

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment**

**Urban Environment - Matters Raised At The Central Dudley Area Committee -  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**Purpose Of Report**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 14th September 2010 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. Where there are financial implications of the actions listed below that impact on Council responsibilities, these will be financed from existing Council resources.

**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.

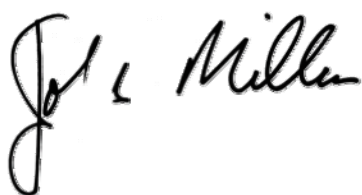
8. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do anything that is likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.
9. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations 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.



.....  
**John B Millar**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

Contact Officer: Matt Williams  
Telephone: 01384 814510  
Email: [Matt.Williams@Dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Matt.Williams@Dudley.gov.uk)

**Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

1. Action Notes from 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010 Committee.

## Appendix 1

### **DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

#### **1. PETITION - OBJECTION TO NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - CRADLEY PARK ROAD**

**Background:** A petition from residents of Cradley Road was submitted objecting to the provision of a new pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the junction with Cradley Park Road. The petition was passed to the Traffic Section and Councillor Adams, Cabinet Member for Transportation for consideration and appropriate action.

**Comments:** Consideration will be given to not proceeding with a new pedestrian crossing facility at this location, as requested in the petition.

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

#### **2. OAKHAM ROAD - SPEEDING TRAFFIC**

**Background:** A member of the public drew attention to the volume of speeding vehicles along Oakham Road as a consequence of the work being carried out at Burnt Tree Island and requested that traffic-calming measures be introduced. In responding, I acknowledged the problem and suggested that, as a temporary solution to the problems, speed visors be erected. Traffic Officers to liaise with the Police in an attempt to find a solution which will prevent vehicles using Blackacre Road as a rat-run and a written response on the outcome to be submitted to the questioner.

Cllr Ali also referred to the volume and speed of traffic along Oakham Road, and asked for road traffic calming measures to be introduced at that location.

**Comments:** An investigation will commence during 2011-12 for Oakham Road to be assessed for possible inclusion in a future year's annual Local Safety Scheme programme, in comparison with all other requests for this service. Traffic Officers are looking at potential sites for a speed visor in Oakham Road.

Proposals for possible future Traffic Regulation Orders in Blackacre Road will be advertised in the near future.

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

#### **3. NORTH STREET/HALL STREET - YELLOW LINES**

**Background:** Cllr Ali requested that the yellow lines on the corner of North Street and Hall Street, opposite the Salvation Army, be extended.

**Comments:** The junction of Hall Street and North Street will be added to the long list from which future annual Traffic Regulation Order programmes are drawn.

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

#### **4. HALL STREET - INADEQUATE CROSSING PROVISION**

**Background:** Cllr Ali drew attention to the lack of crossing provision in Hall Street and requested that this issue be investigated.

**Comments:** Consideration will be given during 2011-12 to the possible inclusion of Hall Street between North Street and Dudley Row, in a future year's annual Pedestrian Crossing Programme.

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

#### **5. TRINDLE ROAD - INADEQUATE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

**Background:** Cllr Ali reported that there is no room for pedestrians to cross at Trindle Road in the vicinity of Grosvenor Furniture and requested that action be taken in this regard.

**Comments:** Consideration will be given during 2011-12 to the possible inclusion of Trindle Road in the vicinity of Grosvenor Furniture, in a future year's annual Pedestrian Crossing Programme.

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

#### **6. DUDLEY SOUTHERN BYPASS FOOTBRIDGE - GRAFFITI**

**Background:** Cllr Ali asked for the graffiti on the footbridge on the Southern By-pass to be removed and asked to be informed of when this will be done.

**Comments:** The Street Cleansing team will remove the majority of the graffiti as it is not too high up. Once this had been done a clear anti- graffiti coating up to 3 metres above ground level will be applied to deter further graffiti.

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

#### **7. LANTERN ROAD/NEW VILLAGE/DALVINE ROAD**

**Background:** Cllr Cotterill drew attention to vehicles speeding along Lantern Road, New Village and Dalvine Road and requested that this matter be investigated.

**Comments:** The subject of vehicles being driven at speeds greater than the 30 mph speed limit in Lantern Road, New Village and Dalvine Road will be brought to the attention of the Police.

**8. PAGANEL DRIVE - SIGNAGE**

**Background:** Cllr Mrs Aston referred to the signage in Paganel Drive and queried why the Local Authority have paid money for unnecessary signage.

**Comments:** The following two parking restrictions were introduced some years ago:

1) No Waiting Mon - Fri 8.30 am - 8.30 pm

2) Limited Waiting 1 Hour No Return 1 Hour Mon - Fri 8.30 am - 8.30 pm

Some of the time plates have been missing/damaged, making certain sections of the street unenforceable, leading to inconsistency in the enforcement carried out. The enforcement staff reported these faults and the signs have subsequently been replaced as part of a maintenance programme. Unfortunately the regulations determine that each continuous parking bay has an upright sign.

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

**9. CASTLE AND PRIORY WARD - OVERGROWN TREE**

**Background:** Cllr K Finch drew attention to an overgrown tree in Castle and Priory Ward, which is preventing the disabled and people using prams from using the footpath and requested that this matter be investigated.

**Comments:** Officers will be attending the Priory Tenants meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the many issues associated with trees on the estate, with a view to formulating a realistic strategy that will deliver a mutually acceptable solution.

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

**10. SUMMER ROAD - BLOCKED PAVING**

**Background:** Cllr K Finch referred to the blocked paving laid at the new development site in Summer Road and drew attention to local youths throwing the blocks through windows.

**Comments:** The land referred to is private and Cllr Finch has been advised that shop keepers will need to contact their landlord who is responsible for any repairs to the private forecourt. (Officers will attempt to identify contact details).

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

**11. YEW TREE HILLS/HOCKLEY LANE, NETHERTON - SPEEDING VEHICLES**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin drew attention to speeding vehicles along Yew Tree Hills and Hockley Lane, Netherton and requested that Highways Officers investigate and consider appropriate traffic calming measures.

**Comments:** An investigation will commence during 2011-12 to determine the justification for including the junction of Yew Tree Hills and Hockley Lane in a future year's annual Local Safety Scheme programme.

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

**12. DARBY END ROAD - RIGHT ACCESS**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin queried the possibility of extinguishing the right access off Darby End Road to land in between houses in Darby End Road and Vale Road, Netherton. The land was formerly used for garages which have since been removed and now attract anti-social behaviour.

**Comments:** This is not a public right of way and therefore this matter can be dealt with by the landowner.

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

**13. VALE ROAD - OVERGROWN LAND**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested that the overgrown land at the top of Vale Road near the bridge on St Peter's Road be cleared.

**Comments:** Having consulted Council records, it would appear that the majority of land in question is not in Council ownership, which would account for the lack of maintenance. Given the current financial climate, even land that falls within Council jurisdiction would not be considered for maintenance taking into account the ongoing associated commitment.

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

**14. NETHERTON /WOODSIDE/ST ANDREWS - GRASS BANKS**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested that the long grass on grass banks throughout Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's ward be cut back on all Housing Department owned land where there was a contractual requirement for this to be done. He registered his opposition and anger at the Council's decision to abandon its responsibilities and not to cut grass banks on Council-owned land.

**Comments:** All grass banks that fall within Housing jurisdiction have now been attended.

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

**15. BAPTIST END ROAD - PAVEMENT REPAIR**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin requested that the pavement on the corner of Baptist End Road and Halesowen Road, Netherton outside Joe's Café be inspected and repaired.

**Comments:** This location has been inspected as requested and no defects have been found. The area is block paved so any problem would be evident. At present no remedial action is required.

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

**16. NETHERTON ARTS CENTRE - BOLLARDS**

**Background:** Further to a request made at the previous Area Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Cllr J Martin again requested that bollards be introduced on the pavement immediately outside the Netherton Arts Centre to prevent parking on the pavement and pedestrian crossing.

**Comments:** It would not be possible to erect bollards on the footway in front of Netherton Arts Centre, as this would prevent deliveries from being made to the Centre.

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

**17. NETHERTON HEALTH CENTRE - DROPPED KERBS**

**Background:** Cllr J Martin drew attention to the problems wheelchair users are experiencing getting to Netherton Health Centre on the Halesowen Road and requested that appropriate officers investigate the height of dropped kerbs and wheelchair accessibility at both ends of Crossley Street, Netherton.

**Comments:** Officers have had the opportunity to investigate the problem highlighted above, and a number of remedial measures are now being taken to assist wheelchair access. The feasibility of a new crossing across Crossley Street at the Northfield Road end is also being considered.

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

**18. WORCESTER ROAD/HEREFORD ROAD - GREEN SPACE**

**Background:** Cllr Wood requested more information in respect of turning the green space in the Worcester Road and Hereford Road into a play area.

**Comments:** It has been confirmed that some feasibility work has already been undertaken in relation to the land sandwiched between Bournehill Close and Worcester Road, it transpires that no restrictions apply to this site with regard to utilities or nature conservation, etc. However, this small site is very near to a number of residential properties.

The furthest that a multi-user games area (MUGA) could be located from a residential property is approximately 12m. At this distance the MUGA facility will be highly visible from almost all properties in the immediate vicinity and noise will be apparent. Despite this site being so close to properties, it is already used by groups of youths playing football and generally gathering. It is felt that a controlled environment such as a MUGA



may make the space safer for youths and pedestrians. However, the provision of a MUGA will further encourage the use of this small site for football and other activities. In a position so close to residential properties and the highway this would be unacceptable.

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

**19. MIDDLEPARK ROAD - RUBBISH ACCUMULATION**

**Background:** Cllr M Davis drew attention to the blocked drains and the amount of rubbish accumulating on the Middlepark Road development and requested that these issues be investigated.

**Comments:** Inspection has found a number of blocked gullies which will be cleared by Highway Officers week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> October. There is also a serious accumulation of mud and debris on the highway that must be removed. A Highway Inspector will carry out a visit in the first instance following which formal enforcement action may be required.

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

**20. OAKHAM ROAD - PARKING PROBLEMS**

**Background:** Cllr M Davis drew attention to the parking problems on the Oakham Road and requested that this matter be investigated.

**Comments:** Having checked our records, the only Traffic Regulation Order on Oakham Road at present is a residential disabled bay outside No.8. There is nothing else for Enforcement to currently action.

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

**21. SYCAMORE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE - TRAFFIC/PARKING PROBLEMS**

**Background:** Out of the update to Area Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, a Member referred to the traffic and parking problems at Sycamore Green Community Centre and indicated that he is still receiving complaints from residents and suggested that the nearby garage site be used for an overspill car park for the Centre. In responding, I undertook to liaise with officers in DACHS with a view to ascertaining a solution to the problem.

**Comments:** Officers from DACHS and Children's Services are working together in an attempt to find a mutually satisfactory solution to the identified parking problem.

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

**22. FORMER DUNCAN EDWARDS PUBLIC HOUSE SITE - UPDATE**

**Background:** Out of the update to Area Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, a Member requested an update on the former Duncan Edwards public house site.

**Comments:** The owners of the land, having been identified and written to, have now been in contact to request a list of contractors and have given assurances that the site will be cleaned up.

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