

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE

Monday 28th June 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

At Hob Green Primary School, Hob Green Road, Stourbridge

PRESENT-

Councillors Adams, Attwood, Banks, Barlow, Mrs Cowell, Hanif, Jones, Kettle, Knowles, Lowe, Mrs Martin, Mrs Rogers, A Turner and C Wilson; and following their co-option: Mr G Downing and Ms P Shepherd and Mr R Owen and Miss D Grant

OFFICERS:-

Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (as Acting Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director Planning and Environmental Health, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards, Group Engineer – Traffic and Road Safety, Scientific Officer – Air Quality (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Assistant Director – Housing Management, Head of Community Renewal and Area Community Renewal Officer, (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Area Youth and Community Worker and Area Detached Youth Worker (Directorate of Children's Services) Mr T Holder - Solicitor and Mrs J Rees (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr D Hall (Tesco Development Executive), Mr S Butterworth (Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners) Inspector Boyle (West Midlands Police) together with approximately 40 members of the public.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Kettle be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Kettle thereupon took the Chair)

2 APOLOGY

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item 13 (Tesco's Proposals for a Development in Stourbridge Town Centre) in view of his membership of the Development Control Committee and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the presentation. He also declared a personal interest in accordance with Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda item 15 (Capital Allocations – an application by the Amblecote History Society, in view of his membership of the Society.

Councillor Barlow declared a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda item 13 (Tesco's Proposals for a Development in Stourbridge Town Centre) in view of his membership of the Development Development Control Committee and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the presentation.

Councillor Mrs Cowell declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item 15 (Capital Allocations - Application by 15th Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Group) and Agenda Item 16 (Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust - Application by 15th Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's) Scout Group, in view of her relationship with the applicant.

Councillor Knowles declared a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda item 15 (Capital Allocations - Application by St Thomas's Parochial Church), in view of his being President of the fund raising committee of the applicant.

Councillor Mrs P Martin declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda item 15 (Capital Allocations – application by the Amblecote History Society) in view of her Chairmanship of the Society.

Councillor Mrs Rogers declared a personal interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda Item 15 (Capital Allocations - Application by 15th Stourbridge Norton St Michael's Scout Group) and Agenda Item 16 (Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust - Application by 15th Stourbridge (Norton St Michael's) Scout Group, in view of her relationship with the applicant.

Councillor C Wilson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of Agenda item 13 (Tesco Proposals for a Development in Stourbridge Town Centre) in view of his membership of the Development Control Committee and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the presentation.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 8th March 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs Cowell be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROTOCOL FOR AREA COMMITTEES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the terms of reference and protocol for Area Committees.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report , and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Terms of Reference and Protocol for Area Committees, be noted.

7 CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the co-option of members to serve on the Committee for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

The Area Liaison Officer advised that Mr G Downing and Ms P Shepherd had indicated their willingness to stand for reappointment and that the organisations they represented were happy for them to stand. She also advised that the Stourbridge Youth Council had nominated Ryan Owen and Danika Grant to serve as joint co-opted members, should the Committee so wish.

The Area Liaison Officer advised that a request had been received immediately prior to the meeting from the Dudley Association of Governing Bodies for one of their members to serve as a co-opted member, should the Committee so wish. Members of the Committee expressed the view that they did not consider the need for a representative of the Dudley Association of Governing Body on the Committee, in view of the fact that most of the Committee were school governors and they therefore considered that education was represented sufficiently on the Committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the following persons be re-appointed as co-opted members for the Committee for the 2010/11 Municipal Year representing the group or organisation indicated.

Mr G Downing – Local Businesses
Ms P Shepherd – Tenant and Residents Organisations
Mr Ryan Owen and Miss Danika Grant – Young People

2. That the Dudley Association for Governing Bodies be advised that the Committee did not wish to co-opt a representative from their Group at this time.

8

RE APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Corporate Resources was submitted on the reappointment of working groups for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Stourbridge Area Consultative Group be not re-appointed for the 2011 Municipal Year.
- 2) That the Stourbridge Town Centre Traffic Management Working Group be reappointed for the ensuing municipal year, with its existing terms of reference and that the Working Group comprised the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Adams, Knowles, L Jones and Lowe.
- 3) That the Stourbridge Town Hall Working Group be reappointed for the ensuing municipal year with its existing terms of reference and that the Working Group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Hanif and Knowles and, subject to her agreement, Councillor Mrs Walker.
- 4) That the Stourbridge Community Renewal Working Group be reappointed for the ensuing municipal year with its existing terms of reference and that the Working Group comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and one member from each ward namely Councillors Attwood, Barlow, A Turner, C Wilson and Mrs P Martin.

9

APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the appointment of representatives to various outside organisations for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

A Member of the Committee commented that the request for membership of the Mary Stevens Trust did not need to be sought annually, as this was already set out within the Constitution and therefore was not a matter for the Committee.

The representatives for the Norton and Withymoor Community Associations requested that, as no one from the respective associations had contacted them, they be furnished with contact details for the associations as, despite making representations previously, they still did not receive invitations to attend meetings of the bodies to which they had been appointed.

The Acting Area Liaison responded that the Head of Community Renewal would liaise between those concerned to ensure the matter was addressed.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the appointments to the organisations indicated be made as follows:-

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>PERIOD OF OFFICE</u>
<u>Social Inclusion</u>		
Mary Stevens Hospice	The three members of the Council for the Pedmore and Stourbridge East Ward	Annual
Margaret Westwood Memorial Charity	Mr P Pinfield	Four years from the 18 th May 2011.
<u>Community Associations</u>		
Lye Body Building Gym	Councillors A Turner and Lowe	Annual
Lye	The three ward members of the Council for the Lye and Wollescote ward	Annual
Norton	Councillor Adams	Annual
Withymoor	Councillor Banks	Annual

- 2) That the Head of Community Renewal liaise between the Members of the Committee, appointed to the Norton and Withymoor Community Associations and the respective Associations on the issue of non-receipt of invitations to attend meetings of these bodies.
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10 YOUTH MATTERS

The Area Team Leader introduced the two newly co-opted young people, who gave an oral report on youth matters, informing on the Dudley Youth Council, the Youth Forum and reported back on the Leadership day held on 21st May 2010. They also put forward ideas for the future, including a new youth centre for Stourbridge and the introduction of politics into schools.

The Chairman welcomed the young people and congratulated them on their presentation.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the oral report be noted.

11 CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure 13 (c) it was

RESOLVED

That the next item of business be agenda item 13 next.

12 TESCO's PROPOSALS FOR A DEVELOPMENT IN STOURBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE

Mr D Hall, Tesco Development Executive and Mr S Butterworth, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, gave a visual and oral presentation of Tesco's proposals for the redevelopment of the Crown Centre, Stourbridge to include a new food store. Following public consultation, Tesco intended to submit a planning application to the Development Control Committee in 2010, and, subject to planning consent being given, the store should be ready for opening in January, 2012.

Following the presentation, Mr Hall and Mr Butterworth responded to comments and questions from those present, including that:

- a) there would not be a market within the new development, as traditional markets were very difficult to establish.
- b) Tesco were in the process of selling land and properties owned by them, some of which were in an unkempt state.
- c) There were no plans to reconsider the flat roof design for the store, as a sloped roof would dominate the area, which was not the intention of the developers.
- d) The store was considered to be in keeping with the surrounding buildings, however, it was not considered possible to mimic exactly buildings over 200 years old. The materials to be used would be of reddish brown brick.
- e) It was not possible to build a new car park, but the developers would do their best to minimise inconvenience to shoppers.
- f) Traffic issues would be addressed by liaison with the Council and a Traffic Impact study which would be undertaken, as part of the planning application.
- g) It was envisaged that the equivalent to 300 full time jobs would be created by the development.
- h) 550 short term car park spaces would be provided .
- i) There could be some road closures as a result of the development, but the Ring Road would not be affected. There was though expected to be increased traffic, as a result of additional visitors to the Town Centre.
- j) Delays to the development had been brought about by issues which arose as a direct result of the economic climate, but these had now been resolved and no further delays were envisaged.
- k) Tesco was committed to building a new store in Stourbridge.

Members of the Committee welcomed the proposals, as being of benefit to Stourbridge.

RESOLVED

That Mr D Hall (Tesco Development Executive) and Mr S Butterworth (Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners) be thanked for their oral and visual presentations, the content of which be noted.

PUBLIC FORUM

Before reading questions from the public the Acting Area Liaison Officer reported that any questions which could not be answered would receive a written response.

Questions and answers were then given as follows:-

- a) A member of the public raised concerns that the only bus service available to residents at Withymoor, which included Merry Hill, Russells' Hospital and Stourbridge was being withdrawn at the end of July 2010, thus isolating the residents, especially senior citizens with no private transport.

A Member of the Committee advised that Centro had been alerted to the concerns expressed and were investigating the possibility of an emergency tender for an alternative provider of the existing service, but should this prove unsuccessful, alternative arrangements could be made. The Member of the Committee would advise of any updates as and when received.

- b) A member of the public queried the balance stated for the capital allocations budget report and requested a detailed reconciliation for the capital allocations budget.

The Area Liaison Officer advised that a full written response would be sent to the questioner, but commented that, in part, the excess referred to was as a direct result of the empty shops grant not yet having been taken out of the accounts, and some other grants' invoices coming in at a lower figure than the original grant.

- c) A member of the public queried the Council's plans for the recycling of plastic and queried the long term plans for continuing to put plastic into Dudley's incinerator.

A Member of the Committee responded that the Council did not recycle plastic at present, due to the high costs, plastics go into the waste energy plant.

Another Member of the Committee advised of proposals for a trial for the recycling of cardboard and plastic to ascertain whether it was a viable proposition in the long term.

- d) A member of the public complained that they had not received a written response to questions asked at a previous meeting, regarding when the Council's contract with the current recycling operatives was due to end and proposals for the Angel Triangle, Stourbridge.

In response, the Assistant Director, Planning and Environmental Health apologised that the response, although sent, had been sent to an erroneous e-mail address. She undertook to obtain the correct postal address of the questioner after the meeting and ensure a written response was forwarded.

- e) A member of the public questioned whether any compromise could be reached over the proposals to install double yellow lines on Mount Road and Mount Street. In response, the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety advised that any objections and/or suggestions should be put in writing and would be considered in due course. He agreed to speak with the questioner outside of the meeting to discuss the matter further.
- f) A member of the public commented that he understood that the income had already been assigned to the refurbishment of Mary Stevens gates and could therefore not be allocated to the applicant. He also queried whether the decision of the Committee could be rescinded to enable income to be distributed to charities and voluntary groups.

The Acting Area Liaison Officer advised that a written response would be sent to the questioner.

- g) A member of the public queried the accuracy of Minute 70 (i) as he did not consider that the Committee had the power to enact the rules of "Mary Steven's Park Trust, Norton. In response the Acting Area Liaison Officer advised that a written response would be sent to the questioner.
- h) A member of the public questioned the views of the Committee on why a representative of the Council had not attend the National Service Sunday celebrations in Lichfield.

Members of the Committee advised that, as Dudley Council organised its own local celebrations for local ex Servicemen, they considered it their duty to attend the local celebrations, as they were elected by the local people. Some of the ex servicemen would not be able to travel to the national event and it was considered that they would wish the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other officials to support the local service.

The event, held at Himley Hall on the previous day, had been very well attended and enjoyed by all in attendance, including young people.

A Member of the Committee commented that he had not received an invitation to attend the National Service Sunday celebration.

- i) A member of the public requested a discussion regarding proposals for double yellow lines for Brook Road. In response the Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety undertook to speak with the questioner outside of the meeting on this matter.

- j) A member of the public expressed concerns regarding proposals to install traffic calming measures in Junction Road, Redhill and Rufford Road, as he considered this would have a detrimental affect on house properties in the area. The Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety undertook to investigate the issues of concern.

The Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety undertook to speak with the questioner outside of the meeting on this matter.

14

PROGRESS OF ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO ADULT AND CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Children Services was submitted on progress of visits to Adult and Children Social Care establishments during the 2009/10 municipal year and also requested further nominations to make visits in the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

In introducing the report, the Assistant Director Housing Management (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) thanked all members who had taken part in previous visits. She also advised that Members wishing to take part in the visits in 2010/11 would need to be CRB checked and attend a training programme prior to the commencement of visits.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report now submitted be noted.
- (2) That the Directors of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Children's Services be advised that the following members would undertake visits during the 2010/11 Municipal Year:-

Councillors Banks, Barlow, Hanif, Knowles, Mrs P Martin and C Wilson.

15

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on six applications for funding from the Committee's Allocations budget.

In presenting the report the Acting Area Liaison Officer advised that paragraph 15 of the report should be deleted, as it was a typographical error.

RESOLVED

1. That the application by St. Thomas' Parochial Church Council for £5,865 towards the cost of replacing the clock mechanism for the clocks on the church tower and replace the windows in the kitchen and the meeting hall, be approved.
2. That the application by Amblecote History Society for £939.37 towards the purchase of a projector and associated equipment for the society be approved.
3. That the application by the Stourbridge and District Chamber of Trade (Stourbridge in Bloom) for £4,800 towards a project to purchase automatic watering systems, half barrel planters, barrier baskets and a three tiered planter be approved, subject to the submission of the accounts of the Group to the Area Liaison Officer and also to clarification as to whether the funding is to be used for the 2010 project or towards the 2011 project.
4. That the application by the No Limits Community Project for £638.71 for the purchase of various items of gym equipment, including a mini trampoline, speed skipping ropes, fitness mats and dumb bells to set up a gym club for young adults with able autism/aspergers syndrome be approved.
5. That the application by the Oldswinford Cricket Club for £5,000 towards the replacement of showers, a new bowling machine, be approved.
6. That the application by Stourbridge and Norton St. Michael's Scout Group for £5,000 towards the cost of building a new combined Baden-Powell Community Control Scout and Guide Headquarters, subject to external funding obtained as indicated in the report submitted.

A report of the Treasurer was submitted on an application for funding by the 15th Stourbridge (Norton St. Michael's) Scout Group for £5,000 the cost of building a new combined Baden-Powell Community Control Scout and Guide Headquarters, subject to external funding obtained as indicated in the report submitted.

By way of clarification it was reported that, although it had been the decision of the Committee in November, 2008, to set aside interest earned on the capital of the Ernest Stevens Trust fund, for the repair of the gates at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, this was subject to any application for funding from the Stevens Trust, of exceptional merit, being considered on an individual basis over the next five years.

RESOLVED

That the grant by 15th Stourbridge (Norton St. Michael's) Scout Group for £5,000 to be used, together with £5,000 approved earlier in the meeting from the Committee's Capital Allocations, subject to external funding obtained as indicated in the report submitted, be approved, as it was the view of the Committee that the application was exceptional merit for the benefit of the whole of the community, and in view of the large amount of funding already raised by the applicant.

17

HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to Schools and Pedestrian Crossings within the Stourbridge area for the 2010/11 financial year as described in the Appendices A, B and C attached to the report submitted.

It was noted that there were no pedestrian crossing schemes in the programme.

In presenting the report, the Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety advised that the two schemes for Brook Primary School, referred to in Appendix B to the report were in fact in the area covered by the Brierley Hill Area Committee, and as such would be considered by that committee at its next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised of the Committee's support for:

- a) The proposed Local Safety schemes, for Walker Avenue, Pedmore, High Street, Amblecote, Brook Street/Redhill, Pedmore, and Racecourse Lane, Pedmore, and
 - b) The proposed Safer Routes to Schools schemes for St. James' C of E Primary School, Stourbridge and Withymoor Primary School.
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18

COMMUNITY RENEWAL

The Head of Community Renewal (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) gave an oral update on Community Renewal work in the Stourbridge area, including the refurbishment of the Lye Community Centre which had been refurbished and Lye Cemetery Chapel which was to undergo redevelopment. She also introduced Angela Walsh who would be the Area Community Renewal Officer for Stourbridge, working with the Committee in the future. Angela would be based at the Beauty Bank Centre.

Following an introduction by the Head of Community Renewal Services, Inspector Eddie Boyle (West Midlands Police), replacement for Inspector Quiney, following police restructuring and changes to policing, introduced himself and welcomed working with the Committee and the Community Renewal in the future. Working with Ward Members should, he considered, be easier facilitated following the changes to police boundaries which were now co terminous with council boundaries.

Inspector Boyle advised that, subject to the Committee's approval, he would give a power point presentation to the next meeting of the Committee to update the Members fully.

In response to comments from Members of the Committee, Inspector Boyle advised that:

- a) he was planning to remain in the Stourbridge area for the foreseeable future and
- b) he was aware of issues in Lye and Wollescote area due to staffing problems, which he was hoping to address shortly.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the contents of the oral report on Community Renewal be noted .
- 2) That the new Community Renewal Officer, Angela Walsh, be welcomed to the Stourbridge area, and
- 3) That Inspector Boyle be requested to give an update report on Police matters to the next meeting of the Committee.

AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted detailing the Air Quality Action Plan proposed for the Borough and addressing a number of issues related to Lye-Pedmore Road, Dudley Road and Amblecote High Street, in the Stourbridge area.

Following consultation the long term plan, covering six years would be built upon and issues targeted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the progress made with developing the Air Quality Action Plan, be noted and that support be given for:-

- (1) The proposed consultation for the Air Quality Action Plan as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report submitted; and
 - (2) The actions detailed in the Air Quality Action Plan designed to improve air quality within the Borough for the future.
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20 PROPOSED ONE WAY TRAFFIC ORDER – BIRMINGHAM STREET SERVICE ROAD, COVENTRY STREET AND GREEN LANE, LYE

A report of the director of the Urban Environment was submitted on proposals for the introduction of a one way traffic regulation order Birmingham Street service road, Coventry Street and Green Lane, Lye, as shown on the plans attached to the report, in response to requests from local Ward Members and residents.

In commenting on the report, Members of the Committee recorded their gratitude to the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety his outstanding hard work, over and above the call of duty, to address the concerns of the overwhelming majority of the community.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised of the Committee's support for the introduction and making of a one way traffic regulation order in Birmingham Street Service Road, Coventry Street and Green Lane, Lye as set out in the report and shown on the plans attached to the report submitted.

21 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on written responses sent in respect of questions asked at a previous meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

22 ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillor Turner:

1. requested that he be consulted before new proposals regarding Parkfield Road and Mount Road were progressed.
2. Suggested that there was no longer any need to pursue the introduction of double yellow lines in Spring Street.
3. That the Group Engineer Traffic and Road Safety investigate the pot holes in Mears Coppice.
4. That Birmingham Street car park be given secure parking status, in the light of the new Tesco proposals.

23

SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

RESOLVED

That the dates and venues of future meeting of all Select Committees held at the Council House, Dudley be noted.

24

DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the date and venue of future meetings of the Committee be noted as follows:-

27th September 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at Stourbridge Town Hall, Crown Centre, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

15th November 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at Wollaston Village Hall, Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge.

17th January 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at Redhill School, Junction Road, Stourbridge.

8th March 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN