

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

Held at 6.30pm on Thursday 30th January, 2014
At St Michael and All Angels Church Hall, Maynard Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge

PRESENT:-

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

OFFICERS:-

Sue Holmyard (Lead Officer to the Forum), (Assistant Director of Planning and Environmental Health) - (Directorate of the Urban Environment); Andrew Leigh (Head of Services (Housing Strategy and Development) (Shadow Lead Officer), Martin Shaw (Principal Officer Communities) (Both Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Helen Shepherd (Directorate of Corporate Resources).

Together with 22 members of the public.

19 **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.

The Chair made an announcement in relation to the Mayor's Civic Awards for unsung community heroes across the Dudley borough and stated that nomination forms were available at the meeting if anyone knew of an individual or a group of people that deserved one of the very special awards.

20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hale and L Jones.

21 **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 requested that the dog fouling on the pavements and grass verges in Swindell Road, Wythwood Close, Beckman Road and the footpath between Compton Road and Sandhurst Avenue be removed and that the appropriate enforcement action be taken in this area.

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

- A resident expressed his thanks that the potholes in Kempton Way, Norton, had been repaired as requested at the previous meeting, but clarification as to whether the Council would accept responsibility and adopt the road was required.

Councillor Rogers confirmed that the road was surrounded by Council owned land and was the responsibility of the Council to maintain. The Chair requested that a recommendation be made to the Director of the Urban Environment for the Council to take over the ownership and responsibility of Kempton Way, Norton. The Lead Officer to the Forum agreed to consult with the Director in relation to this matter.

- A resident requested clarification in relation to the Christmas tree Community Forum funding application that was approved at the previous meeting and what the money was used to pay for, as a plaque had been placed underneath the tree stating 'sponsored by Tesco'. The Lead Officer to the Forum confirmed that the amount approved by the Forum did not equate to the full amount of funding required to complete the project and that additional funding had been obtained through sponsorship.
- An update in relation to the collapsed wall at Red Hill was provided upon request from a resident.
- In response to a question raised, it was confirmed that the Action Notes from Forum meetings were available to the public via the Committee Management Information System on the internet.
- A discussion was had in relation to the expansion of Stourbridge railway station car park and the public were encouraged to make any comments in relation to the proposals and planning application via the planning portal on Dudley's website.
- A detailed discussion was held in relation to Black Country Day and the array of events that were proposed to take place to celebrate on or around 14th July, 2014. Anyone who had any further suggestions or wished to take part in the events were advised to contact Councillor Marrey or could view further details on www.blackcountryfestival.org.uk
- A resident raised a concern in relation to the dangerous junction when exiting the Stourbridge railway station car park and the possibility of a mirror being installed onto the railway bridge to assist with visibility. Councillor Sykes stated that this had previously been explored, but given the positioning, a mirror would not assist with the visibility problems.

- A resident raised an issue in relation to the siting of bus stops in the area, making particular reference to Vicarage Road. It was confirmed that Centro did consult with the Traffic and Road Safety Section and local Ward Councillors prior to installation or re-siting of a bus stop.
 - A resident referred to a newspaper article and requested that any residents that were aware of non-maintained war veteran graves to notify Dudley Council, as funding could be obtained for restoration.
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22 WORKING WITH YOU – TOPICS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILLORS

- An update was provided, upon request from Councillor Elcock, in relation to the maintenance works required to the access road leading to Wollaston Village Hall and whose responsibility it was.
 - Advice was provided by the Lead Officer to the Forum in relation to bonfires in private gardens.
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23 COMMUNITY FORUM FUNDING

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

At this juncture, Councillor Rogers declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the funding application submitted from Fellows Morton & Clayton (FMC) Ltd, as her son occasionally steered 'The Blackcountryman' boat.

A resident raised a concern in relation to the exclusion of members of the public from commenting on Community Forum Funding applications. Councillor Marrey agreed with the comments made and agreed to make a personal recommendation in relation to this matter.

Councillors Rogers and Sykes requested that a process be established to ensure that funding applications submitted to both the Community Forums and the Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee were not duplicated. The Assistant Democratic Services Officer agreed to raise this issue with the appropriate officers.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-

That the Director of Corporate Resources:-

- (1) Approve the application from Black Country Bowls Club for the sum of £2250 for the provision of four new park benches to replace the existing ones which are currently in a poor state of repair.
- (2) Approve the application from Gig Caritas for the sum of £4000 to purchase a range of lighting and sound system equipment.

- (3) Approve the application from Fellows Morton & Clayton (FMC) Ltd for the sum of £5000 to replace the rotting wood on 'The Blackcountryman' trip boat with a steel skin making the passenger area rain proof.
- (4) Approve the application from Friends of Swan Pool Park for the sum of £5000 for the provision of a youth shelter and a selection of benches to be placed at various locations within the Park.

24 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Forum would be on Wednesday 19th March, 2014 at 6.30pm at Chawn Hill Church Centre Hall, Chawn Hill, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 7JD.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.