

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 13 JULY 2004

REQUEST TO: PURCHASE LAND

LOCATION: LAND ADJOINING 11 HARTSIDE CLOSE HALESOWEN

(As shown heavily edged in black on the plan attached)

BACKGROUND

An application has been received from the owner of 11 Hartside Close, Halesowen to purchase Council owned land adjoining his property for gardening purposes, and to maintain its appearance in conformity with the rest of his property.

The land is adjacent to the applicant's property, which forms an open grassed area. Since purchasing his property in 1986, the applicant advises that he has maintained it and spent a great deal of time and money cutting the grass, weeding and removing leaves, and is willing to continue, providing he is able to purchase the land.

Although the applicant maintains the grassed area, it does not signify that he has a possession title over the land.

The land is under the control of the Directorate of the Urban Environment (Cultural & Community Services).

COMMENTS

All of the relevant Council Directorates have been consulted and objections to the sale of land have been received from the Directorate of Law & Property who advises that there is a need to retain the open aspect of the site, as it is on the corner of a turning head and directly adjacent to a public footpath and the disposal of all of this land would be detrimental to visibility and pedestrian safety, as well as removing all of the open space between the property and the highway. The sale of land may also set a precedent for similar applications to purchase land in the area.

PROPOSAL

That the Area Committee advise the Lead Member for Leisure to refuse the application to purchase the land for the reasons set out above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter(s) from the applicant.
2. E-mails and memos from the Council Directorates.

Sonia McLean, Property Manager, Ext. 5321