

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 3RD FEBRUARY, 2011**

**REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER**

**MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE  
ON 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2010.**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 30th September, 2010, Brierley Hill Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Council.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Council provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to a range of services. 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, a progress report is attached.

**FINANCE**

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

**LAW**

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are largely governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
7. Provisions relating to Highways including trees thereon are contained in the Highways Act 1980.
8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.

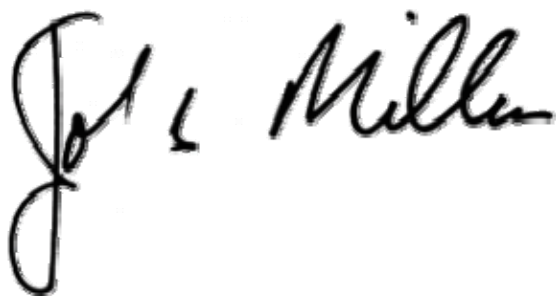
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.

### **EQUALITY IMPACT**

13. This report is consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity policy. There is no direct effect on children or young people.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

14. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

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**List of Background Papers** - See progress report attached

**PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT THE  
BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**ISSUE (Minute 28 b):**

In response to a question regarding a proposed car park at the rear of St Mary's Church, Kingswinford, in view of worsening traffic congestion, the Area Liaison Officer undertook to speak to the Planning Officer and Traffic Engineer involved and would ensure that a response was sent to the questioner and that the Chairman and Ward Members concerned would also be copied into that response.

**RESPONSE:**

*It was proposed by representatives of St. Mary's Church that an area of land behind the church becomes a public car park, serving the church, church hall, park visitors and parents of children attending Blanford Mere Primary School.*

*Internal consultation was undertaken with officers in a number of technical teams to ascertain their views on the proposal. Planning Policy responded by stating that they would not support it on nature conservation grounds as the identified area forms part of the King George VI Park and is a designated site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.*

*Some members of the community would like the public carriageway in The Village to be marked out with informal white parking bays. Other residents consider that bright modern carriageway markings would spoil visitors' historic view of this small cul-de-sac. Therefore, a small number of car parking bays will be considered on the public highway for community car parking in The Village.*

**ISSUE (Minute 28 d):**

A member of the public referred to traffic lights in Rangeways Road, Wordsley, indicating a speed limit of 20 mph whereas the road opposite had a speed limit of 30 mph and so there was no indication to motorists of the change in speed limit. It was noted that the lights were for use during school hours, however, it was considered that there was still the issue that no warning as to the change in speed limit was given. The Section Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) reported that he would look into this matter and respond direct to the questioner.

**RESPONSE:**

*A full response was provided by the Section Engineer to the questioner.*

*The 20mph signs relate only to an advisory speed limit that has been introduced in conjunction with the flashing amber lights which are activated by the School Crossing Patrol Warden. These are collectively intended to raise awareness and encourage motorists to drive in a more considerate manner – particularly at those times when children are most likely to be travelling to and from school.*

*The 20mph signs have only been erected along Bromley Lane but, as this is the main through route outside the schools in this area and the advisory limit does not negate the prescribed 30mph speed limit, any additional benefit of introducing additional signs for traffic emerging from the side roads was considered to be somewhat limited given that motorists would inevitably need to slow down in order to complete a right or left turn manoeuvre.*

*The introduction of the advisory signs is not in legal contradiction to the speed limits pertaining to the streets in this area and their primary purpose in this instance is to*

*promote a safer environment along a very busy road that serves three schools in close proximity to each other.*

**ISSUE (Minute 28 e):**

A questioner reported on issues with regard to parking on double yellow lines and on the footpaths outside premises in Brockmoor High Street and requested that action be taken to prevent and deter such activities. In response Sergeant Evans indicated that he would speak to the Councillor involved and to the Sergeant for that particular area. The Area Liaison Officer also reported that the Council would work with the Police on this matter and that further targeting work would be carried out in the area.

**RESPONSE:**

*Parking management continue to visit this location at different times and days. Since the beginning of September the location has been visited 25 times, 25 observations have been started and 2 Penalty Charge Notices have been issued.*

**ISSUE (Minute 31):**

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted updating the Committee on a number of issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 25 March and 1 July 2010. Details of the matters raised at those meetings were set out in the Appendix to the report submitted.

During consideration of this matter, the Area Liaison Officer undertook to contact the officer concerned with regard to issue Minute 16(c) of the meeting held on 1 July 2010, in relation to concerns raised in respect of a footway link at Bromley and Pensnett Primary School and arrange for Councillor Foster to receive a response.

**RESPONSE:**

*A response was provided to Councillor Foster to inform that the Police Crime Reduction and Architectural Liaison Officer has stated, that having looked at the records for the past year, she has come to the opinion that the public footpath does not suffer high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Given this statement, the grounds for closure under the legislation cannot be met.*

ENDS