

Central Dudley Area Committee – 5th November, 2008

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Matters raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 10th June, 2008, other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment

Purpose of Report

1. To note progress on issues raised at the meeting of this Committee held on 9th September, 2008, other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

Background

2. The issues set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 (inclusive) below were raised at the last meeting of this Committee, progress on which is as follows:
3. Anti-social behaviour by tenants of some Council properties

At the meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2008, a member expressed dissatisfaction with the approach being taken to the management of tenancies where the occupants engage in anti-social activity.

The member has been assured by the Area Housing Manager that the Council takes a proactive approach to the management of its own tenancies through the Home Check initiative to identify and tackle issues before they become a problem to others and will always respond proportionately and appropriately where problems arise. At the invitation of the Area Housing Manager, the member has supplied a number of addresses, some of which are for privately-let tenancies, in relation to which complaints have been received and these are being looked into. The member will be kept informed of progress and has been invited to contact the Area Housing Manager further if he feels that matters are not progressing appropriately.

4. Gardening Scheme for Council Tenants

At the meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2008, a member requested additional information on the pilot of the Gardening Scheme

for Council tenants. Accordingly, the briefing note attached to this report, which was presented to Area Housing Panels in July, was sent to the member.

The member was also advised by the Area Housing Manager that the reason for piloting the scheme in North Dudley is that the Council's partner in the project, Age Concern, already operate a gardening scheme in that area and had the resources to start the project there, where they already provide the service to a number of tenants.

5 Saltwells House

At the meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2008, in consequence of a proposed sale of the property having fallen through, the retention of the property by the Council was strongly advocated by one member in view of its importance in maintaining access by the public to Saltwells Wood. The current position is that a revised development brief, which will take into account the present deteriorating condition of the property, is being prepared for the site to encourage a small eco-home development, with a view to the site being put back on the market. The informal right of way running down the side of the site appears to have been used for more than 25 years and the Director of Law and Property has therefore instructed the officers preparing the development brief for the site that the right of way is to be retained when the brief is produced.

Finance

6. This report has no direct financial implications.

Law

7. Under 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council is empowered to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to, or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

- 8 This report complies the policies of the Council on Equality and Diversity
- 9 Children and Young People have not been consulted in the preparation of this report, as the report seeks only to note progress on issues raised at its previous meeting.

Recommendation

- 10 That the information above be noted.

AREA LIAISON OFFICER

Background Papers

Minutes of the meeting of the Central Area Dudley Committee held on 9th September, 2008

Linda Sanders.

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