

Forum: Belle Vale and Hayley Green & Cradley South

Date and time: Monday 24th June 2019 at 6.30pm

Venue: Caslon Primary School, Beeches View Avenue, Halesowen, B63 2ES

Attendance:

Councillors Simon Phipps, Jake Cooper, Ian Bevan

Officers: Sally Cornfield (Liaison Officer)

Davinder Tiwana (Community Development Worker)

Police: PC Dan Cole

Members of the public: 7

Action Notes

1. Appointment of chair and vice chair for 2019/20:

Appointment of Chair – Councillor Cooper

Appointment of Vice-Chair – Councillor Phipps

2. Welcome, introductions, apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies – Councillors Laura Taylor, Andrea Goddard, Ruth Buttery

Introduction of Councillor Ian Bevan and PC Dan Cole

3. Police and Communities Together

Update from PC Dan Cole

1. Neighbourhood Team Update – 1 Sergeant, 3 PC's (1 long term sick), 4 PCSO's
2. Cover all this Community Forum area as well as Halesowen North and Halesowen South. Role is to engage with the community.
3. PC Cole has been coaching some new students but they have now moved on.
4. Knife and youth crime is high on national agenda – work in the Neighbourhood Team has been with colleges, schools and youth groups. Focus on prevention but also includes the knife arch.
5. Working with transport police, early help, safer travel and the homeless team to look at issues around the Bus Station.
6. Cop Shop open 2/3 days out of 6 day block. Aim is offer crime prevention advice, collate intelligence and create partnerships – the space is shared with fire service and voluntary agencies.

7. There has been an arrest of one particular criminal who has committed in excess of 50 burglaries – 23 of which were in Halesowen.
8. Further arrests mean that the most prolific offenders in the area are off the street.

PC Cole tabled 3 documents

1. Speed Watch Grants – police will help set up community groups within the community this will aid the speeding / parking issues in the area.
2. Street Watch – set up street patrols with police assistance
3. Active Citizens Fund – application details left. Funding to support youth/community groups.

Questions from the public

Q. WhatsApp Group for Hayley Green is providing intelligence about roaming cars and suspicious behaviour. Concern that reports to police are not getting an immediate response.

A. Residents need to keep on reporting; using digital means where possible, 101 or in an emergency 999. There is a concern that reporting on social media is hindering intelligence getting to the police as people are not using the official channels.

Cllr Phipps has been attending meetings about digital reporting and the Live Chat Service. Officers look for links to cases and one bit of information may be the missing link which leads to an arrest.

3. Listening to you

Subject

Action/Response

Huntingtree Road / Bassnage Road

Issues with grass verge. Concern about safety/accidents. Don't want to stop people using park or displace parking problems elsewhere. Wouldn't it be better to tarmac it?

Cllr Phipps is aware that yellow lines are being considered. Will pinpoint area with resident after the meeting. **ACTION** – feedback to resident via Officers. Decision re: verges will be via public consultation.

Halesowen Church Yard

Council looks after the top. Issue is closed part which is being looked after by residents and community service. Last year the Council strimmed area – could this happen again (before Halesowen in Bloom?)

ACTION – Cllr Phipps will ask the question and will attend a session in the future (every Sunday morning)

4. Working with you

Councillor Phipps:

- Ongoing work regarding coaches parking near Halesowen College. Looking at impact of potential closure of Stourbridge College. Plans to maximise space on current coaches rather than extra coaches into/parking in the local area. ACTION – share progress at next meeting.
- Road safety concerns at Elizabeth/Alexandra Road have been raised with the police and there are ongoing talks with the Council regarding signage.

Councillor Cooper

- Working with Halesowen College and secondary schools regarding knife crime. Knife Arch was at college last Friday. There are also awareness raising workshops.

Councillor Bevan

- Council are working through the relevant processes regarding the Green Belt at the moment. Wants to reassure residents that no decisions have been made yet. Please use credible sources – there are some social media accounts regarding this. If you have specific questions ask your Councillor.

Question from a resident regarding the proposed Temporary Transit Site. Councillor Phipps gave an update on ongoing work and confirmed that no decisions have been made yet.

5. Funding

St Peter's Church

Agreed, £1,500

Halesowen Abbey Trust

Agreed

Halesowen Carnival

Agreed outside of the meeting

Date of next meeting was shared.

ACTION – to consider Belle Vale Community Centre and Hasbury Community Centre as venues for future meetings.

Meeting ended at 7:25pm