and would like to get more involved in looking after the War Memorial.

The Friends group would welcome more volunteers. For further information about the community orchard and garden visit their facebook page www.facebook.com/mpalf

A local resident shared details of the Brierley Hill Area Report that he produced and circulates via e-mail whenever there is something to report. This provides news and updates on things happening in Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett, such as development of the Metro.

Email bhareareport@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Park Street Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) meet at William Street Church.

Everyone from Park Street and William Street is welcome to attend.

Representatives from Brierley Hill market provided an update – the facebook page is going strong and has over 2000 members. Two new stalls are opening up and a car boot sale takes place upstairs every day that the market is open.

Visit the facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/brierleyhillmarket/

Cllr Foster provided an update on behalf of Friends of the Fens. The next committee meeting is on 10th September 2018. Residents of Fens Pool and Stourbridge Road are welcome to attend. The group are looking for more volunteers to carry out litter picks and to join the Fens Pool Community Watch group.

For further information about The Friends of the Fens including dates of their meetings visit their facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/192952408110605/

5. Working with you

Subject

Action/Response

Brockmoor and Pensnett Councillors extended their thanks to colleagues in the Highways department for the excellent work on the Pensnett High Street road improvement scheme.

JP to pass on thanks to colleagues in the Highways department.

6. Funding

Applicant

Recommendation

St Mark's Church, Pensnett

Agreed to recommend funding of £450 from the Brockmoor and Pensnett funds.

St John's Church, Brockmoor

Agreed to recommend funding of £5000 from the Brockmoor and Pensnett funds on the condition that the refurbished toilets are open to members of the public. Funding to be taken from the Empty Shops and High Street Innovation Fund, and the community forum grant allocation.

Christmas trees and lights

Agreed to recommend funding of £1,414.65 for a cut Christmas tree, replacement looms and energy costs at High Oak/ Bradley Street in Pensnett. To be taken from the Brockmoor and Pensnett funding allocation.

Agreed to recommend funding of £1,750.98 for a cut Christmas tree, replacement looms and energy costs at the Moor Centre, Brierley Hill.

Alternative costs for decoration of a tree outside/ near to the Civic Centre in Brierley Hill to be requested.

Meeting ended at: 8.35pm