

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT**

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 at 3.30 pm  
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Cowell (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Turner (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Stanley and Taylor

### **Officers**

Assistant Director of Housing (Strategy and Private Sector, Acting Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director of Law and Property (Corporate Estate Services), Head of Policy (Executive and Support), Group Engineer Development (Directorate of the Urban Environment) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Law and Property).

### **Also in Attendance by Invitation**

Councillor Jackson, Halesowen South Ward Member  
Director of Law and Property  
Mr Robert McNaughton – Applicant  
Mr Nigel Vening – Applicant's Representative

### 31 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ms Craigie, Islam, James, Kettle, Lowe, Waltho and Ms While-Cooper.

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### 32 **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER**

It was reported that Councillor Taylor had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor James for this meeting of the Committee only.

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### 33 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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MINUTES

## RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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CALL-IN OF DECISION RE VISIBILITY SPLAY AT LAND AT  
BROMSGROVE STREET, HALESOWEN

A report of the Acting Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on a decision proposed by the Cabinet Member for Personnel, Law and Property to approve the application for a restrictive covenant on the land at Bromsgrove Street, Halesowen, which had been called in at the request of the Chairman of this Committee. A further document detailing background information, vehicular access and the effect of the visibility splay on the Council land, was also circulated at the meeting. A site visit had also taken place prior to the commencement of the meeting.

In presenting the report, the Group Engineer Development also showed slides that demonstrated various angles of the site and views from the carriageway.

In response to questions, the Group Engineer Development confirmed that the average daily flow on the Northbound carriageway towards Mucklow Hill roundabout was in the region of 12,000 vehicles. He further reported that the planning application submitted in the year 2000 had agreed the design of the access and subject to the design details, approximately eight to ten tipper loads of earth would need to be removed from the Council land to reduce the levels to create the visibility splay.

Arising from the presentation and the site visit that had taken place prior to the meeting, Members expressed concern about the speed of traffic, the traffic flow on the road and the volume of earth to be removed. A Member of the Halesowen South Ward commented that the Halesowen Area Committee had considered the matter on several occasions and had unanimously agreed that the application should be refused as it was a major operation and a substantial amount of vegetation would be lost.

All parties present were then given the opportunity to ask any further questions. No further questions were asked or comments made and it was:-

## RESOLVED

- (1) That, following a site visit and a detailed presentation of the impact of the proposed visibility splay and taking into account all representations submitted, the view of this Committee is that the proposed visibility splay would be intrusive and detrimental to the land owned by the Council which is adjacent to a highway that is a major gateway into the Borough.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Personnel, Law and Property be recommended to reconsider the decision to approve a restrictive covenant on the land at Bromsgrove, Street, Halesowen, as marked on the plan attached to Decision Sheet LP/11/2007 and to refuse the application for the reasons given in (1) above.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN