

## Community Forum Action Notes

**Forum:** Netherton, Woodside,& St Andrews and Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Venue:** Savoy Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9ES

**Attendance:** Councillors: Cllr. Qadar Zada, Cllr. Bryan Cotterill, Cllr. Jackie Cowell  
Cllr. Christine Perks, Cllr. David Sparks, Cllr. Elaine Taylor;  
Officers/police: Sergeant Rachel Turner  
Members of the public (number): 7

**Apologies:** None:

**Chair appointed:** Cllr. Qadar Zada

**Vice-chair appointed:** Cllr. Bryan Cotterill

### Feedback on review of community forums

The liaison officer provided feedback on the recent review of community forums and the views expressed at the last meeting of the forum.

#### Subject

#### Action/Response

Feedback from the review of Community Forums was provided.

The following recommendations have now been agreed:

1. CFs will continue to meet on the current two or three ward basis four times a year, but on appropriate occasions, neighbouring forums may decide to meet together on an area/ township basis for a specific purpose.
2. Police and CF meetings will continue to be held jointly.
3. Council Officer attendance at CFs will be reduced and only brief notes of meetings will be produced.

Cllr. Sparks and Cllr. Taylor outlined that there is an issue with the wards whereby they do not always reflect the local communities. It was felt that it would make sense to firstly review the current wards and following that to further review the forums.

## Police and Communities Together

### Subject

### Action/Response

Cllr. Zada thanked the police on behalf of everyone at the Forum for everything that they do; and in particular recognised the unprecedented demand on them over the last few weeks in relation to the recent acts of terrorism.

The Councillors expressed their thanks to the Police for timely notifications regarding travellers in the borough.

Sergeant Rachel Turner outlined that crime is at very low levels in the area in comparison with crime rates across the West Midlands region. Since the beginning of May there have been 10 reported burglaries and 25 reports of vehicle crime. Disorder is the biggest issue, mostly related to domestic violence and alcohol related issues.

Cllr. Cotterill noted that he had recently seen some police community support officer patrolling the wards.

The issue of drug dealing in Greaves Road, Quarry Bank was discussed. Sergeant Rachel Turner outlined that where dealing is taking place in cars, that information on the cars is required in order to tackle the issue.

Cllr. Cotterill outlined problems on Welbury Road with children playing football in the street whereby the balls were hitting the cars. It was noted that the children should be playing in the nearby park.

Speeding issues on Marriott Road were discussed. A resident submitted a petition (which she is still in the process of completing), outlining the concerns of local residents. Councillors confirmed that the Council is monitoring the volume and speed of cars on the road. Sergeant Rachel Turner confirmed that the Police have been on the road with laser guns and issued 2 fixed penalty fines and a caution. The setting up of a Community Speed Watch was discussed, whereby residents could undertake a neighbourhood speed watch on a voluntary basis.

Sergeant Rachel Turner to investigate what is involved with setting up a Community Speed Watch and will report back to the next meeting.

Cllr. Cotterill outlined speeding issues in the High Street in Quarry Bank, for which he is now forming a petition to request a radar speed sign that would display vehicle speed as motorists approach, with a view to slow cars down by making drivers aware when they are driving at speeds above the posted limits. Cllr Sparks felt that the current 20mph speed limit is not appropriate 24 hours a day, and is only required at school times. Ideally any radar speed sign should display 30mph when not in school times and 20mph during school times.

There were concerns about motorists in the Darby End area who are parking inconsiderately on the pavements and causing an obstruction to pedestrians and those on mobility scooters.

This is a particular issue in Simms Lane by the school, and also on the road outside the mosque.

Sergeant Rachel Turner will get someone to have a look and to speak with people who are parking on the pavements.

## Listening to you

### Subject

A resident outlined difficulties with parking in Greaves Road and Recreation Street, whereby he has been boxed in on a number of occasions and unable to get his car off his drive. Planning permission for the nursery has been approved; however the view is that this has not taken into consideration the parking difficulties associated. Forty objections to the extension of the nursery were submitted, however these had been over-ruled. There has now been an impact on the quality of life for residents as a result of the development.

One suggested solution would be to build additional parking in the park, and in particular the site of the old bowling green could be a possibility. Another suggestion was the addition of further parking restrictions on the road itself.

### Action/Response

Cllr. Perks to liaise with the planning department to discuss the possibility of additional parking.

Sandra Taylor to send a copy of the planning report, which provides details of the decision that was made with respect to the extension of the nursery to the resident.

There is currently a bench situated between the Compton Court and Arley Court Tower Blocks. These tower blocks are soon to be demolished and it was agreed that the bench should be relocated.

Sandra Taylor to ascertain whether it will be possible to have the bench relocated to another location in the Netherton area.

## Working with you

### Subject

Cllr. Sparks outlined concerns regarding the process for the naming of new roads in the borough. Councillors agreed that Community Forums should be consulted about the naming of new roads to ensure that they appropriately reflect the local history of the area.

### Action/Response

The Community Forum will write to the Cabinet Member to take this forward.

## Funding

### Applicant

Quarry Bank in Bloom has submitted an application for £250, which had been approved in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the applicant has not yet received the cheque for the funding.

An applicant has been received from Bread2share CIC for funding of £317.68 towards a total of £3,176.80 (with £317.68 being requested from each forum) to support a programme of summer holiday bread making workshops for approximately 130 children and young adults with physical and learning disabilities from across the borough focusing on the creative and sensory potential of bread making. The funding will cover materials, travel and facilitation costs to deliver eleven workshops at a number of locations. The view of the councillors has historically been that the Community Forum funding should be used to directly support and benefit the local wards and residents. Cllr. Perks outlined that there are only a few special schools in the borough and that they support people from all wards. There was concern that whilst the councillors are in support of the initiative, that this should be centrally funded. Cllr. Sparks noted that applicants of borough-wide applications should be aware that to increase the likelihood of the applications being approved, that they should provide a breakdown by ward of the people that would benefit from the funding.

Cllr. Taylor outlined that a grant was previously awarded for a bench in Netherton. The bench has still not been installed and there are no timescales for this at the present time.

There was a query about the imminent submission of an application and the length of time until the next meeting, which would cause delays in the potential award of the grant. Cllr. Zada confirmed that any applications would be considered in advance of the next meeting, if appropriate.

**Meeting ended at: 7.41pm**

### Recommendation

Sandra Taylor to chase payment of the applicant.

Sandra Taylor to obtain further information on the breakdown of attendees by ward, so that the Councillors are able to make a decision.

Sandra Taylor to chase up the position with the installation of the bench.