

Central Dudley Area Committee - 8th September 2009

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Central Dudley Area Committee Netherton Members & Officers Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. Feedback to the Central Dudley Area Committee of the Netherton Working Group findings.

Background

2. The second meeting took place at the Council House on Thursday 23 July 2009.
3. Local Ward Members from the Netherton, Woodside, and St Andrew's Ward, St Thomas Ward, and the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward were present along with Dudley MBC Officers from the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
4. A report of the Director of the Urban Environment detailing the current traffic management issues and proposals relevant to the Netherton Town Centre was presented.
5. The main outcomes were as follows:

Improvements of Northfield Road / Halesowen Road Junction

6. Two Options to improve safety and reduce congestion at the Northfield Road / Halesowen Road junction were considered.
7. It was agreed that both options should be included in a future public consultation exercise.

Castleton Street

8. Following representation from residents, the closure of Castleton Street to thru traffic was discussed at length.
9. It was agreed that the issue be deferred to a future meeting of the Group to allow more time for officers to investigate the impact of the proposal and receive the views of the Emergency Services.

Cinder Bank Island

10. Signalisation of Cinder Bank Island to improve the poor accident record has been investigated by the Transportation Group, but no firm solution currently in place.
11. The Transportation Group will continue investigate various other proposals to improve the accident and traffic associated problems and report back to a future meeting.

Central Netherton – Various Roads

12. To discourage indiscrete and obstructive parking around the town centre, it was agreed for the following 5 No Waiting at Anytime Traffic Order proposals to be included in a future public consultation exercise:
 - Arch Hill Street junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Marriott Road,
 - Cradley Road Junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Griffin Street
 - Northfield Road Junction with Recreation Street
13. The Working Group also agreed for a new illuminated “No Left Turn” sign to be installed on Halesowen Road to give advance warning to motorists of the prohibited left turn onto Cradley Road.
14. The Working Group agreed for a Straight Ahead Road Marking and hatching to be installed to further discourage the left turn onto Cradley Road from Halesowen Road.

Public Consultation Exercise

15. A Strategy has been devised that will consist of letter drops to frontages within the Town Centre and a public display of the proposals at a locally accessible facility.
16. It was agreed Officers will be available at key times during the public exhibitions to answer any specific questions in relation to the proposals.
17. Dates, times and location of the public exhibition to be confirmed.

Equality Impact

18. The proposal contained within this report complies with the Councils equal opportunities policy.

Financial Implications

19. All costs incurred relating to the sites mentioned in this report will be funded from budgets contained within the Transportation Capital Programme.

Legal Implications

20. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
21. 4.2 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.
22. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
23. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.

Recommendation

24. That, the Area Committee be asked to recommend that the Cabinet Member approve the Netherton Town Centre Public Consultation Exercise and include in the public consultation the proposals to remove obstructive parking to improve safety and ease congestion at the following locations:
 - Arch Hill Street junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Marriott Road,
 - Cradley Road Junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Griffin Street
 - Northfield Road Junction with Recreation Street
 - Northfield Road junction with Halesowen Road



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pp John B Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

Contact Officer: Martyn Holloway
Telephone: 01384 815426
Email: martyn.holloway@dudley.gov.uk