

COMMUNITY FORUM

Serving the Wards of Norton/Pedmore & Stourbridge East/Wollaston & Stourbridge Town

Wednesday 6th November, 2013 at 6.30pm
at Wollaston Village Hall, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3PD

The Community Forum is a new way for people to play a part in important issues affecting the local area. Please come along if there is something you want to raise with us. Contact information for your Local Councillors is printed on the back of this agenda.

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Introductions by the Chair**
3. **Listening to you**
 - Questions and comments from local residents
4. **Working with you**
 - Topics raised by Local Councillors
5. **Community Forum Funding**
 - Councillors to make a recommendation based on a report of the Lead Officer
6. **Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**
 - To note that the next meeting of the Community Forum will be held on Thursday 30th January, 2014 at 6.30 pm at St Michaels and All Angels Church, Maynard Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge, DY8 3EE.

Action notes from previous meetings can be viewed at www.cmis.dudley.gov.uk/cmis5/

You can find more information about Community Forums on our website www.dudley.gov.uk
E-mail: dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk
Tel: 0300 555 2345



Norton/Pedmore & Stourbridge East/Wollaston & Stourbridge Town Community Forum

Your Ward Councillors

The contact information for your local Councillors is shown below. Please take the opportunity to come along to your local Community Forum and let us know about the issues that matter in your local area.

Norton



Councillor Mike Attwood
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Councillor Colin Elcock
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Councillor Heather Rogers
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Pedmore & Stourbridge East



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Councillor Colin Wilson
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Wollaston & Stourbridge Town



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Councillor Barbara Sykes
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DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

6th November - Norton/Pedmore and Stourbridge East/Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Centre Community Forum

Report of the Lead Officer

Community Forum Funding

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the allocation of expenditure from the Community Forum Funding budget for the 2013/14 year.

Background

2. The ten Community Forums are responsible for allocating expenditure from the delegated Community Forum Funding budget. The guidelines against which allocations from the delegated budget should be considered are set out in Appendix 1. These are corporate guidelines only and it is ultimately for each Community Forum to decide on individual applications.
3. A copy of the application/s referred to in this report, appendix 2 has been e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting.

Applications for consideration at this meeting:

**Fast+Aid Charity no1147703,
Alrewych Court, Northgate, Aldridge, WS8 9AF**

4. The above organisation has applied for a grant in total across all community forums of £10,000. To date consideration has taken place at the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Forum on the 3rd September 2013 where the application was approved in principle on the basis that it should be referred to all forums as a Borough wide application. The final amount awarded being dependant upon support being forthcoming from the other 9 forums. The application has also been considered by the Amblecote/Cradley and Wollescote/Lye and Stourbridge North Members who have recommended to award £1000.
5. The aims of the charity are to provide a professional and caring team of volunteers who support the West Midlands Ambulance Service in responding to 999 emergency calls using a group of trained volunteers. There are a total of 62 volunteers all based within Dudley borough.

6. The funding is to purchase a second vehicle to be used in the Dudley area so that they can respond quickly to 999 calls. The Fast+Aid vehicle and crew provide life saving care to a patient whilst waiting for the arrival of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Dudley MBC- Directorate of Urban Environment, Environmental Management Division

7. Funding is requested for the provision of Christmas trees at 2 locations within the Forum area. The application is for the funding to purchase the trees, erect them and then remove them together with the energy costs for lighting them. The costs of maintenance and installation of the lights will be met from within the Environmental Management Division budget .The amount of funding applied for is £2,273.37.

The two locations listed are: Chequers Public House Stourbridge and Oldswinford Cross

Unit3sixty C.I.C.

Block f bays 5 and 6 The Stourbridge Estate Mill Race Lane Stourbridge.

8. Funding of £5000 is requested from this and all other community forum for a project the estimated total cost of which is £150,000. The funding is for match funding for capital equipment and revenue to provide membership packages to ward residents .The project is to provide a skate park and the aim of the organisation is to create a vibrant local community enterprise for the youth of Dudley borough. The application states they hope to have a target of 3000 members 2000 of which are in the Borough.
9. To date the application states that some of the balance of the funding needed is from the Community enterprise fund £40,000 and £75,000 from the Charity Bank social enterprise loan.
10. The applicants will need to apply for planning permission for change of use of the premises in Mill Race Lane, it is advised that if Members are minded to recommend the approval of the application to the Director of Corporate Resources that they do so subject to planning permission.

Ward Members have been circulated with details of the applications prior to the forum.

Finance

12. It is proposed that each Community Forum will receive £10,000 per ward to allocate each financial year.
13. The total sum currently available to spend across all wards is: £37,340.80
14. This amount includes unspent balances for all three wards within the forum area.

Law

15. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.
16. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to or incidental to, the discharge of its statutory function.

Equality Impact

17. This report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Some of the applications include facilities which are available to children and young people.

Recommendation

18. That the Forum members consider the application/s referred to in this report and make recommendations to the Director of Corporate Resources on each individual application.



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Sue Holmyard
Assistant Director of Planning & Environmental Health

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List of Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Corporate guidelines for considering funding applications

Appendix 2 - The application forms on which this report is based have been emailed to Members prior to the meeting but contain exempt information under terms of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Community Forums

Guidelines for considering funding applications

Community Forums will consider every funding application on its own individual merits.

Community Forums have discretion to make recommendations on each application taking account of the funding available.

A decision on an individual application will not be seen as setting a precedent for the consideration of any other applications received by the Council or another Community Forum.

Guidelines

The following guidelines are to assist Community Forums in considering funding applications.

Community Forums reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines depending on the circumstances of each individual application.

1. The funding allocation may be spent on “capital” and/or “revenue” schemes:

Capital: one-off expenditure on buying, constructing or improving land, buildings, equipment or vehicles;

Revenue: expenditure on running costs of projects or activities, including staff costs and the purchase of consumables and services from third parties. Priority will be given to one-off, time-limited, or start-up spend, rather than ongoing running costs. The latter should normally be funded by the organisation itself.

2. Schemes should contribute to the Community Strategy and should not conflict with Council policy. Consideration will be given to how a scheme fits with wider community initiatives.
3. Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups and should make a difference in the local area.

4. Funding applications may be submitted to more than one Community Forum depending on the area(s) of benefit. Each individual Forum shall retain discretion over its own funding allocation. A recommendation made by one Community Forum shall not create an expectation that it will be supported by another Forum.
5. Schemes should not result in any on-going revenue costs that the organisation cannot fund from its own resources – e.g. running costs and repair and maintenance of new/improved buildings and equipment.
6. All expenditure must be in accordance with Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, be subject to the Council's legal powers and demonstrate good value for money.

Standing Orders requires the submission of at least three quotations, unless the Director of Corporate Resources deems that one is acceptable. The Director of Corporate Resources should exercise this discretion where the Members of a Community Forum have received copies of the grant application, have discussed the matter in public and have recommended award of a grant.

7. Individual funding applications should be for a maximum of £5,000 unless there are exceptional circumstances. Organisations will be encouraged to match fund or seek further funding through other means. Priority will be given to schemes that might generate such funding.
8. Applications will not normally be considered from organisations who have previously applied for funding to the Community Forums (or former Area Committees) within the previous three years.
9. Once an application has been approved, it will be on the condition that the commitment is spent within nine months; otherwise the allocation will be returned back into the available budget and a fresh application would be required.
10. In appropriate circumstances, it may be required that certain items of equipment funded by these allocations are to be made available for use by other organisations.