

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTON/PEDMORE AND
STOURBRIDGE EAST/WOLLASTON AND STOURBRIDGE TOWN COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 6th November, 2013
at Wollaston Village Hall, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge

PRESENT:-

Councillor Attwood – Chair
Councillors Elcock, Hale, Kettle, Marrey, Rogers, Sykes and C Wilson.

OFFICERS:-

Mrs S Holmyard (Lead Officer to the Forum), (Assistant Director of Planning and Environmental Health) - (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Miss H Shepherd (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with 17 members of the public.

14 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum and the local councillors and Council Officers introduced themselves.

15 **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 a concern in relation to the potholes in Kempton Way, Norton, which was now considered to be dangerous. It was recognised that Kempton Way was an un-adopted road, but clarification of who was responsible for the maintenance of the road was requested.

Councillor Mrs Rogers confirmed that the road was un-adopted highway, but the Council did own the land that surrounded the road. An email had been sent to the Cabinet Member for Transport in early November and the relevant Directorate with regards to this issue, but to date, no response had been received.

- (2) A resident raised concerns in relation to the potholes in the access road leading to the Wollaston Village Hall from Bridgnorth Road and requested that these be repaired.

Councillor Sykes stated that ownership of the access road was still being identified and Councillor Hale confirmed that the Council had agreed to pay 50% of the repair costs and funding options for the remainder of the repair costs were being explored.

Councillor Rogers referred to a meeting of the Stourbridge Area Committee where this issue had been raised previously and the maintenance work had been agreed to be carried out by the Council and requested that this be investigated.

- (3) A resident wanted to know why, at a time when the Council was reducing spending, a road sweeper was also being followed by a larger maintenance vehicle in the Hagley Road/Manor Way, Halesowen area.
- (4) A question was submitted in relation to the exclusion of members of the public from commenting on Community Forum Funding.

Other Issues raised to which responses were given at the meeting:-

- A member of the public, in his capacity as a Governor of the Ambulance Service, referred to the Fast+Aid Charity Number 1147703 funding application which would be considered at agenda item 5 and confirmed that it was a genuine charity which worked extremely well in rural areas where the ambulance service could not always provide a quick response, but raised concerns of the relevance for this service within the Dudley Borough.
- Representatives of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) gave a presentation in relation to the on-going consultation on a new vision for urgent care in Dudley. Councillors and residents expressed their views and concerns in relation to the consultation process and the proposed re-location of the NHS walk-in centre.
- At the request of a resident, a progress update was provided by the Lead Officer to the Forum on the collapsed wall at Red Hill. Further concerns were raised by a Member in relation to the wall continuing to lean and requested that a structural survey on the whole wall be carried out. The Lead Officer agreed to report back the concerns and ascertain how often the structure was being monitored.
- It was requested that feedback on issues raised at previous meetings should be provided at the next meeting. The Lead Officer confirmed that the format of the Community Forum was different in comparison to the former Area Committees and that those residents that had raised a query and requested a response would receive one direct, but an update would not be provided at the following meeting.
- A resident referred to the on-going issue in relation to the trees at the rear of 23 Dorset Road. Councillor Hale confirmed that this issue was in hand.

16 WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Sykes informed the forum of the winter warm helpline telephone number 01384 817086, which provided support to residents during the winter months.
- Councillor C Wilson referred to the collapsed wall at Red Hill and requested if the option to purchase the land that had now been identified as being owned by West Midlands Police, had been explored, as this could be used by the Council in the future for a possible carriageway and footway widening scheme.

17 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

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

AGREED:-

- (1) That the application from Fast+Aid Charity Number 1147703 for the sum of £10,000 in total, across all 10 community forums, to purchase a second vehicle to be used in the Dudley area so that they can respond quickly to 999 calls, be deferred until further information was provided by the applicant in relation to how the charity works; where the vehicle will be located/based; assurance that the vehicle will not be used outside of the Borough; the area in which the vehicle will cover; what training and medical qualification the volunteers had and their insurance indemnity.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

That the Director of Corporate Resources:-

- (1) Approve the application from Dudley MBC – Directorate of Urban Environment, Environmental Management Division for the sum of £2,273.37 for the provision of Christmas trees at 2 locations within the Forum area.
- (2) (i) Approve, in principal, the application from Unit3sixty C.I.C for the sum of £5000 to provide a skate park, subject to planning permission being obtained and to the submission of further information on the overall funding of the project.
(ii) That a further report be submitted to the Community Forum in due course following the receipt of the additional information referred to above and prior to any funding being released by the Director of Corporate Resources.

18 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Thursday 30th January, 2014 at 6.30pm at St Michaels and All Angels Church, Maynard Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.