



Community Forum Action Notes

Forum: Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews and Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood

Date and time: Wednesday, 27th October, 2021 at 6.30pm

Venue: Online on Microsoft Teams

Attendance: Councillors Damian Corfield, Qadar Zada, Elaine Taylor, Rob Clinton, Jackie Cowell, Chris Barnett
Officers: Jackie Scott (Liaison Officer) Aaron Lawrence (Community Development Worker)
West Midlands Police: Sergeant Sarah Hall, PCSO Jake Hall and PCSO Thomas Hill
Members of the public: 7

1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting

Introductory discussion was held with all attendees invited to introduce themselves and test their microphone to ensure that all could hear and be heard.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Councillor Chris Barnett was appointed as chair of the forum and Councillor Elaine Taylor as vice-chair for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.

3. Apologies and declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.



4. Communities Together

Subject

Action/Response

Woodside Day Centre

Concerns were expressed by all on the potential closure of the mental health service provided at Woodside Day Centre. Users were very concerned that they had not been provided with the opportunity to comment on the consultation process, which all agreed did not feel fit for purpose and that the costs of works required on the building may have been inflated.

This matter was referred to the Director of Adult Social Care and Head of Adult Safeguarding. The estimated cost for the works was professionally produced and had been shared with elected Members. Communications about the consultation had been re-issued to the public and should anyone wished to contribute directly to contact

Stephen.Lonsdale@dudley.gov.uk

Of more concern was the lack of awareness of the importance of the service to its user community who had profound mental health illness, not curable, although may be manageable with drugs, this was not depression, anxiety, etc.

Users for Netherton Art Centre

Councillor Taylor requested for an update regarding the search for permanent users of the Centre, which she had queried on many occasions, but had not received any response.

Council Officers to follow up.

- Concerns raised that building will be moth-balled and lost forever.
- That it was the only remaining theatre across the Borough, was purpose built and needed to be used for that purpose
- Councillor Corfield agreed that there was a need to support the future of the Centre.

Quarry Bank in Bloom

The Quarry Bank in Bloom were looking for more volunteers – contact Tom Keys via Councillor Chris Barnett. Noted

Netherton Mosque

Netherton Mosque were looking to start a food bank in the area. The Community Development Worker was working with them to support that activity. Noted

Football on Woodside Park

A welcomed return of football in the park with a team now resident there and getting young people back into physical exercise. Noted

Multi-Cultural Day

Thanks were expressed from New Path of Life for the support provided for the Multi-Cultural Day, which was helping bring people together. Funding and support were very useful to help make a difference. Noted

Stevens Park, Quarry Bank

An official ceremony was held in the parks, centenary year to celebrate the investment that had brought new life into unused buildings. Noted.

5. Police update and discussion

Subject

Action/Response

Intel needed by Police

The community could help Police by providing more intelligence and support to address areas of concern in the community. Target areas currently included: Woodside Park, Quarry Bank High Street, Exeter Road, Lincoln Road, Upton Street, Cinder Bank, Lodge Crescent and Farm Road.

Any local intelligence to be shared with Neighbourhood Police team by email to: dudleycentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Social Media

Social Media platforms were proving to be helpful in getting messages out to the Community and Ward Councillors were keen to help share key messages.

Community encouraged to follow Police and Councillors on Social Media platforms.

Speed Watch

Thanks were expressed by Councillor Clinton regarding support from the local neighbourhood team. Speed Watch activity had been carried out recently in Quarry Bank with progress moving forward on a Street Watch Group.

Noted.

Safety concerns Stourbridge Road

A resident described how she had felt that the Stourbridge Road area was becoming lawless, that residents that had reported issues had become targets for verbal abuse and had damage to vehicles. The resident stated she no longer felt able to report issues for fear of reprisal.

Police to follow up.

PCSO Update

Day to day activity had changed throughout the Pandemic. The Police were trying to re-establish the Street and Speed Watch groups, however, needed help from people within the community.

Noted.

Street Watch

Street Watch required just a few people living within an area to get together for a minimum of two hours per month. Activities included organised walks, online forums for local messaging hosted by the Police, residents going out on patrol with Police PCSO's.

Anyone interested in Street Watch should contact Neighbourhood Police team by email at:
dudleycentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Speed Watch

Speed Watch was a good way of conducting light enforcement activity. Anyone caught were scanned with a speed gun, letters were then issued out to offenders. There had been ninety-eight letters issued from one hours watch on Thorns Road, Quarry Bank. Any interested residents were able to get in touch with Police PCSO's who were keen to work with the community. Any volunteers were welcomed to go out with Police to conduct Speed Watch checks.

Anyone interested in Speed Watch should contact Neighbourhood Police team by email at:
dudleycentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Anti-Social Behaviour

Woodside Park, Saltwells Nature Reserve and Dudley Wood Playing fields tended to have problems, anyone that could help provide intelligence of offenders, peak times etc., and any reports can be kept anonymous. Any feedback can be sent through to the neighbourhood team.

Any intelligence on offenders can be shared with Police Neighbourhood team at :
dudleycentral@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

It was advised for residents to report what had being seen, the times and dates of when the offences would occur and this would help the Police target hotspots. Police would always try to respond to reports.

Online link to Police

Positive feedback given regarding contacting Police online. It was felt that this seemed easier and was more effective than telephoning 101. Noted

Councillor Barnett expressed thanks to the local Policing team for their support and involvement in the community clean up activity. Noted

Demand was currently very high for Police support. Neighbourhood officers had recently been drafted in to support 999 response calls, however, should be out and about more going forward. Noted

6. Community forum funding

Applicant

Recommendation

Dudley Wood Methodist Church -
Application for £2,000 towards the overall cost of urgent repairs. The Church already has had to carry out repairs to the flat roof over the hall. The Church hall was used as a venue for a range of community groups and activities.

Approve from Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward allocation.

The What? Centre, Dudley - Application for £2,483.00 as 50% contribution towards the cost of repairs to the roof of its town centre premises.

This application was deferred for follow up queries to be resolved.

The What? Centre provided a wide range of support and advice to children and young people aged from 9 to 25 from its premises in Dudley and Stourbridge town centres. It had applied for £4,966.00 as the full cost of repairs with 50% contribution requested from this forum and the Castle & Priory, St James' and St. Thomas' Community Forum.

Julie Duffy attended to support the application for funding.

Funding still available included -

Noted

- £34,081.45 Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews
- £20,862.50 for Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood

Accessing funding - Councillor Corfield queried how organisations could be supported to access funding citing Netherton Arts Centre, Netherton Islamic Centre and Holly Hall Tenants and Residents Association as examples.

Support can be requested through Aaron Lawrence at:
aaron.lawrence@dudley

7. Arrangements for next meeting

To be confirmed.

Meeting ended at: 8.30pm

