

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

Wednesday 3rd September 2014 at 6.30 pm
at St Barnabus' Church of England Church, Middlepark Road, Russells Hall,
Dudley

Present:-

Councillor K Finch (Chair)
Councillors K Ahmed, M Aston, A Finch, M Roberts and S Waltho

Officers:-

S Griffiths (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Democratic Services Manager) and M
Johal (Democratic Services Officer), A Winning (ASBU Development Manager)

Together with twelve members of the public.

9 **Apologies**

Councillors S Ali, A Ahmed and S Arshad.

10 **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 and Officers introduced
themselves to the meeting.

11 **Listening to you – Questions and Comments from Local Residents**

Subject

Action

Mr Andy Winning (ASBU Development
Manager) explained about an event "Face the
People" to be held at the Netherton Arts Centre
on 16th September, 2014 from 7 – 9 pm.
Representatives from the Police, Council and
Probation Service would be in attendance to
answer residents' queries.

Circulated leaflets.

Russells Hall Estate

- Complaint about damage caused by young people that regularly climbed onto the roof of St Barnabus' Church. Although the matter had been reported to the Police on numerous occasions there had been no satisfactory response.
- Overfield Playing Fields – Complaint that the area needed attention. Youths drove cars and motor bikes onto the park during the night, there were syringes and needles, broken glass strewn and rubbish dumped including a mattress. It was also stated that other parks in the Borough had extensive facilities and it was requested that consideration be given to improving the facilities at the playing fields to benefit local young people.
- Ashenhurst Road – Ongoing issue regarding trees that were dangerous and required maintenance and care.
- Ongoing litter problems on Middlepark Road (Broadmeadow) and also that a dead tree had fallen down onto a property
- Trees and bushes needed cutting along Barrow Hill up to Pearce Close.
- An update was requested on the bus shelter opposite the chip shop on Middlepark Road.
- Speeding issues and request for double yellow lines on Overfield Road as cars obstructed residents' drives.
- Fly tipping to the rear of a property in Langstone Road which was causing the fence to the property to bend. The rubbish was attracting vermin and there was an unpleasant odour in warm weather.
- Complaint about Ring and Ride's booking system.

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

Issues noted for a written response.

Mr Winning undertook to speak to the complainant and to raise the matter with the Neighbourhood Police Team. Ward Councillors also to raise the issue at the next PACT meeting with a view to ascertaining why the Police had not responded to the matter.

In relation to Overfield Playing Fields the Chair undertook to conduct a Site Visit with Ward Councillors and a relevant officer from the Directorate of the Urban Environment. Councillor K Ahmed and the Chair also advised residents to set up a Friends of Park Group as it was easier to access and apply for funds.

The Chair, Ward Councillors and a relevant officer from the Directorate of the Urban Environment to conduct a Site Visit to ascertain the extent of the problem relating to trees on Ashenhurst Road.

Chair and Ward Member to raise issues relating to Middlepark Road (Broadmeadow) at next Council meeting.

Kates Hill, Dudley

Request for a passageway running between properties on Kitchener, Highfield and Corporation Roads to be cleared as the entry had become a rubbish dump and was overgrown with weeds and sprouting trees.

Referred for a written response.

Blackacre Road, Dudley

Complaints made about problems caused by the permanent closure 'stopping up' of Blackacre Road and that the congestion problem had now shifted on to the side streets. Due to the narrowness of the side streets damage was also being caused to vehicles.

Referred for a written response.

The Cabinet Member for Transport undertook to reassess the matter following a suitable period after King Street was opened to two way traffic.

Wolverhampton Street, Dudley – Complaint about the former furniture business and comments made that it was unsafe.

Councillor K Ahmed informed the meeting that the property would be sold at an auction shortly.

Douglass Road, Dudley – An update on the request for speed humps.

The Cabinet Member for Transport reported that there were issues as not all residents wanted speed humps.

Priory Estate, Dudley

Complaint about littering and flytipping at the top end of Paganel Drive between The Green and Priory Park and funding was sought for signage and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) to monitor the entrance to the park and also to re-slab the path.

Referred for a written response.

The Friends Group to consider applying for funding from the Community Forum. The Chair also asked that efforts be made with a view to collating evidence to identify the "flytipping" culprits.

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

No issues raised under this item.

13 **Community Forum Funding**

The Lead Officer to the Forum declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a Member of the Dudley Ex Servicemen's Club in a social capacity. He informed the meeting that he had no involvement in the application made by the Royal British Legion.

The Lead Officer to the Forum informed the meeting about the High Street Innovation Fund and Empty Shops Grant and on the proposals to allocate the funding equally between the Borough's ten Community Forums of £16,736 each. Forums would have the flexibility to allocate funding within their areas in line with agreed criteria.

<u>Application</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
The Young Smiles Project	Confirm allocation of £3000 approved under urgency (St James Ward)
The Life Centre Debt Advice (Stourbridge)	Refuse as no further information received to ascertain take up from Wards relating to this Forum.
Castle and Priory Regeneration Area Board	Approve contribution of £1500 (Castle and Priory Ward)
Royal British Legion	Approve contribution of £800 (St Thomas's Ward)
Claughton Youth Centre	Defer pending further information to ascertain the amount of funding requested.

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

Future meetings noted as follows:-

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 8.00 pm