

**WARDS:     WORDSLEY**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14**

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 3 FEBRUARY 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**PROPOSED PROVISION OF CAR PARK AREA ON LAND SOUTH OF KINVER STREET, WORDSLEY**

**1.0        PURPOSE**

- 1.1        To consider a proposal for the introduction of a public car park area within the open space area off Kinver Street, Wordsley.

**2.0        BACKGROUND**

- 2.1        A number of roads in the vicinity of Ashwood Park Primary School, Wordsley are relatively narrow and regularly suffer from congestion as a result of parked vehicles, particularly during those periods when parents either drop off or pick up their children from school.
- 2.2        This position is further exacerbated at other times, most notably weekends, when the increased use of the public open space off Kinver Street, Wordsley also leads to vehicles being parked on the highway.
- 2.3        To mitigate against these problems a suggestion was raised in the Public Forum Section of this Area Committee's last meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2004, whereby it was proposed that a car park area be introduced within the public open space area.
- 2.4        Notwithstanding any existing enforcement powers that the Police Authority can already exercise in order to remove vehicles causing obstruction, it was agreed that the feasibility of introducing a car park facility should be investigated further and the issues reported back to a future meeting of the Area Committee.
- 2.5        Therefore, whilst a number of issues relating to the practicality of this proposal and its associated costs, maintenance and operation would in themselves also be matters for more detailed consideration, the primary issue at this stage is clearly related to the policy/planning aspects of a scheme that would fall within a designated Green Belt and inside a designated Local Park.
- 2.6        Appendix A attached to this report outlines in more detail the views expressed by the Planning Policy Section of the Directorate of the Urban Environment in which

there is a clear statement that the proposal to build a car park on the amenity public open space south of Kinver Street, Wordsley, should be refused.

2.7 Against this background, it would appear that the provision of a car park area to remove the congestion problems is unlikely to be introduced at this site but since the suggestion would only have moved cars from one site to another and not in itself reduced the number of vehicles that may still choose to park on the highway, it would still seem appropriate for the Council to maintain contact with the Ashwood Park Primary School in order to investigate possible Safer Routes to School initiatives and for the Police to be requested to monitor the congestion problems currently being reported.

2.8 In this way any enforcement action deemed appropriate by the Police can be considered accordingly whereas any measures arising through the Safer Routes to School programme can focus on initiatives to promote walking, cycling and public transport rather than what presently appears to be an over reliance on travelling to and from the school by car.

### **3.0 PROPOSAL**

3.1 That this Area Committee notes the Policy Comments that have been made in response to proposal to introduce a car park on the amenity public open space off Kinver Street, Wordsley and therefore endorses the recommendation that this proposal should be refused.

3.2 That the Police Authority be advised about the current congestion problems being caused by parked vehicles and requested to take whatever enforcement action it deems to be appropriate.

3.3 That further discussions be undertaken with representatives of Ashwood Park Primary School with a view to the identification and possible implementation of a Safer Routes to School initiative.

### **4.0 FINANCE**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly 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.

5.2 The provision of a car park on public open space would facilitate the use of Public Open Space land which would be provided pursuant to the Council's functions under the Open Spaces Act 1906 and/or Public Health Act 1875.

**6.0        EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- 6.1        The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

**7.0        RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1        That the proposals set out in Section 3.0 of this report be agreed.



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**J. B. MILLAR – DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

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**Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

1.        Correspondence dated 9 December 2004 from the Directorate of the Urban Environment's Planning Policy Section