

**Action Notes of the Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's
Community Forum**

Wednesday 25th June 2014 at 6.30 pm
at St Thomas's Community Network, Beechwood Road, Dudley

Present:-

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

Officers:-

S Griffiths (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Democratic Services Manager) and M Johal (Democratic Services Officer)

Together with twelve members of the public.

1 **Election of Chair for the 2014/15 Municipal Year**

Councillor K Finch was elected Chair of the Forum for the 2014/15 municipal year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chair for the 2014/15 Municipal Year**

Councillor A Ahmed was elected Vice-Chair of the Forum for the 2014/15 municipal year.

3 **Apology**

Councillor M Roberts.

4 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's Community Forum and Members introduced themselves. The Mayor (Councillor M Aston) and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor S Waltho) were also congratulated on their official appointments.

Listening to you – Questions and Comments from Local Residents

Subject

Action

Caroline Street, Kate's Hill, Dudley

Referred for a written response.

- General litter and rubbish being tipped on pavements including dumping of large items
- Residents were unable to park their cars as a number of cars were parked on the street with a view to selling them
- Problems with large vehicles getting through due to narrowness of street

Councillor Ali to raise with Trading Standards and the Police the issue regarding cars being parked on the street for selling purposes.

Councillor Ali responded to specific points raised and noted ongoing issues.

Russells Hall Estate

Issues noted for a written response.

- Request for consideration to be given to a 20 mph speed restriction on Middlepark Road and Corbyn Road
- Corbyn Road – Complaint about damage to pavements at the bottom of the road and also damage caused to drains which results in flooding
- Overfield Road – Request for yellow lines because of inconsiderate parking; congestion problems; speeding issues and the reasons for the refusal of the placement of the bus stop was also queried.
- Bushey Fields Road – Problems with flooding in the dip of the road and obstruction caused by cars parking inconsiderately
- Ring and Ride had increased their fares and also three coaches were used to take three passengers to Dudley at the same time.
- The siting of the refuge on Russells Hall was queried.

The Cabinet Member for Transport undertook to investigate issues relating to the damage to pavements on Corbyn Road and inconsiderate parking on Bushey Fields Road.

Inspector Mason to consider the installation of a speed camera in Corbyn Road with a view to gathering evidence.

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Cabinet Member for Transport responded to specific points raised and noted ongoing issues.

Blackacre Road, Dudley

Comments made about the permanent closure 'stopping up' of the road:-

- Whether consultation had taken place with the Fire Service to ascertain their views.
- The road could only be closed if it was deemed no longer necessary for public use which was debatable.
- The scheme did not fulfil the planned objectives as traffic still used the road to cut through and that the problem had just been shifted elsewhere.
- Why had consideration not been given to any other traffic calming measure to try to curb the problem in the road?

Priory Estate, Dudley

- Ongoing problems with dangerous parking on exit roads of estate and cars parking on corners at blind spots
- Reference made to narrow pavements and the difficulties encountered in navigating pushchairs and wheelchairs around large trees. Also similar problems experienced in Laurel Road and Maple Road due to large trees and parked cars.

Large potholes on Warrens Hall Road near Sledmore Road junction require attention.

Cars using Four Winds Road and Gads Green as a racetrack on weekends

Referred for a written response.

The Cabinet Member for Transport responded to specific queries and stated that consideration would be given to implementing traffic calming measures on other streets upon submission of evidence to demonstrate traffic problems.

Referred for a written response.

Ward Councillors to undertake a Site Visit to ascertain the extent of the problem relating to the trees with a view to identifying solutions.

Referred for a written response.

Councillor Ali suggested that registration numbers of offending vehicles be noted with a view to submitting to the Police.

Dudley Town Centre Redevelopment

- Confirmation was sought on whether the Town Centre Development project was running late, was over budget and whether part of the project had been scrapped due to the lack of funds.
- Queried whether contractors working on the redevelopment found that utilities were not where they expected them to be due to inaccurate Council plans.
- Why were materials for the development being imported from Germany?
- Request for toilets to open on Sundays. Also clarification on whether a disabled toilet was to be placed by the fountain.
- Why had benches been removed and not replaced?
- Given the number of shops that had closed it was considered that the increase in parking charges would have a further negative impact on businesses in the Town Centre.
- Comment that redevelopment also be extended to surrounding areas and not just concentrated in the Town Centre.

Concerns about inconsiderate parking in roads around schools, particularly in Russells Hall and Milking Bank areas.

Referred for a written response.

The Cabinet Member for Transport to clarify the position with regard to the disabled toilet by the fountain and he also undertook to revisit the matter relating to benches.

The Cabinet Member for Transport responded to specific queries raised and confirmed that delays had occurred, however, the redevelopment of the Town Centre was now back on schedule and due for completion within the original timescale.

Noted ongoing issue.

6 **Working with you – Topics Raised by Local Councillors**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Action</u>
Councillor K Finch Requested that affected residents in the Castle and Priory area start a petition with a view to introducing 20 mph speeding limits within built up areas.	Inspector Mason undertook to clarify the point at which action was taken with regard to speeding limits.
It was also commented that although there were speeding restrictions, drivers could go beyond that limit before being penalised.	

7 **Community Forum Funding**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Dudley Arts Council	Confirm allocation of £1500 – St James's Ward
The Young Smiles	Defer to pursue other funding sources.
Dudley Central Mosque and Muslim Community Centre	Approve contribution of £8000 – St Thomas's Ward
The Life Centre Debt Advice (Stourbridge)	Defer for further information to ascertain take up from Wards relating to this Forum.
The Samaritans (Brierley Hill Branch)	Refuse – priority to be given to more local projects.
Hill-side Herbs	Approve contribution of £5000 – St Thomas's Ward
Dudley Community Church	Approve contribution of £2500 subject to receipt of confirmation of funding from other sources to meet the total project costs – St James Ward
Dudley Counselling Centre	Approve contribution of £2500 subject to receipt of confirmation of funding from other sources to meet the total project costs – St James Ward
Black Country Community Radio	Approve contribution of £3000 subject to obtaining a licence (£1000 to be allocated from each Ward)

Dudley Community and Voluntary Service

Approve contribution of £340 – (£113 to be allocated from each Ward)

2nd Dudley St Francis Brownies

Approve contribution of £1880 – Castle and Priory Ward

8 **Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings**

Future meetings noted as follows:-

Wednesday 3rd September, 2014 (St Barnabus' C of E Church)

Wednesday 5th November, 2014 (Wrens Nest Community Centre)

Wednesday 28th January, 2015 (St Thomas's Community Network)

Wednesday 18th March, 2015 (St Barnabus' C of E Church)

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm