

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF AMBLECOTE, CRADLEY AND
WOLLECOTE, LYE AND STOURBRIDGE NORTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 19th February, 2013
At Lye Community Centre, Cross Walks, Lye.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Herbert (Chair)
Councillor Perks (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Body, Crumpton, Hanif, Lowe Partridge.

OFFICERS:-

Miss J Porter (Lead Officer to the Forum - Director of Children's Services) - Miss L
Mason and Mrs K Griffiths – (both Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 16 members of the public.

1 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs.
Martin.

2 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Amblecote, Cradley and
Wollescote, Lye and Stourbridge North Community Forum and in her remarks she
commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the Council.
Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors
introduced themselves. The Chair also asked the members of the public to introduce
themselves.

3 **LISTENING TO YOU - QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

A number of questions and comments were raised by local residents in relation to
the following:-

Nature of questions/comments

Referred to

(1) Resident asked what the plans were for the
Chorus Office Block, Lye.

Director of the Urban
Environment for a written
response.

(2) Resident wanted to know whether Lye
Cricket/Football club is being sold, and what the
plans for this site were.

Director of the Urban
Environment for a written
response.

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| (3) | Several residents commented on the severity of the overhanging trees in Cemetery Road. Residents commented on the danger of these especially when Lorries drive down the road. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (3a) | Several residents wanted to know why the proposal for the 'no right turn' alteration for the Junction of Cemetery Road and Pedmore road was never put into force. | Director of Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (3b) | Residents also stated that there was a proposal for Cemetery Road (between Pedmore Road, and Stourbridge Road) to be marked as 'unsuitable for heavy vehicles'. Residents would like to know why this was never actioned. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (4) | Issue regarding water pooling in Birmingham Street. Resident explained that water flow from Stepping Stones will occasionally freeze. This caused a bad accident recently. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (4b) | There is no signage from Foster Road East onto the Stourbridge Ring Road, which makes it dangerous for vehicles who do not know that you cannot pull out of here, as there are only 'no entry' signs at the end. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (4c) | Who are the delegated trustees for the Ernest Stevens Trust and what will the procedure be to apply for funds from allocations? | Director of the Corporate Resources for a written response. |
| (5) | An issue was raised in relation to the Bowling Clubs at Wollescote Hall Park relating to Equality and Diversity. | Director of Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (5a) | Does the work being carried out on the building above the One Stop Shop, Turners Lane, require planning permission. There has not been any notices posted in the area. | Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response. |
| (6) | Resident raised concerns regarding lack of speed limit signs when turning from Thorns Road onto Caledonia, as Thorns Road is a 40mph limit, and Caledonia is only 30mph. | Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response. |
| (7) | It has been requested that bags of rubbish be removed from various properties in the Colley Gate/Windmill Hill area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside the Second Hand Shop, Colley Gate • At the side of the flats, Windmill Hill • At the side of the hairdressers (Cut Above the Rest), Windmill Hill | Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response. |

(7b)	Resident would like to know why the wall has been removed at the side of Vakas Balti.	Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response.
(7c)	Resident has asked for some action to be taken in relation to the dangerous wall by Saporita Pizza, Windmill Hill.	Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response.
(7d)	Resident has asked if anything can be do to smarten up the dilapidated house on the corner of Highfield Road.	Director of the Urban Environment for a verbal or written response.

Other issues raised:-

- A brief update on crime statistics in the area was given.
- Problems at Anchor Bridge/Station Bridge, Withymoor, of people drinking around these areas, residents do not feel that there was any Police presence in this area.
- Bollards at 7 Dwellings Bridge have been removed which is leaving the area open to settlers.
- Problems around Widows Pub, Barratt Lane, with Anti-Social Behaviour and noise pollution. The problems occur after hours. Noted that this pub had applied for a license to extend its hours, and that this had been successfully opposed.
- When buses turn out of Stourbridge Bus station onto Foster Street East, there has been a sculpture erected of a Glass blower which obstructs the view causing danger.
- Several residents raised issues with the public toilets in Stourbridge bus station now being for Drivers only, and that the public toilets are now elsewhere and have to be paid for. Residents were aware that the original toilets were built with EU funding and were not happy that the public must now pay for other facilities. Chair agreed to look into this matter and email members of the forum with a response.
- A member of the public suggested dates for future meetings of the Community Forums be put on the public noticeboard by Bottom Bell Pub.
- Withymoor Cycle track was badly maintained and needs sweeping due to broken glass, bottles and cans being discarded there.
- An issue of security at Wollescote Park was raised, and whether the guard at the Hall can be used to identify such matters.

4 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Body raised the issue of derelict shops in the Colley Gate area, near the Labour Club, which were left vacant without any fees being paid. He indicated that he would raise the issue of a regeneration plan for Colley Gate at the next forum meeting.

Councillor Perks commented on the introduction of Wheeley bins for general waste and explained the help available for anybody who may struggle with them subject to an assessment by the appropriate team.

Councillor Perks explained there would hopefully be a new service in the area whereby the public could take unwanted items such as bathroom suites, bikes, furniture, and they would be sold on for charity.

Councillor Perks raised the possibility of having Dave Wesson, Street Cleansing Manager, to speak at the next Forum.

Councillor Body informed the Forum that he would be raising money for Homer Hill Park/St Peter's Church. The public could vote for the colour he is having his hair dyed for a fee. It would be shaved off at a later date.

Councillor Crumpton raised the planning application for the new Extra Care Housing facility that had recently been approved.

Councillor Crumpton raised the issue of encouraging more community engagement and explained what a success the 'Community Champions' scheme had been. He also encouraged involvement with DCVS, Providence Methodist Church and Foodbank.

5 AREA GRANTS

The Lead Officer gave a verbal update to Members stating that no new applications had been received and highlighted the remaining balances available for the Forum.

6 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Tuesday 23rd April, 2013 at 6.30pm at Amblecote Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Amblecote.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.