

## **APPENDICES**

### **NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2005**

### **APPLICATION TO APPROPRIATE COUNCIL OWNED LAND**

**LOCATION: LAND AT BARROW HILL, PENSNETT**

**(As shown on the plan attached)**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Directorate of the Urban Environment wish to declare the Council owned land at Barrow Hill as a Local Nature Reserve under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 Section 21. This will be in line with the Revised Deposit UDP policy and a project grant agreement with English Nature.

Local Nature Reserves are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They increase people's awareness and enjoyment of their natural environment. Because a Local Nature Reserve is a statutory provision, it is a very clear signal to a local community of the local authority's commitment to nature conservation. Local Nature Reserves offer a positive use for land that local authorities would prefer was left undeveloped. They can also help local authorities meet Local Agenda 21, Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Sustainable Development targets.

The land forms a large area of public open space that is currently held under the Housing Act 1985 being purchased originally for Housing purposes. In order to facilitate the adoption of the land as a Nature Reserve, it will be necessary to appropriate the land to the purposes of the National Parks & Access Act 1949, Section 21.

### **COMMENTS**

The relevant Council Directorates have been consulted and no objections have been received.

### **PROPOSAL**

That the Area Committee advises the Lead Member for Housing and the Lead Member for Economic Vitality & Jobs to approve the appropriation of the land so that Barrow Hill can be declared a Local Nature Reserve.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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