

Appendix 1

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 8th SEPTEMBER 2009

1. PETITION - CONGREGATION OF THE GNSS SIKH TEMPLE

Background: A petition was received from the congregation of the GNSS Sikh Temple objecting to a proposed road scheme at Swancote Street, Dudley.

Comments: Consideration will be given to the views expressed in the petition. It is intended to improve facilities for pedestrians using the Wellington Road area whilst not adversely affecting local shopping facilities.

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

2. PETITION - STONE STREET SQUARE

Background: A petition requesting the re-instatement of Stone Street Square to a car park was presented by Cllr M Davis.

Comments: A considerable amount of design, planning and construction work was involved in the introduction of Stone Street Square. For this area to become a car park, with the consequent damage, stains from oil and brake leaks and the need for constant maintenance, would be a retrograde step for this part of the historic town centre, close to the Museum and the Concert Hall. The presence of uncontrolled vehicle movements and unstructured car parking can spoil a town centre square in a short space of time.

Consideration will be given to the issue of Hackney carriage ranks in Dudley town centre as part of a longer-term investigation into the provision of waiting facilities for Hackney carriages. Continuous loading and unloading, and the setting-down and collection of passengers, can all take place on double yellow lines.

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

3. STOURBRIDGE ROAD/HOLLY STREET, HOLLY HALL - OBSCURED VIEW

Background: A member of the public drew attention to vehicles parking at the junction of Stourbridge Road and Holly Street in Holly Hall, which was considered to be dangerous.

Comments: An email response has been sent to the resident of Holly Street indicating that Police colleagues regularly take enforcement action regarding obstructive parking at the junction of Stourbridge Road and Holly Street. Furthermore, local businesses have been written to and proprietors spoken to concerning the same highway obstruction subject.

Ward Councillors have also expressed their concern to both Police and Council officers that car parking associated with nearby businesses prevents driver movements at the junction.

An instruction has now been issued for white 'edge of carriageway' lines to be introduced around the junction. New dropped kerb 'pram crossings' will also be introduced in the same section of Holly Street.

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

4. STEPPING STONE STREET - UNLAWFUL PARKING

Background: A member of the public drew attention to unlawful parking at Stepping Stone Street where it is alleged cars are being parked on the pavement outside residential homes. In drawing attention to the matter, he stated that there were two car parks in the street that are not being utilised.

Comments: Some years ago, an attempt was made to introduce yellow lines in Steppingstone Street, Pitfield Row and Greystone Street. The initial proposal was not supported and the matter was not pursued.

A review of all requests for Traffic Regulation Orders throughout the Borough is currently taking place and there are no current proposals for these streets.

New yellow line proposals are likely to be drafted in due course as part of a series of Traffic Regulation Order proposals for Dudley Town Centre, when other improvements are proposed for the town.

Instances of obstructive parking on the public footway in Steppingstone Street are being drawn to the attention of the Council's Police partners.

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

5. KING STREET GAP AND SPEEDING ON THE DUDLEY SOUTHERN BYPASS

Background: A member of the public indicated that, notwithstanding the fact that acknowledgement had been given to a number of questions asked at the Committee at the meeting held in March 2007, substantive responses on the King Street Gap and speeding on the Dudley Southern Bypass had not been given.

Comments: The gap in the central reserve in King Street cannot be closed because it is needed for emergency service access, deliveries and for access by large vehicles.

Dudley Taxi Alliance has warned its members about the penalties for Hackney carriage drivers breaking the law by driving through the gap.

Complaints regarding speeding along Dudley Southern bypass are regularly investigated and acted upon by the Police.

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

6. **MOSQUE PROPOSALS**

Background: A member of the public indicated that he had not yet received a response to the question he asked at the meeting of the Committee held in March 2009 on the action the Council would take regarding the covenant included in the land sale should the High Court Case in relation to the Mosque proposals be resolved in favour of the appellant.

Comments: High level negotiations continue with mosque representatives in an attempt to identify and develop a mutually acceptable long-term proposal.

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

7. **ARCH HILL STREET, NETHERTON**

Background: A member of the public submitted a feedback form relating to pollution levels in Netherton asking the following various questions. If pollution levels are being monitored and if anything can be done? Has a survey been commissioned to find out about traffic levels? Could the Education Department and schools do something to encourage more children to walk to school? Have studies been done to establish suitable routes for a possible bypass which would provide a permanent solution?

Mr Grainger suggested that traffic could temporarily be diverted to other routes. He suggested others may have better ideas or suggestions if consulted.

Comments: A letter has been sent to Mr Grainger dated 23rd September 2009 addressing each of his issues.

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

8. **BECKENSALL CLOSE - OVERHANGING TREES**

Background: A member of the public submitted a feedback form requesting that the trees overhanging his residence be cut back.

Comments: Officers from DUE will investigate the enquiry and respond directly once a site visit has been made.

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

9. **STREET CLEANSING**

Background: Cllr M Davis requested street cleansing in London Heights, Milking Bank and Russells Hall, particularly Osprey Drive. He also requested that dog fouling on the footpath be attended to.

Comments: These sites have all received litter removal. Osprey Drive has been mechanically swept.

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

10. STEPPING STONE STREET - POTHOLES AND DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Background: Cllr Ahmed requested that potholes in Stepping Stone Street be repaired. He also suggested that the road would benefit from the installation of double yellow lines.

Comments: All dangerous potholes have been repaired.

Stepping Stone Street has been added to a list from which future annual programmes of proposals for yellow lines will be drawn.

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

11. WELLINGTON ROAD - INSTALLATION OF LITTER BINS

Background: Cllr Ahmed requested that consideration be given to the installation of litter bins in Wellington Road.

Comments: It is felt that further bins be sited near to the Queens Cross end of Wellington Road. The road actually benefits from footway mechanical sweeping three times per week.

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

12. CHARLOTTE STREET/CLIFFORD STREET - OVERGROWN BUSHES/FLY-TIPPING

Background: Cllr Ahmed referred to problems of overgrown bushes and fly-tipping at Charlotte Street and Clifford Street.

Comments: Overgrown bushes at Charlotte Street have been inspected. A land ownership enquiry has been submitted to Legal & Property, as this is not all Council owned land. Pruning work will be done shortly, either in default or after Enforcement Notices have been served

The fly-tipped material has now been removed.

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

13. MILKING BANK PRIMARY - PARKING

Background: Cllr Mrs Roberts drew attention to potential dangers to children from vehicles parking in the vicinity of Milking Bank Primary School and asked for consideration to be given to the matter.

Comments: The school is located on Aintree Way, Dudley and is subject to a "School no Waiting" Traffic Regulation Order which is enforceable by DUE. There are in excess of 100 schools in the Borough of which approximately 50% have some form of enforceable TRO. There is a rota of these to ensure they are all checked (regardless of request or not) according to available resource.

Aintree Way was visited on 19th June when a vehicle log was started but the vehicle drove away prior to issue. It was then visited on 10th September but there is nothing recorded for that visit.

Aintree Way has been added to a list from which future annual programmes of proposals for yellow lines will be drawn.

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

14. OLDFIELD ROAD, RUSSELLS HALL - NUISANCE PARKING

Background: Cllr Mrs Roberts drew attention to the use of Oldfield Road for vehicular parking by visitors to Russells Hall Hospital, causing a nuisance to local residents. She requested the installation of double yellow lines.

She also drew attention to the need for speed restriction signs in the area.

Comments: Members will recall that a large series of proposals for waiting restrictions in streets surrounding Russells Hall Hospital were drafted some three years ago. Many proposals were not supported by local communities and were not pursued. The schemes that were locally supported were introduced.

The area surrounding Russells Hall Hospital has been added to a list from which future annual programmes of proposals for yellow lines will be drawn.

Consideration will be given to the introduction of temporary "30 mph, Kill Your Speed" campaign signs in Pensnett High Street and Kingswinford Road.

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

15. COWLEY DRIVE - METAL BARRIERS

Background: Cllr Mrs Roberts referred to the potential dangers to children who run down Cowley Drive on to the main road on their way to the local park. She requested that consideration be given to the installation of metal barriers at the end of Cowley Drive.

Comments: Consideration will be given to the introduction of a pedestrian guardrail at the entrance to the footpath that joins Cowley Drive and Ascot Drive.

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

16. CINDER BANK ISLAND - FEASIBILITY STUDY

Background: Cllr Ali asked to be advised of the outcome of the feasibility study undertaken 12 months ago in relation to Cinder Bank Island following a road traffic accident at that location.

Comments: A copy of the consultant's report has been sent to Cllr Ali.

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

17. HOPE PUBLIC HOUSE - OVERHANGING BUSHES

Background: Cllr Mrs Coulter requested that bushes overhanging the footpath in the vicinity of the Hope Public House be cut back.

Comments: Overhanging bushes near Hope Public House have been cut back.

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

18. ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Background: Cllr J Martin requested that road safety measures be introduced to reduce speeding traffic through Vale Road, Darby End Road, Thistlegreen Road and Oak Street. He maintained that cars, vans and lorries are using these roads to avoid traffic lights at the junction of St Peter's Road and Cole Street. He asked that the matter be reviewed and improvements considered.

Comments: During the 2010-11 financial year, consideration can be given to the justification for possible inclusion of Vale Road, Darby End Road, Thistlegreen Road and Oak Street in a future year's annual Local Safety Scheme programme.

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

19. FLOODING TO DRIVEWAY/OVERHANGING TREES

Background: Cllr J Martin referred to a complaint received from a local resident regarding flooding on to her driveway from the public highway.

The same resident had also raised the issue of overhanging trees from Council owned land which are damaging her rear garden fence.

Comments: Officers from DUE will investigate the issue of overhanging trees once an address has been established and respond directly when a site visit has been made.

The flooding to the driveway is understood to be a previous complaint from a resident in Darby End Road, Netherton. A site meeting was held with the resident and it has been agreed that the existing highway gully will be lowered to drain a low spot causing

ponding in front of the driveway. An order has been raised, and available resource is awaited to do the work.

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

20. DARBY END ROAD - GRASS CUTTINGS

Background: Cllr J Martin reported a complaint received from a resident of Darby End Road that grass cuttings from neighbouring Council owned and mowed land is being blown across her drive and pathway and requested that the appropriate officer contact the complainant.

Comments: Officers will investigate the complaint. However, it is very difficult to restrict wind-blow grass cuttings to a specific area.

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

21. DARBY END ROAD - GRAFFITI

Background: Cllr J Martin reported complaints received from residents about offensive graffiti at the rear of a property in Darby End Road, Netherton. Cllr Martin requested the removal of the graffiti and the application of anti-graffiti paint on the premises.

Comments: The site itself is not accessible due to a fence, although there was no offensive graffiti visible. Some offensive graffiti was removed from an adjacent garage.

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

22. MOUSESWEET CLOSE - DOG BIN

Background: Cllr J Martin referred to several complaints made to the Council by residents of Mousesweet Close requesting the provision of a replacement dog bin further to the vandalism of the bin previously installed.

Comments: There are bins sited in and around Mousesweet Close, one previously sited was vandalized three times prior to a different site being located as near as possible to the original site. Since that time no further vandalism has been reported.

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

23. BURTON ROAD/THE BROADWAY - OVERHANGING TREES

Background: Cllr Mrs Aston referred to trees overhanging steps located between Burton Road and the Broadway and requested that action be taken.

Comments: Overhanging trees on the footway between Burton Road and the Broadway have been inspected. An estimate for the works is being considered and should sufficient funding be available, the works will be completed.

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

24. FORMER DUNCAN EDWARDS AND WASHINGTON ARMS PUBLIC HOUSES

Background: Cllr J Finch referred to the untidy condition of the sites of the former Duncan Edwards and Washington Arms public houses and asked to be advised of the current position.

Comments: Officers from DUE are attempting to contact the land owners.

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

25. QUARRY BANK HIGH STREET - INADEQUATE TOILET PROVISION

Background: Cllr Cotterill reported on the lack of a public toilet provision in Quarry Bank High Street since the sale of the Library premises and requested the installation of a new facility.

Comments: The closure of the library which housed the old public convenience forced its closure in early February 2009. No requests or complaints have been received from the public since its closure. There are insufficient funds available to provide such a facility in the area.

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

26. CRADLEY ROAD - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Background: Cllr Cotterill requested the provision of a pedestrian crossing along Cradley Road, further to a site meeting at which such a facility had been promised.

Comments: The possibility of including Cradley Road, Netherton, near to Cradley Park Road in a future year's annual "Safer Routes to School" programme will be assessed during 2010.

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

27. VICTORIA ROAD - REMOVAL OF BUILD OUTS

Background: Cllr Cotterill requested the removal of build-outs in Victoria Road.

Comments: Whilst an estimate for the costs involved in removing landscaped build-outs from Victoria Road so that residents might have greater amounts of on-street parking is being obtained, it is unlikely that funds could be found from road safety budgets for this measure.

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

28. STOURBRIDGE ROAD - PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS - UPDATE

Background: In discussion, Cllr Mrs Coulter requested that Councillors be kept updated on progress on the petition for the installation of two separate pedestrian crossings at Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall.

Comments: Consideration is being given to the matter within DUE and design work is now at an advanced stage.

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