

Action Notes of the Brierley Hill and Brockmoor & Pensnett Community Forum

Wednesday 11th November, 2015 at 6.30pm
at Fens Pool Community Centre, Tennyson Street, Brierley Hill

Present:

Councillors J Foster, R Harris, Z Islam and J Martin

Officers:

H Martin (Head of Planning and Development) and K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with 10 members of the public.

17. **Election of Chair**

Councillor J Martin was elected Chair for this meeting of the Forum only.

18. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Jordan and M Wilson.

19. **Welcome and Introductions.**

The Chair welcomed those present and Members introduced themselves and Officers.

20. **Issues Raised – Feedback with regard to matters raised by local residents at the Last Meeting**

The Lead Officer reported on the matters raised by local residents at the last meeting reporting that in relation to a query raised regarding puffin crossings detailed information had been forwarded to the questioner. It was also noted that in order to ease traffic congestion consultation would take place with a view to amending Traffic Regulation Orders on various routes throughout the Brockmoor and Pensnett Ward.

21. **Listening to you: Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Concerns in relation to the chicanes and parked vehicles in Tennyson Street and surrounding Streets, causing obstruction particularly in relation to public transport and road sweeping vehicles and the possibility of CENTRO withdrawing the public transport service should obstruction continue. There was a request that should the chicanes remain they be repaired as some reflectors were broken.

The Chair referred to the need for continued traffic calming measures and undertook to consult with Highway Officers in relation to the possible removal/modification and repair of the chicanes, with a view to alternative traffic calming measures being investigated.

Issues were raised in relation to litter and abandoned household rubbish in streets surrounding the Fens Pool Area.

The Chair to liaise with the local Housing Manager to arrange a litter pick.

A request that a dog fouling bin be installed within the Fens Pool area.

Ward Councillors to notify relevant Officers upon receipt of the proposed location of the bin.

A request that grass cuttings be removed following grass cutting services especially in areas where elderly residents were present. It was noted that grass cuttings were no longer removed due to efficiency savings. The Member of the public was requested to provide details of the areas where health and safety issues may be present.

The Chair and Councillor Foster to consult relevant Officers once further details were provided.

Issues were raised in relation to overgrown trees adjacent to the Fens Pool Community Centre which were obstructing lighting both outside the centre and on the football pitch.

The questioner was requested to raise the issue at the Community Centre's Management Committee Meeting.

22. **Working With you: Topics raised by Local Councillors.**

Councillor J Foster referred to the following:-

- The review of the whole traffic light network within the Brierley Hill and Brockmoor & Pensnett area with continued consultation throughout the review with Ward Councillors.

Following a request from Councillor Z Islam, it was agreed that John Street, Bent Street and Victoria Street would be linked into the one-way-system review.

- The agreement of INTU, the new owners of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre to work with the Council in order to regenerate Brierley Hill High Street and the conference day that would take place with INTU when Ward Councillors and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development would be invited to attend.
- The continuing progress with the High Street, Pensnett improvements.
- The play area that was being constructed on the Barrowhill Copse in the vicinity of St Marks School.
- On 5th December, 2015 at 1pm there would be an event at the Pensnett Community Centre to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.
- The Official Christmas light switch on would take place on 13th December, 2015 in Bradley Street, Pensnett. It was noted that Black Country Radio would be broadcasting and there would be a Santa Sledge.
- The carol service at St Marks Church on 17th December, 2015.

Councillor R Harris referred to the following:-

- The formation of the Brierley Hill Town Centre Stakeholders Group which continued to build upon events such as Brierley Hill In Bloom and included the involvement of a number of local organisations and faith groups.
- The Christmas Tree Festival at St Michaels Church on Saturday 21st November, 2015.
- The Christmas Tree light switch on in Brierley Hill on 28th November, 2015 together with the St Marks Christmas Fair on that afternoon which included a number of activities. A lunch between 11am and 2pm at South Street Baptist Church Cafe on the same date was referred to.
- A Santa Jog on 5th December, 2015, proceeding from the Dell Stadium which involved events for both children and adults. It was noted that the Leader of the Council and the Mayor would be participating in the event.
- The Christmas Craft Fair at Brierley Hill Civic Centre on the afternoon of 5th December, 2015, which would include angel bombing on the Brierley Hill High Street.
- At 4.30pm on 5th December, 2015 there would be a Choir on the Green event with live music outside the Brierley Hill Civic Centre. During that evening there would be a party hosted by Dudley Council For Voluntary Services at the Civic Centre.
- An event at Brierley Hill Library providing children with the opportunity to make reindeer masks on 5th December, 2015
- On 6th December, 2015 there was a family festival event at Bank Street Methodist Church.
- On 10th December, 2015 St Michaels Carol Society would perform at the Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Councillor Harris referred to all events being community driven and expressed praise to those who had organised and those who were to attend the events, making particular reference to the Brierley Hill Civic Society for their work in relation to organising events.

A member of the public referred to a Christmas party at the Fens Pool Community Centre on 12th December, 2015 commencing at 4pm, inviting Members to attend.

23. **Community Forum – Love Your Local Community Funding**

Recommendations made in respect of Applications received and discussed following the meeting were as follows:-

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Pensnett Tenants and Residents Association	Approved £500 – Brockmoor & Pensnett Ward.
Fens Pool Voluntary Association.	Approved - £4,000.00 – Brockmoor & Pensnett Ward.
1 Bromley/Pensnett Scout Group	Approved £4,000 – Brockmoor & Pensnett Ward - £1,000 – Brierley Hill Ward
Dudley Council For Voluntary Sevices	Approved - £500 – Brierley Hill Ward
Inspired Communities	Refused as did not meet the local criteria
The Baptist Church, South Street, Brierley Hill	Approved a contribution of £2,500 – Brierley Hill Ward.

Members agreed as follows:-

That the previously approved application to Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association in the sum of £2,2126.85 be funded from the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding.

That the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding be apportioned equally between the two Wards.

That the funding allocated to DMBC Environmental Services Division on 9th September, 2015 in the sum of £1,438.85 from the Brierley Hill Ward and £1,140.55 from the Brockmoor & Pensnett Ward be funded from the High Street Innovation/Empty Shops Grant Funding.

24. **Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings.**

Future meetings of the Community Forum would be held on the following dates:-

- Wednesday 3rd February, 2016 – Nine Locks Community Centre
- Wednesday 16th March, 2016 – Venue to be confirmed.

Commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm