

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

Held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2013  
at Stourbridge Children and Families Centre, Forge Road, Stourbridge

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Attwood – Chair  
Councillors Elcock, Hale, Kettle, Marrey, 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).

**TORCH REPRESENTATIVES**

Andrew Leigh (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and John Cunningham (Directorate of Children's Services).

Together with 33 members of the public.

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8 **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.

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9 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

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10 **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) A resident raised a concern that the footways/pavements in Brook Street, Stourbridge were in such a poor condition that residents were finding it difficult to walk along them, especially the elderly and disabled, and instead had to walk in the road.

- (2) Concerns were raised as to why only some plastics were being collected as part of the new recycling scheme, even though other plastic items were marked as being recyclable and asked when this service would be extended to include all items.
- (3) A resident requested information in relation to what plastics go into the new recycling bags; what rubbish was incinerated at the Netherton waste plant; when were the emissions from the incinerator last tested and inspected and how frequently did this happen and are the results published; do the emissions meet with European criteria and if not what was the Council doing about it.

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

- An update was provided and an email circulated to residents in attendance by Councillor Hale in relation to the Longlands Playing Fields and College buildings owned now by Birmingham College. Progress had been made in relation to the top and middle playing fields, which are Council owned. It was reiterated that the Council had no authority over the college land and buildings, but introductory meetings had taken place between Council Officers and Birmingham College and that Birmingham College was currently in the process of doing a full review of all their properties and land, which included the Longlands site.

Further discussion was had in relation to the possible funding options available, in particular Section 106 monies, to help put the Council land/area back into full working order, however this would be dependant on whether the college land was sold for development and the requirement or otherwise of planning contributions by any potential developer. A timescale of when this issue would be resolved was still unknown. Residents continued to raise concerns in relation to the derelict buildings and the overgrowth of the fields that was now impacting on their own garden areas and a further issue was raised in relation to school places if the land was to be sold for housing development, as local schools were currently full to capacity.

- A resident, on behalf of the Flat Green Bowling Club at Wollescote Hall, expressed his thanks to the Forum for their assistance and support in relation to fee charges. However he reiterated that the issue with regards to the lease had still to be resolved.
- In response to a question in relation to the collapsed wall at Red Hill, Stourbridge, it was stated the owner of the wall had now been identified and the legality issues were progressing in a positive way.
- A resident requested that the green bin collections be extended to include autumn and winter months, as it was considered that during this period there was more green waste than could be self composted.

- The Lead Officer undertook to review the wording of the Community Forum Funding report, to provide clarification in relation to who was able to speak on funding applications. Clarity was provided on voting which is the sole responsibility of local ward Members (Councillors) in attendance.
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## 11 WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Sykes referred to an issue raised at a previous Forum meeting in relation to the Councils Letting/Vetting Policy and informed the Forum that all Members were now in receipt of the new policy documents and had received reassurance from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety that these documents would be revised.
  - Councillor Rogers raised an issue in relation to Bigmore playing fields and the Cricket Club preventing members of the public from walking across the outfield when there was no cricket match in progress. The field was owned by the Council and the Cricket club leased the square and the public did have access rights across the land when there was no match in play. It was requested that the cricket club be contacted and informed of the rights of the public.
  - Councillor Elcock requested that the grass at the three fields in Dunsley Road, Stourbridge be cut. Residents had previously requested this to be done, but had not received a response.
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## 12 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on applications for funding.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That the application from the Management Committee of Alderman Tye Scout and Guide HQ, South Road, Stourbridge for the sum of £1000 for the retrospective emergency repair works to the roof, be approved.
  - (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant in the sum of £3460.18, representing 50% of the total expenditure, to 451 Stourbridge Air Training Corps Squadron, Territorial Army Centre, Swinford Road, Stourbridge, for the purchase of laptops, computers, printer, camcorder, screens, network and media drives.
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## 13 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 at 6.30pm at Wollaston Village Hall, Bridgenorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge.

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The meeting ended at 8pm.