

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE – 9TH FEBRUARY 2004

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the written responses made to questions asked at previous meetings.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At meetings of this Committee held on 9th June, 2003, 4th November, 2003 and 10th December 2003, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners concerned. The responses are as indicated.
- 2.2 In response to a query regarding traffic calming measures at Worcester Street, Stourbridge, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written advising on the current proposals to address the traffic issues in Worcester Street. The proposals will be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee for consideration.
- 2.3 In response to a query regarding the closure of Dudley Libraries immediately following public holidays, the Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has written advising that Libraries in Dudley are currently open more hours per week than those of neighbouring Boroughs, other than Coventry, who has fewer libraries. The cost implications of opening libraries immediately after public holiday periods were not provided for in the current economic climate. The situation is regularly reviewed.
- 2.4 In response to concerns expressed relating to difficulties for emergency service vehicles in Central Avenue, Wollescote, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety Officer has written advising that he has asked the Emergency Services for their observations on the alleged difficulties and further investigations will be carried out upon receipt of the responses.
- 2.5. In response to concerns expressed relating to the re-siting of the Cyber-Bus to Kent Road Playing Fields and alleged anti-social behaviour by young people near the site when the Cyber-Bus has left the site, the Parks Development Officer has written explaining that the re-siting of the Cyber-Bus was agreed at a previous meeting of the Area Committee, when interested parties were in attendance. Any suspected criminal activities should be reported directly to the Police for their attention.

- 2.6 In response to a query relating to the Committee's Capital Allocations budget, the Director of Finance ICT and Procurement has written providing a reconciliation of capital allocations between 4th November and 10th December 2003, and also advising that the allocation for the Albermarle Road car park was to be supplemented by St. Joseph's School and local residents.
- 2.7. In response to a query relating to the alleged high cost of compost sold at the Civic Amenity Site, the Waste Disposal Manager has written advising of the process involved in producing the compost and that the cost of compost sold at the Site is comparable to that of similar sized bags provided at alternative outlets.
- 2.8. In response to a comment suggesting that road maintenance budgets are spent on other items, the Assistant Director of Environmental Management has written to advise that once budgets are set at the beginning of the financial year the funds are spent on activities for which the budget is intended. Additional resources have been spent on Highways recently to readdress the Council's historic record of spending less on highway maintenance than on other services.
- 2.9. In response to a query relating to street lighting in Redlake Drive, the Assistant Director of Environmental Management has written advising that the Council had replaced certain lamps on Redlake Drive. Other lighting works between Redlake Drive and Wassell Lane had also recently been undertaken by the Housing Developer, at his own cost. These lamps would be maintained by the Council upon its adoption of the roads upon completion of the developments.
- 2.10. In response to a query relating to an alleged right of way off Charles Road, Stourbridge, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written informing of the results of investigations, and discussions with other directorates, which do not substantiate that the stated site is a public right of way.
- 2.11 In response to concerns relating to two recent road traffic accidents which occurred in New Farm Road, and which resulted in personal injuries, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written advising that investigations into the incidents had been commenced and the results of such would be reported in due course.
- 2.12 In response to concerns relating to traffic issues in Market Street, Stourbridge, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written advising that he has requested that the Police address the issues of unlawful parking in Market Street. Further investigations are under way to address difficulties for pedestrians at the junction of Bell Street and Market Street Stourbridge.
- 2.13 In response as to when landscaping along the route of the Lye-By-Pass would be completed, the Head of Traffic and Road Safety has written advising that the Landscape Architects have prepared plans for the work, which it is envisaged will be undertaken during the forthcoming planting season.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

4.0 FINANCE

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

5.0 LAW

5.1 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 The report takes into account the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

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

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J. POLYCHRONAKIS, AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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