

## **HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 at 6.30 p.m.  
at Colley Lane Primary School, Colley Lane, Halesowen

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Chairman)  
Councillor James (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Body, Burston, Crumpton, Mrs Dunn, Hill, Ms Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Taylor, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, Vickers and Woodall.

### **Officers**

The Director of Finance (as Area Liaison Officer), The Head of Executive Support and Group Engineer (both Directorate of the Urban Environment), Ms Grove (Directorate of Children's Services) and Mr Farooq and Mr Sanders (both Directorate of Law and Property)

### **Also in Attendance**

Sergeant I Barton (West Midlands Police) – for Agenda Item No. 6  
Crew Commander S Scriven (West Midlands Fire Service) – for Agenda Item No. 6  
Ms H Mossum (Principal Development Officer, Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Ms S Shefton and Mr R Black (Colin Buchanan Consultants) – For Agenda Item No. 10

19 Members of the Public

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### **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Shakespeare.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of personal interest was made by Councillor Burston in respect of Item No. 15 on the Agenda (Halesowen Town Centre Development) in so far as the Item related to Halesowen Bus Station, in view of his employment by CENTRO.

A declaration of personal interest was made by Councillor Hill in relation to Item 10 on the Agenda (Shell Corner Regeneration Strategy) in view of his Vice Chairmanship of the Shell Corner Partnership.

Declarations of Personal Interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by Councillors Hill and James in respect of Item 11 on the Agenda (Delegated Capital Budget), in so far as the item related to the application made by Earls High School, in view of their Governorship of that school.

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## MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008 were submitted for approval as a correct record. During the consideration of this Item, certain Members indicated that they believed that Resolution (2) of minute 8 (Appointment of Working Groups) was inaccurate with regard to the inclusion of the Chairman of the Committee in the composition of the Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Plan Delivery Working Group. Notwithstanding this, it was

### RESOLVED

That, subject to the inclusion of reference to the Stourbridge Archives in the sixth and seventh lines of the second paragraph of the preamble to minute 6 (Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees), the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

A number of issues arising from the minutes were discussed at this juncture, as follows:

In relation to minute 13(b) the Member who raised the issue reported that sequencing of the pedestrian traffic lights near the junction of Summerhill and Queensway had not yet been addressed. The Member requested that the issue be attended to without delay.

In relation to matters relating the Wollescote area, the Members for the Cradley and Foxcote Ward again expressed their regret that the area had been included in that Electoral Ward, rather than in Lye and Wollescote, and that, therefore, an area linked historically and socially to Stourbridge came within the area of responsibility of the Halesowen Area Committee. The Members made the point further that the residents of Wollescote found it difficult to identify with Halesowen. The Area Liaison Officer suggested that this was a matter that might be considered in the context of the Community Renewal Working Group.

Two Members asked for the submission of the report requested at a previous meeting on traffic issues at Mogul Lane and Oldnall Road.

On the issue of the Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Plan Delivery Working Group, the Area Liaison Officer agreed to arrange for the terms of reference of the Working Group to be perused, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Group, and to report back on the issue of composition. One of the Members of the Group raised concerns about the arrangements made for the convening of a recent meeting of the Community Renewal Working Group and the Area Liaison Officer agreed that this also would be looked into. Regarding the business of Working Groups, the Area Liaison Officer re-stated his advice to a previous meeting that reports back should be made in writing, rather than orally, either by way of a separate report or the presentation of the notes of the meeting, and indicated his intention to ensure that this practice was followed in the future.

In relation to the third paragraph of the preamble to minute 6, certain Members expressed reservations about the preferred practice whereby Members were asked to give written notice in advance of the meeting on matters they wished to raise under the standing Ward Issues and Police Issues Items.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the issues raised on consideration of the minutes, as set out above, be noted and actions agreed, as stated, endorsed.
- (2) That, wherever possible, 3 days notice in writing be given by Members of questions they wish to raise under Ward Matters and Police matters but that it also be noted that Members may raise such questions orally at the meeting.
- (3) That on the report requested on traffic issues at Mogul Lane and Oldnall Road be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

#### PETITIONS

- (a) The receipt of a petition from local residents and parents of children at Hasbury CE Primary School requesting the provision of a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the school was reported. It was indicated that the petition had been referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for attention and that the leader petitioner had been advised about traffic safety proposals which were to be introduced in the vicinity of the school and a future programme of works in that connection.
- (b) A petition from residents of Beaumont Road, Halesowen, requesting consideration of an alleyway to the rear of properties in Beaumont Road, at which problems of anti-social behaviour were being experienced, was received and referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for attention.

## YOUTH ISSUES

An oral report outlining changes to be made in youth provision in Dudley under a restructuring of the Youth Service was given by Amanda Grove of the Directorate of Children's Services.

The new structure, which would enable the Council to comply with government legislation and guidance on youth provision, would change the manner in which the Dudley Youth Service was structured. The service would have two teams, the first being "Targeted", with a Borough-wide brief that would be driven by Dudley's Targeted Youth Support Plan and the second being "Universal", this continuing to be delivered through each of the five townships..

The proposed restructuring for Dudley had been supported by the Youth Provision Working Group of the Select Committee on Children's Services and the next step would be for the new structure to be consulted on. Consultees would include stakeholders including the Council's partners, the Police and all persons and bodies who wished to give feedback. Consultation would include Area Committees.

The timescale for consultation would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee and feedback from consultation to the meeting of the Committee in January. A two-year Action Plan for the Halesowen area would also be submitted to this Committee.

Reference was made at this juncture by one Member to an application for Capital Funding that would be submitted to the Committee in due course for funding towards the establishment of a Youth Club in Cradley. The Member expressed the wish that reference to this be included in the Action Plan for Halesowen. Other possible funding streams were then discussed.

### RESOLVED

- (1) That the restructuring proposals for the Youth Service, together with the consultation arrangements referred to, be noted.
- (2) That the proposal to set up a Youth Club in Cradley, as reported orally by the Member concerned, be noted.

## POLICE ISSUES

Sergeant Barton of West Midlands Police attended the meeting for consideration of issues relating to the Police.

Reference to excessive speed by vehicles travelling in Huntingtree Road, Halesowen was made by one Member, who requested better enforcement of the speed limit in the road. The Member indicated that, at one time, regular speed checks had been made by the Police but that this had not happened for some time. Sergeant Barton agreed to raise the matter within the Police.

A Member reported problems with obstructive parking in central Halesowen, particularly at Summer Hill. The Member indicated that, while the Council could deal with unlawful parking on yellow lines, it did not have authority to do so for roads where there were not yellow lines although the Police had the powers to deal with obstructions. Sergeant Barton confirmed that the Police would take action in situations where they were aware of a problem.

In similar vein, reference was made to the impact on public safety of vehicular parking on pavements. There existed a particular problem in the Wollescote and Hob Green areas. Clarification was requested on the powers of the Council's Traffic Enforcement Officers in this regard.

Reference was made to a perceived lack of publicity for Partnership and Communities Together meetings in the Halesowen area but it was acknowledged that this was a matter for the Police, rather than the Council.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the matters raised above, and actions agreed, be noted.
- (2) That a report on parking enforcement, clarifying powers of the agencies involved, be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009.

#### FIRE SERVICE MATTERS

A presentation was given by Crew Commander Scriven of West Midlands Fire Service in which he discussed the preventative measures now undertaken by the service aimed at reducing risk. Reference was made in the presentation to home fire safety checks, the manner in which areas were targeted and the service provided under which smoke alarms were fitted to residential households free of charge. The leaflet "Fire Safety in the Home" had been circulated in advance of the meeting and Members endorsed the advice provided in the leaflet.

One Member referred to calamity houses situated at the Fire Stations in Halesowen and Stourbridge and advocated that Members should visit them.

Reference was made by a Member to the impact of poor vehicular parking and the narrowness of the highway at Walton Road, Wollescote which might cause emergency vehicles to have difficulty in attending to call outs. Crew Commander Scriven agreed to arrange for this matter to be looked into.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted and Crew Commander Scriven thanked for his attendance.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), Agenda Item No. 10 be considered as the next Item of business.

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SHELL CORNER REGENERATION STRATEGY

A presentation on the strategy for the regeneration of Shell Corner was given by Ms Shefton and Mr Black of the consultants engaged on the scheme, Colin Buchanan Consultants.

The regeneration plan involved phasing in three parts; the first to be effected in the first 2 years; the second phase within 2 years and 5 years; and the third phase in 6 to 10 years. The consultants described the options to be included in each of the phases, which would be as follows:

Short Term Options (1-2 years)

- Retail Impact Assessment of the Local Centre to establish the extent and viability of Shell Corner as a retail centre.
- Provision of cycle parking in the Local Centre.
- Introduction of bus stop cages on Nimmings Road to prevent vehicles causing obstruction.
- Investigation into the relocation of the bus stop layby on Long Lane to the south, allowing a redesign of the service road and landscape area.
- Improvements to the existing public car parking including, signing, lighting and landscaping.
- Enhancing the Long Lane/Malt Mill Lane/Nimmings Road Roundabout.

- Exploration of possible options or designs for visual gateway treatments at each end of Long Lane.
- Improvements to shutters of derelict shops.

#### Medium Term Options (2-5 years)

- Improvements to footways and streetscape throughout the Local Centre.
- Provision of raised entry treatments on Maple Road, Clement Road, Belgrave Road and Southwick Road.
- Introduction of 2 No. new pedestrian crossing facilities along the A4034 and additional crossing of Nimmings Road at its junction with Long Lane.
- Promotion of cycle links between Narrow Lane and Long Lane through improved crossing facilities, signage and other measures.
- Improvements to bus stop infrastructure and travel information.
- Partnership/Contract with Travel West Midlands to secure improvements to bus services.
- Investigation into the introduction of short term parking and/or loading.
- The redesign of the Long Lane/Nimmings Road/Malt Mill Lane junctions.
- Widening of Long Lane north of Malt Mill Lane.
- Environmental improvements to the old petrol station.
- Development of streetscape and lighting strategy.

#### Long Term Options (6-10 years)

- Possible redevelopment of sites A1 and A2.
- The introduction of Personalised Travel Plans associated with School (and Station) Travel Plans.
- Shop front improvements particularly at protected frontages and run down properties.
- Greening – tree planting throughout the centre where possible.
- Development of public art strategy.

Regarding issues relating to vehicular parking, the consultants were content that sufficient car parking provision was available, but that the time restrictions currently in force were not always appropriate and also that visitors to the area did not always know where car parks were located. Better sign posting would help alleviate the latter issue. Regarding entry to Shell Corner from the direction of Long Lane, the consultants indicated their intention to propose the introduction of gateway entrances. As a general point, the key principle was to enable the public to move around the centre by foot, rather than by car, and thus the scheme included proposals for the enhancement of footways.

The aim of the plan was to improve working, living and shopping facilities, not only from the point of view of access and egress but also to improve the environment for people living and working there. The consultants were confident that quite a lot could be done within a short period of time within a limited budget and that this could involve improving the ambience of the roundabout, road resurfacing and repairs, the reconstruction of the central island, and a general tidying up and better signing of the area to create an identity for Shell Corner.

#### RESOLVED

That the issues to be addressed in the regeneration plan, and its proposed phasing, be noted.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

(In relation to issue (b) below, on its being raised, Councillors Body and James declared a prejudicial interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in view of their membership of the Grove Recreation Ground Trust and left the meeting during consideration of the issue. Councillor Mrs Turner also declared a prejudicial interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in the same issue in view of her membership of the Development Control Committee and also left the room during consideration of the issue.

Before leaving the meeting room, Councillors Body and James gave a position statement regarding the development proposals of Halesowen Town Football Club under consideration by the Trust, which would involve the use of an area of land within the Grove Recreation Ground.)

- (a) In response to a request by a local resident for an update on the current position regarding the Windmill Hill/Foredraft Street Regeneration Scheme, Ms Mossum reported that the development brief was being approved and that this would be consulted upon with local residents. Ms Mossum also confirmed that she was currently in contact with the firm representing the resident who raised the matter.



- (b) A member of the public raised extreme concerns regarding the development proposals of Halesowen Town Football Club for a reconstructed stadium and hotel facility which would involve the use of part of the Grove Recreation Ground, which was situated adjacent to the Football Club ground. In seeking an indication of the position the Council would take on the release of the land, the member of the public drew attention to the fact that the site had been bequeathed for the benefit of the people of Halesowen in 1929 and referred to the uses to which the Recreation Ground had been put in the past. The member of the public advocated strongly the retention of the land for recreational purposes, given the loss of other recreational sites in Halesowen and the prospective loss of the Summers Club.

Differing views were expressed by Members of the Committee, some advocating development from the point of view of the regeneration of Halesowen and the macro economic benefits to the area this would bring from employment at the site and others advocating retention, to be consistent with green belt policies. A view was expressed that appropriate arrangements should be made for the people of Halesowen to determine the matter and that an outline of the proposals should be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible for open debate. Another Member indicated that the Ward Councillors had had no information on the issue, other than that contained in a newspaper report.

A local resident, who lived in Old Hawne Lane and followed Halesowen Town Football Club, supported the development proposals and observed that the site was hardly used by the public and that it suffered from problems of dog fouling. He also referred to traffic problems in Old Hawne Lane.

It was agreed that the Area Liaison Officer would write to the Recreation Ground Trust indicating that the matter had been raised at the Committee meeting and encouraging the Trust to engage in as full as possible consultation with the Committee as soon as possible.

- (c) A request from a local resident was submitted asking for action to be taken to improve the safety of the pathway along the Stour Valley Nature Walk. Reference was made in the discussion to the need for the urban pathways to be maintained on a regular basis.

It was agreed that the Area Liaison Officer would write to the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum requesting them to investigate the green area at issue.

At this juncture, a Member of the Committee asked for consideration to be given of the use of Section 106 monies received for development to be allocated towards the maintenance of green areas. The Member urged the Directorate of the Urban Environment to consider the matter.

- (d) A local resident requested that urgent action be taken to improve the sequencing of the traffic lights at the junction of Chapelhouse Lane and Colley Lane. In response, the Group Engineer indicated that the issue was being considered in conjunction with a scheme for the A458 route, a report on which would be submitted to the Committee shortly. Regarding the junction, the Group Engineer indicated that consideration was being given to amending the stop lines to improve the co-ordination of the traffic lights.
- (e) A local resident advocated the cutting down of trees at the junction of Manor Way with the A456 for reasons of visibility. The matter was referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for consideration.
- (f) In response to a question by a local resident on how the new speed limit of 40 mph on Manor Way would be enforced, and implications for crossing Manor Way for pedestrians, it was agreed that these issues be considered under agenda Item 13 (A456 Manor Way/Grange Road Roundabout).
- (g) In response to a question from a local resident on the current position of the Council on single status and pay equality, with particular reference to schools, the Area Liaison Officer, in his capacity of Director of Finance, explained the current situation on each respective issue and indicated that further detailed work was required before any firm decisions could be made.

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), Item 13 on the Agenda (A456 Manor Way/Grange Road Roundabout) and 12 (Promotion of School Groups Project) be considered as the next items of business, respectively.

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## A456/GRANGE ROAD ROUNDABOUT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted advising the Committee of the results of the public consultation exercise on this issue and seeking support to modify the scheme for the A456/Grange Road Roundabout and other safety initiatives along the A456 Manor Way and Hagley Road.

The report indicated that, generally, the proposals had been well received, but that the two main issues had been highlighted in the comments received, these being difficulties for pedestrians crossing at the junction and the excessive speed of traffic approaching it, particularly on the A456/Manor Way approaches. The scheme now presented had been modified slightly from that originally proposed as a result of the consultation feedback in that it now included controlled crossings to the bypass and Grange Road arms and modifications to the speed limits on the main approaches to reinforce the new island design. The speed limit changes now proposed addressed concerns expressed by the Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of Halesowen Area Committee (Town Centre Consultation) Working Group held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. The Group Engineer reported that the Working Group had noted that the scheme had been independently safety audited and had been found to be satisfactory but had expressed concerns regarding the safety of the controlled crossings.

On consideration of the scheme, Members of the Committee raised the following points, for consideration under the proposals;

- Concern regarding the ability of motorists to reduce speed from 50 mph to 40 mph on their approach to the road junctions.
- That the central reservation approaching the roundabout at the junction of the A456 and B4183, and the roundabout at that junction, badly needed clearing through the grass and trees being cut back.
- That high profile road markings needed to be installed at the four crossing points in the vicinity of the A456/B4186 junction for the safety of pedestrians.
- That there were concerns regarding the safety of the pedestrian crossings to be installed at the junction of the A456 and A459 (Grange Island).
- That there was a possibility of tail-backs to the motorway being caused should traffic lights be installed at the Grange Island.
- That there should be a blanket speed limit of 50 mph throughout the section of road between the Grange Island and the Motorway (not all Members agreed with this).

- That the Police would have difficulty in enforcing three different speed limits along the road.
- That the approach to the Grange Roundabout from Grange Hill should be widened to alleviate problems of traffic moving into the centre of the road to overtake.
- That the locations of the pedestrian crossings proposed should be considered further on grounds of pedestrian safety.
- That provision should be made for officers to be able to reflect on the practical implementation of the scheme when the opportunity allowed.
- That the placement of the pedestrian crossings in the locations indicated may not be safe.
- That the redesigned Grange Island be welcomed but that concerns be expressed about the single carriageways proposed. The member who raised this issue was also concerned about the possible impact on traffic flow along the section of the A456 from the Motorway to the Grange Island when the pedestrian crossings were operational.
- A pedestrian crossing at the junction of the A456 and Manor Lane, opposite the Black Horse Public House, already existed but the signage needed to be improved and motorists advised to slow down.
- A water leak on the A456 at the “Black Horse” had been in evidence for six months and needed to be repaired urgently.
- To delay the scheme would result in the financing of its construction being reduced in real terms.
- A Member was concerned that the level of usage of the pedestrian crossings would be unknown until they were installed.
- That there was a need for vehicles to reduce speed before approaching the island.
- Another Member expressed reservations about the proximity of the proposed crossing points to the roundabout.
- Lowering speed limits had a detrimental effect where motorists considered this not to be justified.
- There was nothing in the proposals to stop speeding at the end of Manor Way.

- The proposed location of the controlled signals and crossings was not suitable for safety reasons.
- A Member considered that co-ordinated traffic lights, similar to those installed at Merry Hill, would be preferable to the provision of a reconstructed roundabout at Grange Island.
- That public consultation involving local residents should be entered into before a scheme was implemented.

Comments from members of the public at the meeting were then invited and these included the following:

- A member of the public who used Grange Roundabout every day commented that, in his view, traffic flowed reasonably well and that there was no real need to make significant changes. The same member of the public expressed some reservations about the installation of pedestrian crossings on safety grounds, but regretted that it had not yet been possible to provide for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on the east side of Manor Way.
- The entrance to the roundabout at Grange Island was sometimes difficult. While the proposal to remove the concrete lane splitters was noted, the point was made that these could be useful in some instances, e.g. the access from Grange Road onto the A456.
- The view was expressed that the new roundabout at Grange Island should be more aesthetic than the current roundabout and planted well with shrubs and flower beds and afterwards maintained appropriately.
- That the electric speed indicator damaged as a result of an accident should be replaced. The member of the public who raised this issue also advocated strongly the tidying of the roundabout at the junction of the A456 and B4183.
- The signage on the A456 on the approach to the roundabout at Hagley Wood Lane was confusing in that the 40 mph speed limit was discontinued just before the island, thus almost encouraging motorists to accelerate just before they had to slow down.
- That vehicular speed enforcement should be achieved by way of speed cameras rather than the Police.
- That bridges or underpasses should be provided rather than pedestrian crossings.
- That the width of footpaths along the A456 needed to be considered.

In relation to the issue of the water leak along the A456, in the vicinity of the "Black Horse" Public House, the Group Engineer (Transportation) explained that, while South Staffordshire Water had endeavoured to repair the leak on a number of occasions over the last six months, the source of the problem, namely that the leak emanated from a 9 inch main, had only recently been discovered. It was expected that the leak would be attended to within the next few days.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be asked to note the comments made, as recorded above, and take them into account when determining the issue of approval to the road scheme proposals.

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37                      DUDLEY COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (DCVS) – SMALL GROUPS PROJECT

A presentation on this project was given by the Small Groups Development Officer of the DCVS, Ms B Pickin.

The project was Lottery funded initiative which aimed to provide tailored support to small and emerging local and voluntary groups. "Small Groups" were currently defined as organisations having an income of up to £15,000 per annum and were entitled to receive free support from the Small Groups Development Officer in respect of the issues indicated in paragraph 7 of the report now submitted. Room hire and photocopying services were also available at a reduced cost.

RESOLVED

That the initiative be noted and that the Small Groups Development Officer be thanked for her presentation.

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38                      RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2008

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted setting out responses to questions raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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39                      CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted seeking consideration of three applications for funding from the Capital Budget of the

Committee.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the application for a capital grant of £250 to Time Out, towards the cost of games and percussion instruments, a cupboard to store the games and window blinds to screen DVD's, be approved, subject to a matching amount being provided from the Group's reserves.
- (2) That the application by the Environment Committee of the Earls High School for a capital allocation of £1,600 towards the costs of additional green litter bins to complement litter bins already in operation at the school, be approved.
- (3) That the application by Cradley Cobras Junior Football Team for a capital allocation of £700 towards capital items for the football team be approved in principle and that the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the opposition spokesperson, be authorised to approve the making of an appropriate grant.

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## WOLLESCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL – SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL

### RESOLVED

That consideration of this item be deferred for further consultation with children at the school and the further development of the proposal and that a report be made to the next meeting.

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## HALESOWEN TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on progress with regard to the developments taking place in Halesowen Town Centre.

The report referred to the current position with regard to the issues of the development of the Cornbow Centre, Halesowen Bus Station and the highway realignment and various other Town Centre management issues.

In introducing the report, the Head of Executive Support in the Directorate of the Urban Environment made particular reference to the Asda development, the practical completion of which was scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008. The store opening date was scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> November. It had been indicated to the Council that the opening of the store would create in the region of 350 permanent and 50 seasonal jobs.

The Head of Executive Support confirmed that the works on the Bus Station were progressing well and, although the contract ran until just before Christmas, the aim was that the Bus Station work would be

completed substantially by 17<sup>th</sup> November. A strong wish was expressed that the reconstructed Bus Station should be in operation to coincide with the opening of the new Asda store and the Head of Executive Support agreed to consult CENTRO in this regard and report back to the Members of the Halesowen Town Centre Working Group. Regarding events held in the Town Centre in the summer, the Head of Executive Support confirmed that, generally, these had been received well and, in particular, the “Halesowen by the Sea” event had been a major success.

Members expressed their appreciation of the services provided to the Town Centre by the cleaning operatives.

One issue that had received quite a lot of public comment had been the removal of a silver maple tree situated at the top of the High Street. The Head of Executive Support explained that the tree had been considered to be unsafe, particularly as it was in contact with an adjoining building. It was proposed, however, that the tree would be replaced by an oak tree which would be planted at the appropriate time.

#### RESOLVED

That the report and the further information provided by the Head of Executive Support in the Directorate of the Urban Environment be noted.

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#### WARD ISSUES

- (a) Councillor Ms Partridge asked for the report requested at an earlier meeting regarding Lye and Wollescote Chapel to be submitted as soon as possible.
- (b) Councillor Ms Partridge requested a report on the provision of youth facilities in Lye and Wollescote, in the light of the number of dispersal orders issued in respect of young people at Wollescote Park, to be submitted as soon as possible. This matter was referred to the Directorate of Children’s Services for a report.
- (c) Councillor Ms Partridge requested consideration to be given to the reinstallation of double yellow lines in the vicinity of Hob Green School, to replace those removed temporarily through the resurfacing of the road. This matter was referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for attention.

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#### DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS



Dates and venues of future meetings of the Committee as set out below, were noted;

12<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 – Earls High School  
22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009 – Hurst Green Primary School  
11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 – Lutley Community Centre

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SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

Dates of meetings of the respective Select Committees for the remainder of the current municipal year were received and noted.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

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MANJIT JOHAL

Members wished Manjit Johal a speedy recovery, on learning of her recent injury.

CHAIRMAN