

Central Dudley Area Committee – 5th November 2008

Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment

Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The Central Dudley Area Committee - 9th September 2008

Purpose Of Report

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 9th September 2008 Central Dudley Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Background

2. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities. This diverse range of technical services focus on regenerating the Borough, maintaining our environment to high standards, protecting our communities and promoting leisure and other community services for all.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both Members and the general public, relating to matters such as traffic management, leisure and recreation, regeneration and new development. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.
4. To keep Committee updated, progress reports are included as an appendix and the proposal resulting from the update is set out at the end of each paragraph.

Finance

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

Law

6. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.
7. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
10. Guardrails may be provided under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1990.
11. Pedestrian crossing facilities are provided under powers contained in Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to Regulations made by the Secretary of State.
12. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
13. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.
14. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its area to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
15. Part IX of the Highways Act 1980 contains provisions relating to the planting, care and control of trees in or on land adjoining the highways.
16. In the care and maintenance of its trees, the Council will owe the normal duty of care under the common law principles of nuisance and negligence.
17. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.

Equality Impact

18. The proposals take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies. The Directorate of the Urban Environment provides a diverse range of services that affect all sections of the community.

Recommendation

19. That the proposals contained in Appendix 1 attached be approved.



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Director of the Urban Environment

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Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

1. Action Notes from 9th September 2008 Committee

Appendix 1

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 9TH SEPTEMBER 2008

1. PETITION - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN DUDLEY WOOD ROAD, NETHERTON

Background: A petition comprising some 300 signatures was received from local residents requesting the provision of traffic calming measures in Dudley Wood Road, Netherton.

Members of the public in attendance at the Committee on the 9th September 2008, supported this petition requesting the provision of traffic calming measures in Dudley Wood Road, Netherton. They also referred to the safety implications of speeding traffic along the road, particularly in the vicinity of the Victoria Inn Public House, where there is a sharp bend in the road; buses which regularly exceed the speed limit and noise pollution issues both generally and those at night, the latter being particularly acute. Reference was also made to the dangers of speeding traffic to the residents and visitors to the Nursing Home in the vicinity.

It was suggested that flashing speed warning lights be introduced as an immediate interim measure at an appropriate location on the highway.

Comments: Consideration will be given during the 2009-10 financial year to the justification for the introduction of a Local Safety Scheme in Dudley Wood Road, Netherton, as part of a future year's annual programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

2. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR CENTRAL NETHERTON

Background: Councillor J Martin requested that Committee be updated on the consolidated Traffic Regulation Order proposed for central Netherton.

Comments: The investigations leading towards proposals for a possible large-scale Traffic Regulation Order for the Netherton area are still taking place. This work is complex and proposals will take some time to complete.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

3. UNION STREET PROPOSAL FOR ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

Background: Councillor J R Davies requested a meeting with the relevant officers regarding the proposal for one-way traffic in Union Street, Dudley.

Comments: Following consideration of this issue by the Cabinet Member for Transportation, the proposals will be reviewed. Councillor Davies has been telephoned,

but was unavailable. Therefore, an email will be sent to Councillor Davies, informing him of the current situation.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

4. **QUEEN STREET, QUARRY BANK - TREE**

Background: Councillor Cotterill requested that action be taken in respect of a tree in Queen Street, Quarry Bank which elderly residents living nearby fear will fall onto their properties. Cllr Cotterill suggested that the tree be cut down.

Comments: An on-site inspection has been undertaken of the tree in accordance with the Council's Tree Strategy. Although the conifer in question is large, the inspection has revealed no significant defect and as such the tree presents no danger to the public at this time.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

5. **HIMLEY ROAD/PARKWAY ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

Background: Councillor Ahmed requested that a feasibility study be made into the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Himley Road in the vicinity of Parkway Road.

Comments: An investigation will take place during the 2009-10 financial year to determine the justification and feasibility of introducing a pelican crossing in Himley Road in the vicinity of Parkway Road, as part of a future year's annual pedestrian crossing programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

6. **DIBDALE ROAD**

Background: Councillor Mrs Roberts referred to a recent fatal accident at Dibdale Road and requested that an urgent assessment of this section of road be made. She also reported a suggestion from local residents that flashing speed warning lights be installed.

Comments: Consideration will be given during the 2009-10 financial year for the possible introduction of speed visor signs in Dibdale Road as part of a future year's annual Local safety Scheme programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

7. **HOLLY HALL SCHOOL GUARDRAILS**

Background: Councillor Mrs Roberts requested that consideration be given to extending the guardrails outside Holly Hall School to improve protection to the pupils of the school from road traffic.

Comments: Consideration will be given later this financial year to the introduction of further pedestrian guardrail in Scotts Green Close in front of Holly Hall High School.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

8. **4 ST JAMES'S ROAD - LONDON PLANE TREES**

Background: Councillor Davis referred to a problem reported to him by St James's Road Neighbourhood Watch. Residents are complaining about the size of London Plane Trees at the back of 4 St James's Road where the new flats have been built.

Comments: Residents who have recently moved into the new flats adjacent to St James's Road have complained about "loss of light" issues associated with the established trees in the area. Although low priority, an inspection will be undertaken to determine if the trees present any risk to the public.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

9. **LIMEPIT LANE AND DIBDALE LANE ADOPTION**

Background: Councillor K Finch requested that consideration be given to the adoption of Limepit Lane and Dibdale Lane for road safety reasons.

Comments: Can Members please note that Cllr Finch has since confirmed that this item actually refers to Lightwood Road and Fairwood Road. Limepit Lane and Dibdale Lane are already adopted.

On the night, the Assistant Director, Environmental Management confirmed that this issue would be looked into with feedback to Ward Members. He also added that, while Local Authorities have some discretion in the matter of road adoption, such roads are required to be brought up to an adoptable standard and that the costs involved in relation to this aspect would fall on frontagers.

It has now been confirmed that the roads in question would have to be brought up to an adoptable standard at the frontagers' expense prior to adoption by the Council. A comprehensive fact sheet answering questions relating to private street works has been sent to the ward councillors.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

10. **GLOUCESTER ROAD RESURFACING**

Background: Cllr Cotterill reported that complaints have been received from bus companies in respect of a pot hole in Gloucester Road.

Comments: Gloucester Road is programmed for extensive highway works within the next few weeks.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.