

Stourbridge Area Committee - 21st January 2007

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of written responses made to questions asked at a previous meeting.

Background

2. At a meeting of this Committee held on 19th November, 2007, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners on the following questions:
3. In response to comments from a member of the public regarding maintenance and cleansing of pathways in the Withymoor Area, the Team Manager, Street Cleansing has written to the questioner, to advise that the estate paths and roads around Chapel Street flats complex are swept every two weeks, and Tilston Drive to the canal and further shops at Turners Lane are cleansed weekly. Currently the cycleways between Brierley Hill and Stourbridge are not cycletic mechanical cleansed, but would be cleansed fortnightly commencing 14th January 2008.
4. In response to comments regarding the proposed staff reduction at Stourbridge Library under the Library Review, the Assistant Director for Libraries, Archives and Adult Learning has written to the questioner, to advise that the reasons for changes to the staffing structures, came about as a result of the October 2005 Peer Review, and issues raised at staff conferences, which highlighted the need to improve and maintain a consistent Borough wide professional staffing input. She advised that it was not appropriate to compare the old staffing structure with the proposed new one, purely on the basis of numbers located in one particular library. The modernisation plans had been discussed with the Museum Library and Archives Council (West Midlands) who welcomed the proposals as a positive indication for the future.
5. In response to concerns expressed by a member of the public regarding the fact that he had heard that there would be an imminent break up of the important Stourbridge collection of photographs, documents and books held currently at Stourbridge Library and the removal of its dedicated librarian/curator, the Assistant Director for Libraries, Archives and Adult Learning has written to the questioner, advising that a plan was being developed to ensure the appropriate and effective management of archive and local history material in the Borough, including the appropriate locations to store it. The draft plan on future management of the

collections would be consulted on with local history groups across the Borough. She gave assurance that the collection would be treasured and not neglected. The material currently held at Stourbridge Library would be catalogued and added to the online database of archival materials managed by the service as resources became available, and would result in the collection being more widely available than at present. The new arrangement would ensure that the collection was managed more effectively and prevent any duplication of material and staff time.

6. A member of the public requested that consideration be given to having a zebra crossing at the Stanley Road entrance to Mary Stevens Park. In response to this request, the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety has written to the questioner advising that the request would be considered in the annual Pedestrian Crossing Programme and/or Safer Routes to School Programme.
7. In response to a member of the public's request for a further assessment of current bus transport facilities and bus stops around the Vicarage Road/Amblecote High Street area and for consideration to be given to the needs of bus customers visiting the Three Villages General Medical Practice in Vicarage Road, the Area Liaison Officer and the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety, have written to Centro's Bus Services Manager to request that a further assessment be carried out, taking into account the needs of older persons, parents with young children and mobility impaired persons who may face difficulties in walking between the medical centre and bus stops.

Finance

8. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Law

9. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

8. The report takes into account the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

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

John Polychronakis

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J POLYCHRONAKIS
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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List of Background Papers:

Question slips handed in at previous meetings of the Stourbridge Area Committee.
Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers.