

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 4th November 2009 at 6.30 p.m.
at Hillcrest School and Community College, Simms Lane, Netherton,
Dudley

PRESENT: -

Councillor J R Davies (Chairman)
Councillor K Finch (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Ali, Mrs Aston, Cotterill, M Davis, J Finch, J Martin, Mrs Roberts, Sparks and Waltho; Mrs Edwards and Ms Little

OFFICERS:

The Interim Director of Law Property and Human Resources (As Acting Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management), Assistant Director of Children's Services (Ms Porter), Head of the Youth Service and the Area Youth Team Leader for the Central Dudley Area – All Directorate of Children's Services, Head of Housing Management – North, The Head of Community Renewal, Principal Project Officer and Mr Ahmed – All Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

The Deputy Lieutenant for West Midlands County, Mr C Stone – for Agenda Item Number 11
Inspector C Downen and Sergeant R Dalton, West Midlands Police

Ms J Winpenny and Mr C Wood – West Midlands Fire Service

27 Members of the public

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Ahmed, Mrs Coulter, J D Davies and Ms While-Cooper; Mrs Oakes and Mr Sadiq.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

43 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September, 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the substitution of the words "from the Dudley Central Area Youth Forum" for the words "based at the Claughton Youth Centre" in the preamble to minute 29 (Co-option).

44 ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), Agenda Item Number 11 (Queens Award – Voluntary Service) be considered as the next item of business.

45 QUEEN'S AWARD – VOLUNTARY SERVICE

A presentation on the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was given by the Deputy Lieutenant for West Midlands County, Mr Stone, in which he explained and expanded on the purpose of the Award to recognise the outstanding contribution that volunteers had made to their local communities. The honour was the group equivalent to that of the Member of the British Empire.

In the presentation, the Deputy Lieutenant expanded on the eligibility criteria, indicated the nomination procedure and invited the local community to make a nomination should they know of a volunteer group that devoted its time to helping others in the local community, and deserved recognition.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted and that the Deputy Lieutenant be thanked for his presentation.

46 CO-OPTION

Further to Minute 29 of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September 2009, the Committee considered further the co-option of youth representatives.

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted in which it was indicated that, having attended the previous meeting as observers, the young persons who had expressed an interest in serving jointly now wished their co-option to be proceeded with on this basis. The young persons had also confirmed they would wish to accept the offer of mentoring made by Councillors Ali and Waltho to assist in introducing them to the Council and Committee machinery.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Rhiannon Hutton and Danny Robinson be co-opted to the Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year to serve jointly as youth representatives.
- 2) That the Area Liaison Officer make the necessary arrangements with Rhiannon and Danny and Councillors Ali and Waltho for the offer of mentoring described above to be facilitated.

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YOUTH SERVICE – INFORMATION REGARDING FACILITIES ACCESSED BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND RELATED MATTERS

Further to the request made at the previous meeting of the Committee, a report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the activities being undertaken by the Youth Service for young people in each respective ward within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and related matters.

In the discussion, the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Ms Porter) and the Area Youth Worker clarified the statistical information contained in the Appendices to the report on some issues. In this regard, it was confirmed that figures for Gateways were not included in the report as these were not linked to the Dudley Youth Service.

A question was asked in relation to the "launch pad" website, in response to which it was indicated that just over 200 people had attended the launch, and accepting that there was a need to encourage more groups to publicise their activities on the website, the Head of the Youth Service made the point that "launch pad" had only just started.

Regarding the attendance figures in the Appendices with regard to Meadow Road Youth Club, where these were relatively high for Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but dropped on Tuesdays, the Area Youth Worker explained that, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays there was no targeted youth work but on Tuesdays the centre was used for targeted youth work on music. The meeting was advised that attendance figures for targeted work were always lower than for non-targeted work.

Clarifying the nature of the figures, the Head of the Youth Service confirmed that they comprised an average for the first quarter.

A number of questions were asked by Councillor J Martin in relation to the level of engagement in the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's Ward, in which he observed that involvement of young people in youth activities in that Ward appeared to be lower than in some other Wards. In this regard, he asked if contact was being made with schools in an effort to improve engagement, the response from the Head of the Youth Service being in the affirmative. Councillor Martin also requested additional information in respect of certain activities and attendance in Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's including reference to how often figures changed in terms of activities, to which the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Ms Porter) agreed to respond.

The Chairman of the Governors of Holly Hall School, attending as a member of the public, requested information in relation to the establishment of a youth club, in response to which the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Ms Porter) agreed to speak to her following the meeting.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the officers stated above take the action ascribed to them, as indicated.

POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Chris Downen of West Midlands Police attended the meeting to discuss current police issues in the area of the Committee.

In this regard, he explained the revised priority of the Police, consequent upon the appointment of a new Chief Constable, which would aim to put the public and communities and their interests at the very heart of the service. In order to achieve this, Programme Paragon had been introduced, which comprised a new programme of organisational change for the West Midlands Police Force with the effect that, locally, the North and South sides of the Borough would be incorporated into one local policing unit. The policing areas had been revised to make boundaries coterminous with those of local authorities.

Inspector Downen indicated that, under the new arrangements, Chief Superintendent Baldwin would have responsibility for the whole of the Dudley Borough area, supported by Superintendent Johnson in the south of the Borough and Superintendent Jiggins in the other areas of the Borough.

In relation to partnership working, Inspector Downen explained the involvement of the police and other agencies in Operation Tranquility, which aimed to address anti-social behaviour, including fireworks, and to maximise joint resources available. He also referred to Operation Stay Safe, which was to be introduced in the Brierley Hill Area to address under aged drinking and anti-social behaviour problems. The aim of the latter initiative was to remove young under aged drinkers from the streets, and to encourage greater parental control.

Inspector Downen referred to the Early Intervention Programme, which operated through the presence of a Police Community Support Officer in every school with the aim of diverting young people away from crime by identifying and dealing with potential problems before they developed further. Training of Police Community Support Officers was being provided.

RESOLVED

That the information provided by Inspector Downen be noted and that he be thanked for his attendance.

FIRE SERVICE ISSUES

In attending the meeting to report on fire service issues, Mr Wood of West Midlands Fire Service indicated the number and nature of incidents in the Central Dudley Area, by Ward, for the period from August to October 2009.

A comparison was given per Ward and type of incident of the statistics for the corresponding period in 2008. In relation to overall incidents, except for the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward, where there had been five to more the number of incidents overall had been lower in the August to October 2009 period. For some types of incident, however, there had been an increase in certain Wards.

Mr Wood indicated that the main increase in incidents within the Borough has usually been connected to void and derelict buildings or rubbish fires. He considered that the increase in this type of incident was directly related to the economic downturn. He commented further that, although Central Dudley had slight increases for the corresponding period in 2008, the numbers were still relatively low and were being monitored and not causing major concern at the moment.

Following the presentation, questions were asked and responses given included the following:

- In response to a question on vehicle arson in St James's Ward, Councillor M Davis asked if incidents were peculiar to a particular area and whether burnt vehicles ended up at a particular location. Mr Wood indicated that he would ascertain the information, look at patterns and report back to Councillor Davis.
- On the issue of rubbish arson, it was confirmed that incidents occurred mainly at locations where there were derelict sites or dumping.
- In response to a further question, it was confirmed that the Fire Service worked closely with Environmental Services to alleviate problems. Digital photography was being used to speed up the process.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

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PETITIONS

A petition from residents of the Bowling Green Estate and parents of children at Netherbrook Primary School and Nursery requesting the provision of traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Netherbrook School and Nursery in consequence of a recent road traffic accident, was submitted and presented by Councillor Cotterill.

In presenting the petition, Councillor Cotterill referred to a request he had made for a rail to be provided at Exeter Road at the point where the accident had happened and that he had been advised that this would take six weeks to facilitate. Councillor Cotterill indicated that the rail had still to be provided and requested that action be taken within 48 hours.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the petition be referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for consideration and attention.
- 2) That the Director of the Urban Environment be asked to consider the provision of the rail requested by Councillor Cotterill as a matter of urgency.

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) A local resident drew attention to problems of vehicular speeding along Northfield Road. In this regard, he suggested that the provision of a flashing speed warning sign might be appropriate.

In response, the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) confirmed that the Directorate was aware of certain traffic issues in Netherton and that a number of these were being considered by the Central Dudley Area Committee (Traffic Management in Netherton) Working Group. It was agreed that the issue of vehicular speeding in Northfield Road, and action in that regard, be referred to the Working Group for consideration.

In relation to Northfield Road, Inspector Downen confirmed that the police had been carrying out some pro-tazer speeding checks and prosecutions had followed. Data was being passed on by the Police to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

- b) A local resident involved in the petition presented to the meeting of the Committee on 9th June 2009 requesting the provision of pelican crossings along Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall in the vicinity of Avenue Road and Cochrane Road asked to be advised on progress on the issue.

In response, the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) indicated that the design work on the crossings had been completed and that public consultation was shortly to take place. All efforts were being made to bring the matter to a conclusion and a date for completion would be determined after public consultation. Although the traffic management budget for 2009/10 was fully committed, endeavours to fund the shortfall to convert the existing pedestrian refuge to a controlled crossing would be made.

- c) The same member of the public asked to be advised of the reason the lunch time crossing patrol had been withdrawn and advocated its reinstatement since, in her consideration, there had been no reduction in the numbers of persons using it. The Assistant Director of the Urban Environment indicated that he had not been aware of the withdrawal of the lunch time patrols but suspected that a head count may have been taken. The Assistant Director undertook to enquire into the situation and respond to the member of the public within two days of the meeting.

- d) The same member of the public referred to the need for the erection of a flashing speed warning sign outside Highgate Primary School. In responding, the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) referred to the recent very serious road traffic accident at the location and referred to the urgent meeting between Ward Members and traffic engineers held on 3rd November to consider action.
- e) A member of the public expressed concern about the adequacy of available car parking facilities in Dudley Town Centre and advocated a relaxation of the current on-street parking restrictions. The member of the public who raised the issue maintained that potential shoppers were sometimes unwilling to use the public car parks in central Dudley because of a fear of vehicle crime, and therefore shopped at Merry Hill or Brierley Hill instead.

In response, the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) stated that car crime in car parks in Dudley was very low and that all car parks were covered by CCTV. He accepted, however, that more perhaps needed to be done to publicise the availability of safe parking facilities.

A member questioned the validity of the increase in parking restrictions in the Dudley town centre area over the last few years on traffic management and safety grounds and suggested that it might assist the local economy should a relaxation of on-street parking restrictions in that area be effected at certain times at weekends, e.g., after 12.00 noon on Saturdays.

- f) In relation to the regeneration of Dudley Town Centre, the proprietor of the shop in Dudley Town Centre who had organised the petition submitted to the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September, 2009 requesting the reinstatement of Stone Street Square as a car park asked to be advised of progress on the issue. In so doing, the proprietor provided a calculation of trading hours lost as a result of the square being out of use as a car park. Both the proprietor and Councillor M Davis, who had supported the petition, asked to be advised of the response. The Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) agreed to follow up the issue and report back to the proprietor and Councillor Davis.
- g) The Chairman of the Governors of Holly Hall School asked to be advised of the purpose of white lines erected at Stourbridge Road/Holly Street. The Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) agreed to explain the purpose of the markings following the meeting.

- h) A resident of Claverley Court, Vicarage Prospect reported on a problem of sewage ingress to his property and made allegations of inaction and unhelpfulness by the Council in dealing with the problem. The Head of Housing Management North was asked to investigate the matter immediately and to ensure that the members of the Council for the St James's Ward were kept informed of developments.
- i) A member of the public asked for consideration to be given to traffic management problems in Netherton which he alleged were causing problems of air pollution and contamination. He also referred to traffic management problems in the centre of Netherton which could cause difficulty for the emergency services.

In responding, the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) indicated that the work of the Traffic Management in Netherton Working Group was drawing to a conclusion and that some of the proposals which would emerge from the Working Group would be very likely to help alleviate problems of contamination, pollution and congestion.

WARD ISSUES

- a) Councillor Mrs Roberts drew attention to a lack of public toilet availability in Dudley Town Centre, with particular reference to evenings and Sundays. She requested that action be taken to improve the situation, including an extension of hours of the existing toilet provision.
- b) Further to minute 34 (g) of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September 2009, Councillor Mrs Roberts again referred to the problems of vehicular parking at Overfield Road and Aintree Way from visitors to Russells Hall Hospital, which was causing a nuisance to local residents. She requested that action be taken to alleviate the situation.
- c) Councillor M Davis drew attention to problems of vehicular parking at the end of Ashenhurst Road which was preventing local residents from parking outside their homes. He requested that action be taken.
- d) Councillor M Davis reported on poor lighting at Scotts Green Close and requested that action be taken. Councillor Davis asked to be advised of the date on which the lighting would be improved.

- e) In congratulating Stourbridge Football Club on their success in reaching the first round proper of the FA Cup, and expressing good wishes to them in their match against Walsall Football Club on 7th November, 2009, Councillor Ali drew attention to a lack of sporting facilities within the Borough, including the lack of a site in the central Dudley township for Dudley Town Football Club. In relation to the latter, he recalled the former grounds of the Dudley Town Football Club and the Dudley Cricket Club, which had been abandoned following the collapse of the grounds owing to subsidence, the opportunity to replace both of which had not been taken under the Castlegate development, after the stabilisation of the site. Councillor Ali advocated the invitation of the Chief Executive of New Heritage Regeneration Company to a future meeting of the Committee in order to discuss regeneration plans for Dudley.
- f) Councillor Ali reported, that following the installation of the cycle path at Trindle Road in the vicinity of Grosvenor Furniture, there was no room for pedestrians to cross the road. He requested that action be taken in this regard.
- g) In referring to the withdrawal of the school crossing patrol warden at Trindle Road, Councillor Ali requested that the operative be relocated to St John's Road. Councillor Ali also requested the installation of flashing speed warning signs in St John's Road.
- h) Councillor Waltho drew attention to the fact that the action plan resulting from the Bunns Lane road traffic accident had not yet been forthcoming and requested the Assistant Director of the Urban Environment (Environmental Management) to follow up the matter.
- i) Councillor Waltho expressed his appreciation of the extension of double yellow lines in the vicinity of Sledmere School, which, he considered, had helped to alleviate the parking problems at that location.
- j) Councillor Waltho expressed his appreciation of the work done in conjunction with St Thomas's Network Community Activities, including cleansing and the removal of graffiti from the cenotaph. The working party would be in action again for the same purpose on 8th November 2009 after attendance at the memorial service.
- k) Referring to road safety issues at Dibdale Street/Aintree Way in the context of Safer Routes to Schools, in relation to the routes to Milking Bank and Bishop Milner Schools, Councillor A Finch suggested the installation of a pelican crossing to serve the schools.

- l) In referring to the speed of traffic at a recent road traffic accident along The Broadway, Councillor A Finch asked that traffic calming measures at the location be considered.
- m) Councillor Mrs Aston referred to problems with storm drains at Summer Road and Willow Road, Wrens Nest and requested that these be rectified.
- n) Further to minute 34 (z) of the meeting held on 8th September 2009, Councillor Cotterill indicated that he had been advised that the removal of the build outs in Victoria Road he had advocated would not be facilitated. Councillor Cotterill indicated that he would continue to press on the matter.
- o) Further to Minute 34 (v) of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 2009, Councillor Cotterill indicated that there was no reference in any report to this meeting regarding the ramp at the Quarry Bank Community Centre
- p) Councillor Cotterill requested the removal of bollards at Bowling Green Road, which he considered were superfluous and could be used inappropriately to obstruct the highway if vandalised or torn up.
- q) In referring to the petition requesting traffic calming measures at Exeter Road, Councillor Sparks asked that traffic calming on the Bowling Green estate be considered.
- r) Councillor J Martin conveyed concerns expressed by local residents in the Baptist End Road, Netherton, area regarding increased littering and requested additional street cleansing.
- s) Councillor J Martin requested the introduction of road safety measures in Northfield Road, to include consideration of a flashing speed warning sign to slow the traffic between the junctions of Northfield Road at Recreation Street and St Peters Road/Cole Street/Withymoor Road. Councillor Martin indicated that residents turning right into Knighton Place had contacted him stating that there had been several near miss accidents owing to vehicles overtaking at speed.
- t) Councillor J Martin requested that the vicinity of Northfield Road Primary School be considered for inclusion in the safer routes to school programme, owing to the volume and speed of traffic along Northfield Road and Halesowen Road.
- u) Councillor J Martin asked that an untidy parcel of housing land to the rear of Darby End Road be declared surplus to requirements and an alternative use found. He indicated that residents had suggested that consideration be given to the use of the land for allotments.

- v) Councillor J Martin requested the removal of four overgrown conifer trees at a housing property located at Hereford Road.
- w) Councillor J Martin requested that a boarded up garage at the bottom of Darby End Road be cleaned up, made safe and re-let.
- x) Councillor J Martin requested the establishment of a Friends Group for Woodside Park be progressed by relevant Council Officers as soon as possible, as a small number of Woodside residents were eager to start. Councillor Martin indicated that support from the Council had not yet been forthcoming.
- y) Councillor J Martin requested the removal of rubbish from the junction of Cambridge Road, Woodside and Dudley Southern Bypass. He also reported that overgrown shrubs were obscuring visibility for motorists and pedestrians at the site and in the vicinity and that the location of the tunnel also required tidying. Councillor Martin requested that these matters be attended to.
- z) Councillor J Martin requested that trees and shrubs adjacent to the Crown Public House, which fronted onto Highgate Road, Woodside, be inspected as they were overhanging older peoples' bungalows and causing loss of light. Residents had complained that they had had to have the lights in their properties on for most of the day as daylight had been blocked by the trees and shrubs. This was causing concern and worry to the residents, who were concerned about the larger electricity bills that were resulting. Councillor Martin asked that the matter be addressed.
- aa) Councillor J Martin requested that the trees along Holly Hall Road, Woodside be inspected and maintained.
- ab) Councillor J Martin requested that consideration be given to the introduction of a road safety scheme, including, perhaps, the installation of bollards, on pavements surrounding New Testament Church of God, Holly Hall Road, Woodside owing to inconsiderate parking by church goers. Councillor Martin reported that cars were being parked on pavements around the church every Sunday and for special services such as Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms etc. This was causing regular and severe obstructions to the highway and pavement at the busy junction of Holly Hall Road, Wood Street, Crossgate Street and Hallchurch Road.
- ac) Councillor J Martin requested that the lunch time crossing warden at Stourbridge Road and Avenue Road Woodside be reinstated until the controlled pedestrian crossing had been installed.
- ad) Councillor J Martin requested that Housing Managers recommence their attendance at local Police and Communities Together meetings.

- ae) Councillor J Martin submitted a request for an enhanced safety scheme in the vicinity of the shared site at Woodside Children's Centre, School and Community Centre at Highgate Road, Woodside. This followed a fatality and several near miss accidents over a number of years and a very serious road traffic accident at the location which had occurred in the last two days. Councillor Martin requested that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph and the introduction of flashing speed warning signs to alert drivers to the positioning of the concealed car park entrance/exit from the shared site.
- af) In referring to the recent retirement of the crossing patrol operative at St John's Road, Councillor J R Davies requested the appointment of a replacement patrol. He also requested the provision of a report containing user figures for all crossing patrols in the Borough in order that Members of the Committee might be assured of a consistent approach to provision throughout the Borough.
- ag) Ms Little referred to the swine flu vaccination programme currently in place, letters in respect of which were being sent to target priority groups. She urged all recipients of letters to accept the invitation to be vaccinated.
- ah) Mrs Edwards requested an update on the current position with single status in schools. The Assistant Director of Children's Services (Ms Porter) was asked to write to Mrs Edwards with the information.

(In relation to issues (r) to (ae) inclusive above these matters were submitted in writing to the Area Liaison officer and referred to briefly by Councillor Martin at the meeting)

COMMUNITY RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted updating the Committee on progress made by the Community Renewal Working Group in progressing and reviewing the Community Renewal Plan for the area of the Committee.

Further to the presentation of the report by the Head of Community Renewal, in response to a comment by Councillor Ali that there did not appear to be reference to facilities for football in the St Thomas's Ward, the Head of Community Renewal indicated that a programme coordinated by Youth Services was being composed and that this would include the St Thomas's Ward. Meanwhile, there was currently provision for football at Castle High School, which was open to residents of all Wards.

Inspector Downen referred to a large amount of Police funding that had been allocated to and spent on sporting/recreational facilities in the St Thomas's Ward area. Councillor Ali suggested that greater publicity to this might have been given.

On being asked about progress on Quarry Bank Library, the Head of Community Renewal indicated that the matter would be considered by the Corporate Property Group shortly with a view to plans being drawn up.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS WORKING GROUP

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on recommendations made by the Capital Allocations Working Group of the Committee with regard to applications for grant from the Delegated Capital Budget of the Committee for 2009/10.

Reference was also made orally by the Principal Project Officer in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, in introducing the report, to an additional application from the Members of the Council for the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward, who had indicated their approval to the allocation of a grant of £5,000 for the purchase and installation of Christmas lights in Quarry Bank. In this regard, however, the Principal Project Officer indicated that, before this could be implemented, further discussions were required with the Street Lighting Unit in the Directorate of the Urban Environment on associated expenditure, with particular reference to running costs, such as electricity and insurance, which could not be funded by the Committee.

RESOLVED

- 1) That grants to the organisations indicated below for the purposes, and in the sums, indicated be approved:
 - (a) Castle and Priory Ward
 - (i) The award of a grant of £810 to improve the wheelchair access to St Francis Parish Centre, including the ramp at the front door.
 - (ii) The award of a grant of £500 to the Caves OAP group for the purposes of a bingo machine and kitchen items.

- (iii) The award of a grant of £4,850 to Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club for the installation of new changing and toilet facilities.
- (b) Netherton Woodside and St Andrew's Ward
 - (i) The award of a grant of £848 to Darby End TRA for the purchase of 106 plastic bins for the placement of black refuse bags prior to collection.
 - (ii) The award of a grant of £5,000 to Woodside Community Association for the refit of the kitchen of the Association in accordance with Health and Safety Guidelines and to furnish the waiting area and chairs.
 - (iii) An award of £847.96 to the First Primrose Hill Guides for the purchase of tables and chairs.
 - (iv) The award of a grant of £400 to the Netherton United Women's Football Club for the purchase of training and match equipment.
- (c) Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Ward
 - (i) The award of a grant of £3048 to the Netherton office of West Midlands Police for the purchase of cycle uniforms for four Police Constables and four Community Support Officers.
- (d) St James's Ward
 - (i) The award of a grant of £338.40 to the Dudley Office of West Midlands Police for the purchase of one cycle uniform for a Police Community Support Officer.
 - (ii) The award of a grant of £3,000 to Dudley Christian Fellowship as a contribution towards the purchase of new items of kitchen equipment.
- (e) All Wards
 - (i) An award of £4,965, on the basis of £980.13 per Ward in the area of the Central Dudley Area Committee, to Relate Dudley for the redecoration, carpeting and refurnishing of the Dudley premises of the organisation.

- (ii) Subject to resolution (3) below, the award of a grant of £1,000, on the basis of £200 from each of the Wards in the area of the Central Dudley Area Committee, to Community Transport Dudley towards the purchase of a second hand mini bus they are currently leasing.
 - 2) That the initial application for grant by Dudley Sea Cadets be not acceded to, but that an award in the sum of £4,943 for the quoted cost of providing fencing around the Boat Shed and the installation of CCTV, be approved.
 - 3) That the grant of £1,000 to Community Transport Dudley be made subject to the organisation being able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Area Liaison Officer that they are able to raise the residue of £4,000.
 - 4) That the current position with regard to the application for a grant of £5,000 towards the purchase and installation of Christmas lights at Quarry Bank be noted.
 - (5) That the agenda and supporting papers for future meetings of the Capital Allocations Working Group be circulated not only to the members of the Working Group but to all other members of the Committee for the information of the latter.
 - (6) That the Area Liaison Officer be authorised to carry out the recommended actions within the agreed control procedures.
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MEMBERSHIP OF THE CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS WORKING GROUP

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of Councillor M Davis as a Member of this Working Group, following his inadvertent omission from this body when the Membership of the Working Groups for 2009/10 were determined at the meeting of the Committee held on 9th June, 2009.

RESOLVED

That Councillor M Davis be reinstated as a Member of the Capital Allocations Working Group of the Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.

56 MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 RELATING TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on issues raised at the meeting of the Central Dudley Area Committee held on 8th September, 2009, that related to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

57 MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 OTHER THAN THOSE RELATING TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on progress on issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September, 2009, other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

58 SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

The dates of meetings of Select Committees for the remainder of the current municipal year were noted.

59 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE

The dates scheduled for future meetings in the current municipal year were noted.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN