

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON/PEDMORE AND
STOURBRIDGE EAST/WOLLASTON AND STOURBRIDGE TOWN COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19th June, 2013
at Ham Dingle Primary School, Old Ham Lane

PRESENT:-

Councillors Elcock, Hale, Kettle, Mrs Rogers and Sykes

OFFICERS:-

Mrs S Holmyard (Lead Officer to the Forum), (Assistant Director of Planning and Environmental Health) - (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Miss H Shepherd – Directorate of Corporate Resources

Together with 31 members of the public

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Attwood was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Mrs Rogers was appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal year.

(In the absence of Councillor Attwood, Councillor Mrs Rogers thereupon took the Chair)

3 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Attwood, L Jones, Marrey and C Wilson.

4 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum and the local councillors and Council Officers introduced themselves.

5 LISTENING TO YOU - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS

Local residents raised questions and made comments as set out below. These issues would be referred to the relevant Directorate or appropriate body for a response:-

Nature of questions/comments

- (1) Council Lettings/Vetting Policy and the validation of respected tenants by bank/building society's. This issue had been raised at the Community Forum meeting in February 2013, in relation to the requirement for a bank/building society to provide a reference on the new application form, which they are refusing to complete and requested that all elected members on the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum, receive a copy of the new policy and application form for reference, but this still had not been provided.
- (2) Request as to why it had taken six years for the Legal Services to advise the Oldswinford Cricket Club in relation to rent for a storage-shipping container and old cricket nets that were situated at the club and why the Nisa store, Kingsway, Wollaston, after three years, was still awaiting a rental agreement in relation to a piece of land that they would like to use as a car park.

Other Issues raised to which responses were given at the meeting:-

- A progress update was requested on the Longlands playing field site and concerns were raised in regards to the old college buildings, which had been left derelict and the possibility of making some of these properties listed buildings. Councillor Hale stated that the buildings belonged to the College and that dialogue between the College and the Council had been unsuccessful but would continue. Discussions with Officers in relation to the top playing field, which was council owned, were on going to try to bring the playing fields back into use, however there were funding issues in relation to the repair works that were required.
- A member expressed his thanks to the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Ward Members for their help and support during a rubbish-collecting event at Wollaston Farm.
- An issue was raised concerning the possibility of changing the start time of the forum meetings to 7pm to accommodate residents who travelled a distance for work. The Lead Officer agreed to forward the comments made to the next review meeting when arrangements for community forums would be discussed.
- Following a question raised, a discussion was held in relation to the distribution of the new recycling boxes and bins and it was confirmed that deliveries of the new facilities would take place during July through to October, with the first collections beginning in August.

- Representatives from Oldswinford Cricket Club were in attendance at the meeting to discuss and clarify the issues that had been raised at the previous meeting and requested that if there were any future issues with regards to the cricket club to contact them direct to try to rectify the problems.
 - In response to a question, it was stated that the legality issues relating to the ownership of the collapsed wall at Red Hill, Stourbridge were still on going.
-

5 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillors Sykes and Elcock referred to the proposed relocation of the Worcester Street doctors surgery, and expressed their concerns in relation to how patients would get to the new practise by public transport and would be meeting with the practise managers and CENTRO to discuss this.
-

6 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding. An application from St John's United Reformed Church, Stourbridge was received after the report had been circulated but was also taken into consideration.

The Lead Officer referred to a previous application that had been approved, which in the report stated that the money had been allocated from the Norton ward balance and confirmed this would be rectified for the next Forum and split between the three wards as agreed.

Following a discussion, Members requested that for future reports the balances from the three wards be amalgamated into one lump sum and all approved applications be allocated from that lump sum. The Lead Officer agreed to raise this matter with the Director of Corporate Resources.

At this point, Councillor Sykes declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Community Forum funding application received from St John's United Reformed Church, due to her doing voluntary work for an organisation that used the premises.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That the application from the 8th Stourbridge Guides for the sum of £500.00 to provide storage shelving to maximise space available to keep equipment in dry conditions, be approved.
- (2) That the application from Clent Cricket Club for the sum of £468.01 to purchase a waterproof rain cover, be refused. It was considered that it would be more appropriate for the cricket club to contact and obtain additional funding from Bromsgrove District Council.

- (3) That the application from West Midlands Police for the sum of £378.99 to provide Stourbridge Neighbourhood Policing, Crime Prevention Strategy Officers with a laptop to help promote the Immobilise website at police surgeries, be approved.
 - (4) That the application from Stourbridge Street Pastors, Chawn Hill Church for the sum of £4290.00 to help contribute towards the Co-ordinators salary cost over a nine month period, be approved.
 - (5) That the application from St John's United Reformed Church, Stourbridge for the sum of £5000 for improvements to the premises of the church including refitting the vestry, considering the extension of the narthex area, provision of storage, replacement of light bulbs to the roof and offsetting some revenue expenses, be recommended for approval, subject to detailed clarification of the work that the application would be funding being received and to the receipt of additional quotes in relation to these works.
-

7 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 4th September, 2013 at 6.30pm at Stourbridge Children's and Family Centre, Forge Road, Stourbridge.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.