

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF CASTLE AND PRIORY, ST
JAMES'S AND ST THOMAS'S COMMUNITY FORUM**

Monday, 11th February, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
at St Thomas's Community Network, Beechwood Road, Dudley

PRESENT: -

Councillor K Finch (Chair)
Councillor A Ahmed (Vice-Chair)

Councillors K Ahmed, Ali, Arshad, M Aston, A Finch and Waltho

OFFICERS:

Mr M Bowsher (Lead Officer to the Forum), Quality and Commissioning –
Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Mrs K Griffiths –
Directorate of Corporate Resources

together with eighteen Members of the public

1. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of
Councillor Roberts.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Castle & Priory, St
James's and St Thomas's Community Forum and in his remarks
commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the
Council. Following the making of other general announcements the local
councillors and council officers introduced 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) The footpath outside number 106 Buffery
Road requires repair work. It was noted
that the issue had been raised a number
of times with Dudley Council Plus,
however, a response had not yet been
received.

Director of the Urban
Environment for a
written response.

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| (2a) | Following the aftermath of the bad weather/snow, what action has the Local Authority taken in relation to school closures and what lessons have been learnt? Councillors acknowledged that this was a major concern and needed to be addressed and assured the Forum that the issue was currently being investigated. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (2b) | What forms of consultations have taken place with school following the school closures and could the local community be involved more? | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (3) | Noisy and dangerous manhole cover on Birmingham Road opposite Highfield Road in the outside lane of the Birmingham Road heading towards Dudley. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (3a) | Toilet facilities in Dudley Town Centre – could these be opened on a Sunday? | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (3b) | Fly tipping, general rubbish dumping and dog fouling is taking place on Council land beside Corporation Road. Could this land be fenced off? It was noted that the issue had been raised a number of times with Dudley Council Plus, however, a response had not yet been received. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (4a) | Corbyn Road/Middlepark Road/Ashenhurst Road – roads and two speed humps on Corby Road need repairing. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (4b) | Fly tipping in between numbers 109 and 111 Middlepark Road, causing rat infestation. Could this issue be investigated and cleared? It was noted that the issue had been raised previously, however, no action had been taken. | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |
| (5a) | Illegal parking around Russells Hall area, in particular, Bushyfields Road, Overfield Road, Middlepark Road and Pearce Close. Could this be investigated? | Director of the Urban Environment for a written response. |

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| (5b) | Pedestrian crossing at Russells Hall Hospital does not give enough time for people to cross the road safely. Could this be investigated? It was noted that the issue had been raised previously, however, no action had been taken. | Director of the Urban Environment/Director of Children's Services for a written response. |
| (5c) | When are plastic recycling bins going to be issued in the Russells Hall area? | Director of the Urban Environment/Director of Children's Services for a written response. |
| (6a) | Closure of Kates Hill Surgery with consequent obligatory dispersal of 1,500 patients. Has the Health Scrutiny Committee done enough to look after the rights of residents to continuity of care and quality of care? | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a written response. |
| (6b) | What is the Council doing to specifically defend the health of residents in the St Thomas's ward? | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services for a written response. |
| | The Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, together with the Deputy Leader of the Council expressed their disappointment at the decision to close Kates Hill Surgery, and assured the Forum that this issue would be investigated. | |
| (7) | Dudley Mosque Appeal – date and time was requested, whether it was going to be open to the public and also whether representatives would be given the opportunity to speak at the Appeal. | Director of Corporate Resources for a written response. |

Other Issues Raised:-

- Car parks in general need to be cleared of snow in future.
- The Centre for Equality and Diversity referred to the consultation on the Community First Plan and encouraged local residents to attend workshops and get involved to ensure local issues are incorporated in the Plan. It was noted that the event would be publicised and circulated shortly.
- Dudley Group of Hospitals - mention was made to the recent report in which it stated that a number of Hospitals would be investigated due to the high number of deaths.

- Dudley Health Trainer Programme was promoted and awareness was raised in relation to Healthwatch and the services that Priory Pharmacy provided.
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4. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor A Finch referred to the Bedroom Tax and asked that information be circulated to residents.

It was noted that a dedicated hotline was available to any resident who wished for more information. It was also noted that publicity was currently being worked on.

- Councillor A Finch referred to the Summer Road Estate Office and requested an update on the position.
 - Councillor A Finch referred to the condition of the roads on the Castle and Priory Ward and requested an update on the situation.
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5. AREA GRANTS

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

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That consideration of the application by Time Step Community Hub in the Castle and Priory Ward for the sum of £4,680 to purchase six months unit rental within the Plaza Mall in Dudley Town Centre with the aim of hosting more easily accessible “drop-in” sessions to communities, be deferred to enable further investigations to be carried out.
 - (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant in the sum of £500 to St James’s Road Neighbourhood Watch in the St James’s Ward for the continued hire of the Dudley United Reformed Church Hall, administration support and security items.
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6. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Tuesday 16th April, 2013 at 6.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm