

**Stourbridge Area Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Responses to Questions**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at a previous meeting.

**Background**

2. At a meeting of this Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners concerned. The responses are as indicated.
3. In response to a request by a member of the public, or consideration to be given to a 20 mph speed limit in "The Old Quarter" the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written advising that investigations would be undertaken to determine the current problems and compare the areas of concern against all other requests for similar schemes for possible inclusion in future years' annual programmes of work.
4. In response to a request by a member of the public, for a 7.5 tonnes weight restrictions for "The Old Quarter" Stourbridge, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written advising that following analysis of the investigations into the concerns expressed consideration would be given to the introduction as part of a future annual programme of Traffic Regulation Orders.
5. In response to a request by a member of the public, for a 20 mph speed limit to be introduced for Stourbridge Town Centre, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner advising that a number of investigations and consultation exercises regarding Stourbridge Town Centre were currently taking place. He advised that the request would, in the first instance, be brought to the attention of the Stourbridge Town Centre Engineering Working Group, as part of the considerations for a package of improvements for Stourbridge Town Centre. He further advised that a 20 mph speed limit Traffic Regulation Order could not be introduced unless speed reduction measures were introduced in affected areas at the same time.

6. In response to a member of the public's request for the provision of a number of dropped kerb "wheelchair" crossings at various pavement junctions throughout the Stourbridge Area, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner advising that consideration of further dropped kerb "Wheelchair" crossings at pavement junctions identified during a site visit with the questioner, was currently under consideration. Wider footways or a pedestrian crossing facility in Stourbridge High Street was not possible at the present time, until the future of the area was finally determined.
7. Comments from a member of the public, regarding disability access through the bus station had been sent by the Head of Traffic and Road Safety, to Centro direct, as the bus station is controlled by Centro on behalf of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, together with a request that the response be sent direct to the questioner.
8. In response to the same member of the public's concerns regarding difficulties experienced by wheelchair users when travelling over "blistered paving", the Head of Traffic & Road Safety has written to the questioner advising that the "blistered paving" is for the benefit of visually impaired pedestrians to help them to line themselves up with the opposite pavement. The raised pavement blisters cannot be removed as they area a major benefit to blind and partially sighted users of the highway.
9. In response to a query from a member of the public, in respect of the repairs to the listed gates at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, the Head of Arts Heritage & Parks has written advising that the Friends of Mary Stevens Park have prioritised work to the gates as a key part of their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project planning grant for improvements to the park, including the gates.
10. In response to comments made during the meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> June, concerning the proposed moving of the Post Office from 45 High Street, Stourbridge to 61 High Street, Stourbridge on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2006, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety wrote to the Network Services Manager advising of the concerns expressed. The Network Services Manager has responded, following the end of the Consultation period, advising of the proposals for the transfer in more detail and giving an assurance that the facilities provided in the newly franchised branch would be in accordance with the Post Office's stringent contractual requirements, made to ensure that the same high level of service to the public, following the transfer would continue.
11. In response to a member of the public's comments regarding street cleansing of streets and public rights of way in the area of Sandyacre Way, Pebble Close and Birmingham Street, Stourbridge, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner, advising that although the area stated is part of a regular programme of street cleansing, consideration would be given to the allocation of additional resources on an occasional basis.
12. In response to a member of the public's comments regarding a member of the public's concerns regarding the alleged adverse effect to his business, of the proposed new crossing on the Ring Road the Town Centre Manager has written to the questioner confirming that, following a site visit undertaken in April 2006, new signage would be provided, upon completion of the new pedestrian crossing,

advising users that the High /Street can be accessed via Court Street. A new street nameplate would be sited at the New Road entrance to Court Street. A decorative sign at the High Street entrance to Court Street, listing each business was being considered, however this would be subject to planning permission and funding being obtained.

13. In response to comments from a member of the public regarding rubbish not being cleared away by those who have created it, and the clearing away of waste material following tree and bush maintenance, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner, advising that the comments have been noted
14. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

### **Law**

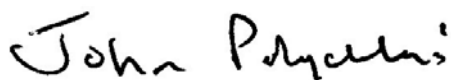
15. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

### **Equality Impact**

16. The report takes into account the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.
17. This report will have no specific effect on children and young people. There is no requirement for consultation with children and young people or the involvement of children and young people in noting the report.

### **Recommendation**

18. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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**J POLYCHRONAKIS**  
**AREA LIAISON OFFICER**

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### **List of Background Papers**

Question slips handed in at a previous meeting of the Stourbridge Area Committee.

Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers.

