

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF AMBLECOTE, CRADLEY AND WOLLESCOTE, LYE AND STOURBRIDGE NORTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2013  
At Amblecote Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Amblecote.

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Herbert (Chair)  
Councillor Perks (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Body, Crumpton, Hanif, Mrs P Martin, Partridge and Mrs Walker.

**OFFICERS:-**

Miss J Porter (Lead Officer to the Forum - Director of Children's Services)  
and Mrs K Taylor (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with 23 members of the public.

---

7 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Lowe.

---

8 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Forum. Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors and members of the public introduced themselves.

---

9 **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) Balconies at Piper Place, Amblecote - when would the balconies would be safe to use again. | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
|--|--|

- |      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| (1a) | Piper Place, Amblecote – When would front doors and shed doors be replaced, and whether the intercom system would be updated.   | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
| (1b) | A resident reported wasps in his loft – Query why it was his responsibility to remove the wasps just because he had the roof space above his flat.  | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
| (1c) | A resident reported a blockage in his kitchen and bathroom sinks, which had not been resolved with domestic cleaners – Query why he would have to pay the Council to resolve.                                       | Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services. |
| (2)  | Councillor Body, on behalf of residents, asked how long it would take to fill the potholes in the Cradley and Wollescote ward.  | Director of the Urban Environment.                 |
| (2b) | How long would it take for the litter to be removed in Colley Gate, Windmill Hill, Highfield Road and Foredraft Street?   | Director of the Urban Environment.                 |
| (3)  | Ongoing problems concerning the members of the Wollescote Flat Green Bowls Clubs.   | Director of the Urban Environment.                 |
| (3b) | An issue was raised in regard to public parking at Wollescote Park.   | Director of the Urban Environment.                 |
| (3c) | Bollards at 7 Dwellings Bridge - requested that measures were taken to prevent access. The Chair also suggested that the resident contact Waterways, who were responsible for the bollards.                         | Director of Urban Environment.                     |
| (3d) | A resident requested that Dudley Council liaise with Corbett Hospital to cease using the disabled parking bays for the mobile x-ray unit and utilise the entrance to the rear of the hospital left for access only. | Director of the Urban Environment.                 |
| (4)  | Concerns regarding the trees and hedges overhanging the pavements by the corner of Penfields Road, Railway Bridge Walk Way, Lindale Crescent, Speedwell Close, and by the road leading to Sainsbury's.              | Director of the Urban Environment.                 |

- |      |  |                                    |
|------|--|------------------------------------|
| (4b) | A resident requested that improvements are made to the footpath for Stour Valley Walk from Bagley Street to viaduct and Speedwell Close. It was also reported that vehicles were entering the field from Bagley Street, which was damaging the ground.   | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (5)  | Parking in Church Avenue, near Corbett Hospital. Councillors Mrs Martin and Mrs Walker had attended a number of meetings with the Head of Traffic and Transportation, and the NHS in respect of possible enforcement action; introducing red lines, and to provide additional disabled spaces, however action had not been undertaken. | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (5b) | A resident asked if an official sign could be placed on the post box in Vicarage Road, Amblecote.  | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (6)  | Concerns were raised in respect of the lack of a hardstanding footpath with lighting between the Penfields estate at Porloch Road and Chilly Kiddys at Mill Race Lane.   | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (7)  | Regeneration of Cradley and the removal and rebuild of derelict shops and housing along the A458 road. When will regeneration begin and what are the plans?  | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (8)  | Site of the former Cradley High School, in particular, possible changes to the plans formulated for the planning application P12/1447. Will a new drawing/plan be lodged so that residents are aware of what will be happening? Will this mean a new planning application or an amendment?   | Director of the Urban Environment. |
| (9)  | A group of new volunteers attempting to revitalise Friends of Wollescote Park require assistance in finding where they may apply for grants.   | Director of the Urban Environment. |

- (9b) Concerns have been raised at Friends of Wollescote Park Committee Meetings in relation to the Stevens Trust money and that the money has been used to support other parks. Director of the Urban Environment.

Other issues raised :-

- A resident stated that although he had a response to his questions that he had submitted at the previous Community Forum, in particular, in regard of Lye Cricket/Football and the junction of Cemetery Road and Pedmore Road, he had been disappointed by that response. Councillor Hanif explained that in relation to Cemetery Road and Pedmore Road, he would be meeting with the Group Engineer to discuss the matter further. The Chair also agreed to look at the issue in respect of Lye Cricket/Football Cricket Club.
- A resident invited Members to walk around the pathways at Withymoore Village, which had not been maintained.
- The Chair advised the forum that the police would attend all meetings of the forum, and that residents could discuss any issues with the police after the meeting.
- Irregular patrols by Police from Black Delph Bridge to Station Drive Bridge in early evenings to prevent anti-social behaviour.
- A member of the public suggested that the minutes taken at the meeting were unnecessary, given that residents who required a written response were required to complete a question form. The Lead Officer stated that the forums were under review, and the comments made would be noted.
- Ward boundaries, in particular, areas such as the entrance of Wollescote Park located within Wollescote and Pedmore, Stourbridge.
- Format of Community Forums, to be reviewed, however, they did enable residents to raise all their issues in a more informal setting than Area Committees.
- A resident commented on a scheme where a police officer circulated information such as scams and crime in the area via a distribution list. A scheme was in place, however, it would be impossible to manage on an individual basis and worked mainly through groups such as neighbourhood watch. The police representative agreed to speak to the resident after the meeting.
- The next Friends of the Park meeting would be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, 6.30 pm in the Sons of Rest room, Wollescote Park.

---

10 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Partridge informed the Forum that Councillors were working hard on the Parks Initiative, and that she would be able to report back to the Forum on developments at a later date.
- Councillor Perks commented on the pathway from Trinity Road and asked whether it would be possible to have a hard standing, given that the path had become damaged during the winter.
- Councillor Perks commented on the main gates at Corbett Hospital and stated that she had been informed that the Council and not the NHS were responsible for the gates. The Lead Officer agreed to look into the matter further.
- Councillor Perks circulated leaflets in relation to reporting scams. Councillor Mrs P Martin explained that she had attended a number of classes in the area to promote awareness.
- Councillor Perks stated that a table top sale would be taking place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 at Amblecote Church Hall.
- Councillor Hanif commented on the parking bays in Lower High Street, Lye and explained that he would be attending a meeting to review the issues.
- Councillor Hanif raised the issue of anti-social behaviour by Mears Coppice, Sergeant Rudge explained that he had held discussions regarding the anti-social behaviour and confirmed that patrols would be increased.
- Councillor Crumpton commented on the Community Living Fund available within the ward. The grant could be used for community events and it was intended to consult members of the public.
- Councillor Crumpton thanked Councillor Body for the money that he raised for Homer Hill Park/St Peter's Church.

- Councillor Crumpton referred to an event that had taken place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 which raised £2,000 towards the purchase of a dog to help a young autistic child. He encouraged people to attend and support similar good causes.
- Councillor Mrs Walker raised an issue in respect of the electoral register, in particular that postcodes were not listed on the register, and asked for the matter to be looked at.
- Councillor Mrs Walker referred to the grants approved by Stourbridge Area Committee to Stourbridge in Bloom to further aid the opening of the gateway from Amblecote in 2013, and suggested that in future this Community Forum could consider any additional bids.

---

11 AREA GRANTS

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

Comments were made in respect of the application received by DIYYA, in particular for funding towards the cost for a coach trip for under privileged families and liability insurance. The Lead Officer stated that she would provide support to the group, if the application were approved, to ensure that all safeguarding measures were applied correctly when planning the visit.

Following consideration of the applications submitted, Members requested that the letters sent to the applicant outlining the Forum's decision be amended to request that the applicant submit feedback explaining how the funding has been used and the outcomes.

**AGREED TO RECOMMEND**

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

- (a) A grant in the sum of £4,968.66 to Apni Zaroorat Community Network to purchase kitchen equipment, pool table, air hockey, garden games, computer games, water cooler, indoor and outdoor dustbins.
- (b) A grant in the sum of £719.52 to Stourbridge Cricket Club to purchase two waterproof rain covers.
- (c) A grant in the sum of £1,983.00 to DIYYA to purchase equipment, part cost for coach trip for under privileged families and liability insurance.

---

12 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Community Forum would be determined at Annual Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2013.

---

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.