

**ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF NETHERTON, WOODSIDE AND  
ST ANDREWS/QUARRY BANK AND DUDLEY WOOD  
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at Netherton Arts Centre,  
Northfield Road, Netherton

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Zada (Chair)  
Councillors Cowell, Duckworth, Sparks and Wood

**Officers**

Mr M Williams (Lead Officer to the Forum) (Assistant Director, Environmental Management – Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Together with eighteen members of the public.

1 **INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone to this the first meeting of the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews/Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Community Forum and in his remarks commented on the purpose of the new Community Forums set up by the Council. Following the making of other general announcements the local councillors and council officers introduced themselves.

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2 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Cotterill.

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3 **LISTENING TO YOU – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

The following written queries/complaints were raised:-

**Nature of Query/Complaint**

**Referred to**

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Why is no consideration given to Tenants and Residents Associations when fixing the date of meetings given that we have to notify the dates of our meetings to the Council and this Forum clashes with two Tenant and Resident Association meetings. | Director of Corporate Resources |
|---|---------------------------------|

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|------|---|--|
| 2.   | Fly tipping of garden waste down the bank (off Quarry Road) also other waste in this conservation area  | Director of the Urban Environment  |
| 3.   | Developments on re-opening of Black Horse playing field after issues with changing rooms                | Director of the Urban Environment  |
| 4(a) | Speed camera at Cinder Bank has been removed  | Director of the Urban Environment  |
| 4(b) | Litter problem following the promotion of the litter picker in Netherton to another area of the borough | Director of the Urban Environment  |
| 4(c) | Whether the Council still owned the former estate office in Buffery Road                                | Director of the Urban Environment  |
| 4(d) | The provision of toilet facilities in Netherton   | Director of the Urban Environment/<br>Netherton<br>Regeneration Group<br>at a forthcoming<br>meeting |
| 4(e) | Pot holes in road ways  | Director of the Urban Environment  |
| 5.   | The drains in Netherton area in particular Upton Street, Church Road, St John's Street                  | Director of the Urban Environment  |
|      | Reference also made to a drain in New Road  |  |

Other Issues Raised Orally:-

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|----|---|--|
| 1. | Query regarding the number of black sacks issued to residents | Lead Officer to arrange for checks to be undertaken                            |
| 2. | Signage regarding the titanic anchor                          | Netherton<br>Regeneration Group<br>- currently raising<br>money in this regard |
| 3. | Query raised regarding the operation of the drainage wagons   | Lead Officer to respond to the questioner                                      |

4. Pot holes generally

Residents with any other concerns regarding pot holes were asked to see the Lead Officer to the Forum at the conclusion of the meeting

Other Issues Raised:-

- Appropriate alternative arrangements, following an assessment, could possibly be put in place should residents for example those who were elderly have difficulty in accommodating wheelie bins.
- That currently there was no intention to charge for green bin collections
- That arising from comments made it was reported that highway maintenance was a priority in particular dealing with potholes especially given the exceptional weather conditions during the last year. Overall the priorities were roads, potholes and the reconstruction programme. Whilst principal roads were a priority all roads were listed and if deterioration had occurred to a significant degree, the particular road in question would receive a higher rating for action.

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WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- (a) Councillor Duckworth referred to a number of complaints that he had received regarding the lack of gritting in various areas.
- (b) Councillor Sparks referred to
- (a) A proposal by Centro to introduce car park charges at Cradley Heath station and requested that representations be made to Centro to the effect that car park charges should not be introduced.
- (b) Again in relation to Cradley Heath station and the introduction of a reduced service by Chiltern railways due to the new express service using trains of a length that could not be accommodated at Cradley Heath station due to the type of platform in use at the station. He requested that representations again be made to Centro to the effect that services provided by Chiltern railways be maintained and that any technical difficulties be overcome to achieve this.

- (c) In respect of pot holes and the recent inclement weather whether officers were proactively checking on roads rather than waiting for problems to be identified to them.

Particular reference was made to Halesowen Road. In response to this query it was reported that officers had been out checking on roads and that if any road presented a particular concern members were asked to report it.

In response to the other two points raised the Lead Officer undertook to contact relevant colleagues so that representations could be made to Centro on the matters raised.

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AREA GRANTS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on an application for funding received from the friends of Netherton Park.

Councillor Duckworth did not take part in the consideration of this matter as he is a member of the Friends of Netherton Park.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND

That the Director of Corporate Resources approve the making of a grant in the sum of £750 to the Friends of Netherton Park to enable them to purchase equipment to clear and maintain the Wild Life Area of Netherton Park.

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DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at 6.30 pm at the Savoy Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton.

It was further noted that in the forthcoming municipal year venues in other parts of the wards would be used for the holding of Community Forums.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.