

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

Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 4th February, 2014
At Amblecote Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Amblecote.

PRESENT:-

Councillors Crumpton, Hanif, Lowe, Partridge, Perks and Mrs Walker

OFFICERS:-

Ms A Grove (Lead Officer to the Forum – Head of Service – Youth Service) and Mrs K Taylor (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE AS OBSERVERS:-

Mr B Clifford (Assistant Director, Adult Social Care – Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services); Mr A Winning (ASBU Development Manager – Chief Executive's) and Councillor J. Martin (Ward Member - Brockmoor & Pensnett).

Together with 16 members of the public.

21. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair unable to take the Chair, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Hanif be elected chair for this meeting of the Forum only.

(Councillor Hanif in the Chair)

22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Body, Herbert and Mrs Martin.

23. **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Forum. Following the making of other general announcements, including information in relation to the Mayors Civic Awards and 'Dudley's Big Switch', the local councillors and members of the public introduced themselves.

24 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 referred to the pool of water and mud collecting in the area at Corbett Gates, and the destruction caused by lorries going across the right of way and up the bank.
- (2) An issue was raised in respect of the paths fenced off in Homer Hill Park by Extra Care Construction causing no pedestrian safe routes and elderly users falling over the mud. This had been raised with the Construction Site Manager.
- (3) A resident referred to the litter in Homer Hill Park and the adjoining Church, in particular alcohol cans, and that the Friends Group were picking up the litter themselves.
- (4) A resident referred to the bin store at Piper Place, Amblecote that would not open. Also they are not suitable for new bins, so do they still get bin bags delivered?
- (5) The shed doors need replacing at Piper Place, Amblecote as they are in a bad condition. There are also large amounts of water lying on top of the sheds and the flow of water on the roofs runs the wrong way, away from the drainage.

Other issues raised :-

- A resident was responded to by Councillors in respect of Patient Participation Groups in the Borough, in particular of the lack of GP Practices that had signed up. Another resident commented that a large number of practices had developed Patient Participation Groups (PPG), and that Wychbury PPG had been particularly successful.
- An issue was raised in regard to public parking at Wollescote Park, in particular that there had been a significant reduction in parking available, and that Adult Services had used the majority of the car parking spaces. It was also suggested that the resident contact the Friends of Wollescote Park to discuss the matter further.

- Reference was made to Dudley MBC using Social Networks such as Facebook.

Councillor Lowe reported that there had been three successful Facebook forums that received a large and varied number of comments. He also stated that any issues that were community focused would be forwarded to the relevant Community Forum Chair.

- An update was requested in relation to the water pooling in Stepping Stones. This was raised at a previous meeting.

Councillor Hanif reported that Severn Trent had undertaken repairs and this was now resolved, however he undertook to provide the resident with further details if necessary.

- A resident referred to a Section 106 grant that was ring-fenced for Cradley, however it was allocated to a neighbouring ward.

Councillor Crumpton confirmed that the grant had been allocated to a different Ward, however it had not been spent, and although there had been complications in retrieving the grant the matter was being investigated.

- An update was requested in relation to the intended opening of a Medical Practice in Lye. This was raised at the last Forum meeting.

Councillor Lowe reported that the original plans had been radically changed in response to a change in criteria, and undertook to provide the resident with further details if necessary. Councillor Partridge also stated that the Council was fully committed to the project.

- Representatives of the Friends of Wollescote Park were in attendance and gave a brief presentation in relation to a project to replace Lye Park gates. They presented a sketch made by local artist, Luke Perry, to reflect the agricultural and industrial history in the area, and stated that a number of bids would be submitted to fund the £20,000 project. A discussion followed and ideas were given on how the Community could be involved in the project, and what could be included on the gates.

25 WORKING WITH YOU - TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- Councillor Mrs Walker
 - (a) Requested the number of civil enforcements issued to motorists abusing parking restrictions in Church Avenue, Cricketers Green and Jardine Close.

- (b) Referred to the abuse by public utilities of the environment at the Junction of Hillfields Road and Vicarage Road, as there appeared to be no consultation in regard to the hardware and other urban clutter.
- Councillor Partridge referred to the good work undertaken to the paths at Wollescote Park.
- Councillor Lowe referred to the Black Country Carnival and the various activities that could be taking place.
- Councillor Perks
 - (a) Referred to an organisation, namely, Crossways Care, who provided respite care, and requested that anybody who knew of an elderly person who was unable to leave their home to contact the organisation.
 - (b) Reported that she had contacted Environmental Management in regard to clearing the area behind Withymoor School, and that additional zigzags would be placed outside the School to alleviate the existing problems.
 - (c) Referred to the good work undertaken in re-surfacing Margaret Close and Andrew Close.
- Councillor Crumpton
 - (a) Referred to the activities and competitions organised by Friends of Cradley Library, including 'podging' and memory walks.
 - (b) Reported that Councillor Body would be litter picking on Saturday, and if anybody wanted to help to meet Councillor Body at Wassell Road at 9am.
- Councillor Hanif
 - (a) Reported that he had been involved in casework in relation to anti-social behaviour in areas surrounding Stourbridge Road.
 - (b) Referred to the car wash at Birmingham Street, in particular, that he had requested the workers to be mindful of throwing used water on the pathways, especially during the winter, as it may cause the pathways to become icy.

26 AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on one application for funding, and an application approved under delegated powers.

A representative from St Peters Church, Cradley was in attendance and made comments on the application.

AGREED :-

That the action of the Lead Officer, in consultation with members of the forum, in recommending approval of an application in the sum of £1,800.00 from Stambermill Scouts towards the purchase of camping and other identified equipment, be noted.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the following:-

A grant in the sum of £5,000.00 to St Peters Church, Cradley for the tree felling and pollarding of the church yard.

27 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Tuesday 25th March, 2014, starting at 6.30pm at Lye Community Centre, Cross Walks, Lye.

The meeting ended at 7.45. pm