

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF BELLE VALE, HAYLEY GREEN  
AND CRADLEY SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.  
at Huntingtree Primary School, Halesowen

**PRESENT:** -

Councillor Burston (Chair);  
Councillor Ms Nicholls (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors James, Russell, K Turner and Mrs H Turner

**OFFICERS:**

P Coyne (Lead Officer to the Forum) – Directorate of the Urban Environment and S Griffiths – Directorate of Corporate Resources together with 5 Members of the public.

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9. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made general announcements.

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10. **LISTENING TO YOU: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

A local resident requested the Council to reconsider the situation concerning railings along the footpath outside 4 Abbey Road, Halesowen. The issue was referred to the relevant Directorate for a response.

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11. **WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

- Councillor Ms Nicholls raised issues concerning the Community First Panel in the Belle Vale ward. Her concerns related to the membership of the Panel, the transparency of decision-making, the website and the lack of availability of an e-mail address. Following a discussion, it was confirmed that the Community First Panel was not part of the Council's decision-making structures, however, the Lead Officer undertook to circulate a list of names of persons serving on the Panel. Councillor Ms Nicholls indicated that she wished to supply additional names for consideration.
  - Members referred to the situation concerning 'gateway' traffic islands into Halesowen, with particular reference to funding previously identified for the Grange Island and the wider issue of potential sponsorship of other prominent traffic islands. The Lead Officer reported that this issue was receiving ongoing consideration.
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12. AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on an application for funding received from Halesowen Age Concern towards a marquee and fundraising events and to assist with the costs of loss and damage caused by recent break-ins at the organisation's premises. It was noted that the Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum had agreed to recommend funding of £2,500 towards this project.

Councillor K Turner declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Halesowen Age Concern as a Director of the organisation.

The Lead Officer reported verbally on an application received from Fast Aid for funding towards the purchase of an additional vehicle for use in the Borough. This application would be referred to all other Community Forums for consideration.

Members also raised concerns about the annual funding of £5,000 given by the Council to Halesowen Chamber of Trade towards Christmas lights.

**AGREED:-**

- (1) That the Director of Corporate Resources be recommended to approve the making of a grant of £2,500 to Halesowen Age Concern towards the cost of funding a marquee and fund raising events and to help with the costs of loss and damage resulting from two major break-ins at the organisation's premises in Green Lane, Halesowen.
- (2) That the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to make a recommendation to the Director of Corporate Resources on the application received from Fast Aid for a contribution of £1,000 towards the purchase of an additional vehicle for use in the Borough, subject to a similar contribution being considered by the other nine Community Forums.
- (3) That the Director of Corporate Resources be requested to provide information to Members concerning the annual funding of £5,000 allocated to Halesowen Chamber of Trade towards Christmas lights together with a breakdown of the actual expenditure incurred.

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13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, starting at 6.30pm (venue to be confirmed).

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm