

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF KINGSWINFORD NORTH AND
WALL HEATH/KINGSWINFORD SOUTH AND WORDSLEY COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Tuesday, 25th June, 2013 at 6.30 p.m.
at St Mary's Church Hall, Kingswinford

PRESENT: -

Councillor D Blood (Chair)
Councillor P Miller (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Hemingsley, Jones, P Harley, Mrs Simms and Tyler

OFFICERS:

Mr I Newman (Lead Officer to the Forum), Treasurer and Mrs L Jury – Both
Directorate of Corporate Resources,

together with Paul Bengé, Stuart Connelly, Steve Cooper, Wayne George,
Pete Hipkiss (in an observation capacity only)

12 members of the public

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Blood was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14 municipal
year.

(Councillor Blood thereupon took the Chair)

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Miller was appointed Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2013/14
municipal year.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of
Councillors Mrs Billingham and Boleyn.

4. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting of the Kingswinford
North and Wall Heath/ Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community
Forum.

5. 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 concern regarding problems with weeds in the gutters in Balmoral Road and Spinney Close, Wordsley and pot holes in the roads, especially in Spinney Close and questioned when these would be attended to.
- (2) A resident queried why funding had been granted to Wordsley Festival this year, which had not been granted in previous years.
- (3) A resident requested that the grass on the banks in Kinver Street park and the banks in front of properties in Kinver Street be cut.

Other issues raised and/or answered on the evening:

- A resident raised concern regarding weeds on the public footpaths on Sandringham Road.
- Residents queried the policy regarding the clearing of drains within the Borough, especially the drains outside the newsagents in Sandringham Place and Buckingham Road.
- A resident reiterated her comments raised previously with regard to streamlining the Council and requested that the Council consider reducing the number of members per Ward.
- Residents discussed advertising of the Forums and requested that the Forums be advertised in a similar way to that of the old Area Committees. In response, the Chair confirmed that comments made would be forwarded to the Communications and Public Affairs Division within the Council.
- Residents complained that the Council's website was not user-friendly as they were unable to access details of forthcoming Community Forums. In response, the Lead Officer informed the Forum that officers were aware of these concerns and were reviewing the website.
- The format of the new Community Forums was discussed and in response, Councillor Tyler stated that he would forward comments made by residents and Members to the Community Forum review meeting.
- The general issue of parking and parking charges was discussed.

- The Policy regarding the annual charge associated with the collection of a second Green Bin to householders in the Borough was questioned.
- PC Ravenscroft presented the crime figures for May-June 2013 for the area and invited residents to raise any issues of concern for review by the Police. In response, residents raised the following concerns:
 - an on-going issue of speeding vehicles on Balmoral Road/Kinver Street/Tack Farm Road and Bells Road;
 - an issue relating to mini-motor bikes being driven across the park at Kinver Street onto the roads;
 - a problem with youths drinking and urinating in the streets around the Buckingham Grove area;
 - cars being driven across the pavements on Granville Drive towards Fairview Crescent.
- The Lead Officer gave an update on the unsightly shop fronts in Sandringham Place, off Bells Lane. These shops are not owned by the council but officers are trying to pursue this matter with the owner.
- Station Commander for Stourbridge Fire Station addressed the meeting stating that it was their intention to send service personnel to future Forums to receive any issues that residents would like to raise with regards to safety, such as vehicles parked on streets causing an obstruction.

6. WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Jones submitted a petition on behalf of Wordsley Wasps Football Club requesting alternative parking provision for those attending the football matches to prevent individuals having to park along Kinver Street causing an obstruction.
- Councillor Jones raised an issue regarding the problems with badgers in the Haven and New Street and requested that gates be erected similar to those that had been erected in Kingswinford to address this issue.
- For information, Councillor Tyler confirmed that the disused Spar Shop on Enville Road in Wall Heath would shortly become a Veterinary Practice.

7. AREA GRANTS

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

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

- (1) That the application from the Holy Trinity Community Hall for funding of up to £1,436.40 to enable them to purchase a projector screen and sound vision system equipment be approved.
- (2) That the application from Wordsley Wasps Girls (under 16's) Football Team (formerly Hasbury Rangers Girls) for £2,400 to enable them to purchase equipment, kit and two x FA Coaching courses for volunteers be approved.
- (3) That the application from 2488 (Kingswinford) Air Training Corps for funding for £6,175.80 to enable them to purchase band equipment be approved.
- (4) That the application from the Church of Ascension Church Hall for funding for £3,767.00 to enable them to purchase a new boiler and the re-decoration of the entrance lobby, toilets, kitchen and main hall area be approved.

8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Tuesday 10th September, 2013 at 6.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.