



Community Forum Action Notes



Forum: Coseley East and Sedgley Community Forum

Date and time: 4th March 2019 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Venue: Alder Coppice Primary School, The Northway, Sedgley, DY3 3PS

Attendance: Councillors Michael Evans (Chair), Melvyn Mottram (Vice Chair), Sue Ridney, Bec Gentle and Shaun Keasey.

Sgt Richard Cruickshank and PC Berry - Police

Donna Patel - Community Liaison Officer

Luke Bellamy, Community Development Worker, Public Health

Members of the public: 18

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Apologies from Cllr Tina Westwood.

2. Police and Communities Together

Subject

Action/Response

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Outstanding Citizens Award 2019 was discussed and application forms distributed at the forum.

Sgt Cruickshank advised the forum of the Active Citizen funding that is available to access for improvements in the local community. Further details and the process for applications is available on the West Midlands website.

Police Data from Sgt Cruickshank.

- Coseley: 30% increase in crime in January 2019 in comparison to January 2018. Mainly burglary and vehicle crime.
- Joint operation with Staffordshire Police as Dudley is being targeted for vehicle thefts/ crime.
- January – shed and garage thefts, thefts from vehicles. Wallets, keys and cash left in cars.
- Overall for the year 1% decrease in crime from last year.
- February – improvement in car crime from last year.
- Sedgley: slight increase in crime in January. There is a force wide operation in relation to the theft of Land Rover Discovery Models 4 and 3. High risk and stolen for parts. Vehicles are being targeted. Also theft from cars.
- 3 robberies in Sedgley in February and arrests made.
- 14% decrease in vehicle crimes in comparison to this time last year, so the right trajectory moving forward.

National issues in relation to the theft of high performance vehicles, and for Dudley mainly around Halesowen. There is a police specific operation for Land Rovers and police advice is to put personal safety first.

Ongoing issues with quad bikes in the Lower Gornal area.

One resident shared concerns in relation to alleged drug activity and anti-social behaviour near to the Sedgley Community Centre. Concerns in relation to the intimidation of young people / local community involved in community functions at this centre. Concerns from local residents of the potential escalation of anti-social behaviour in this area. A formal complaint has been submitted to the police and the police have contacted the complainant for more information.

The police advised for car details or other intelligence to be forwarded to the police via Live Chat or the Police group email account.

Donna advised that citizens can also report concerns to Dudley Council Plus via completion of the Council Inquiry forms available at the forum.

Cllr Keasey advised that CCTV and good lighting at the Community Centre would be a good deterrent.

The police advised that current priorities are to risks to life and limb.

One resident reported anti-social behaviour, drug use and Intimidation in the Jubilee Park area.

The public were advised to report any specific concerns to the police.

Cllr Evans wished Sgt Cruickshank well in his new role within the police and thanked him for his support to the forum

3. Listening to you

Subject

Cllr Evans shared the key points from a briefing paper in relation to the Coseley School site. This included the history, plans and process for admissions for this Free School in 2021.

Action/Response

Cllr Evans reported back on the concerns related to parking on pavements and police/council responsibilities. He had clarified with Highways that parking on pavements with double yellow lines is a council enforcement issue, and a police responsibility if no yellow lines. However, discretion is used.

One citizen shared concerns of retail failures in Sedgley and questioned what actions could be taken to stem the tide and any future plans/ developments.

Cllr Evans advised of ongoing discussions in relation to the War Memorial that is planned to be situated outside of All Saints Church.

There is a desire to create some community space in Sedgley, a project to support community activity. Cllr Evans advised that this has been on the agenda for the last 2 years, with ongoing discussions with the Church.

Any ideas to be put forward to the elected members.

Cllr Keasey, reported on the good interaction/ enthusiasm on the forum Facebook. This is good for Sedgley Village, supporting local people.

One citizen raised concerns that the canal entrance in Coseley is closed due to the pavement collapsing. This is being addressed by the Canal and River Trust. Another citizen advised on the plans for the canals in Coseley.

A citizen shared concerns of residents parking on the pavements at Christ Church School.

The police advised the public to photo the parking infringement, with date and time and to send to the police email account and enforcement action would be taken.

Citizens shared concerns related to the road safety risks near the junction for Bilston Street and Sedgley Road, Dudley.

Cllr Evans agreed to progress this with Highways Dept. in the Council.

Cllr Mottram reported that he had visited the Traffic Lights at Shaw Road with an officer from Wolverhampton Council and a Wolverhampton elected member, approximately 6 months ago. Cllr Mottram is to pursue this further. One resident reported concerns in relation to an accident at Ettingshall Road last week, long queues and high risk area for accidents.

Cllr's from Coseley to update the forum at the next meeting.

4. Working with you

Subject

Action/Response

Cllr Keasey – Plans going ahead for the Christmas Lights / festivals.
Major traffic congestion in Sedgley.
Sedgley Events Committee is to develop a community structure.

Cllr Evans – items already raised.

Cllr Mottram - Progressing Parking issues for Train Users in Roseville. An ongoing issue to be resolved. Cllr Mottram informed the forum that he would be stepping down as a local councillor in May 2019.

Cllr Bec Gentle – persistent littering, anti – social behaviour (ASB) issues, parking issues and discussions taking place with the police. Discussions taking place with the council in relation to the Bramfield Site. Crime and ASB taking place in alleyways. The council, local tenants/ residents association and Cllr Gentle have undertaken walkabouts around Catherine Road. A new bin has been placed in Haveacre Road.

Cllr Sue Ridney – Undertaking litter picking in Haveacre Lane. Litter is still an issue across the ward but litter bins available. Cllr Ridney thanked local residents for supporting litter picking to improve local areas.

Cllr Evans thanked Cllr Mottram for his service to local people and the work that he has undertaken for the forum. The forum elected members wished Cllr Mottram all the best for the future.

5. Community Forum Funding:

Applicant

Recommendation

There were no new applications received for consideration at this forum.

Donna Patel, advised that an application was received and considered between meetings from Sedgley Events Committee. The group were seeking £1,092.50 funding for the Sedgley Lights switch on event. This was approved by the Sedgley Councillors outside of this meeting and Coseley Councillors at this forum.

6. Next Meeting: to be confirmed

Meeting ended at: 7:40pm

Action notes from previous meetings can be viewed on the Council's website.
www.dudley.gov.uk