

**Central Dudley Area Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

**Matters Raised at the Meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To note progress on issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

**Background**

2. The issues set out in paragraphs 3 to 9 (inclusive) below were raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, progress on which is as follows:

- 3 **Youth Issues**

The following issues were raised by Members:-

A Member requested additional information in respect of certain activities and attendance in Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's Ward including reference to how often figures changed in terms of activities

The Head of the Youth Service has responded as follows:-

"The Youth Service is committed to developing its means of publicising activities on offer to young people, both within the area and borough-wide. Holiday programmes will continue to be circulated to partners such as Schools, Police and Community Renewal Officers in order to enable greater promotion. In addition, updated centre programmes will be distributed early in the New Year.

Over the coming months we will be extending both the promotion and content of the 'Launchpad' website.

With regard to the request for clarification on the activity 'May Half Term'. This refers to a holiday programme delivered by a Detached Youth Worker supporting the St Andrews Youth Pact. The group took part in workshops designed to develop their mentoring skills in order that they may provide support to other young people and some recreational activities such as, go-karting.

The Youth Service are currently working with Community Renewal Officers to develop a consultation with young people in Woodside, in order to determine whether there is the interest and need for a youth club at Woodside Community Centre that caters for teenagers. In addition, we are also working with partners to identify possible youth provision through the Fair Share Trust”.

4. **Sewage Problem at Claverly Court**

A resident drew attention to a problem of sewage ingress to his property at Claverly Court, Vicarage Prospect and made allegations of inaction and unhelpfulness by the Council in dealing with the problem. The Head of Housing Management has responded as follows: -

“Following a visit to the resident's property, The Area Operations Manager explained to the resident and his neighbours the reasons why they were still experiencing smells from the waste pipes serving their properties, despite previous attempts to resolve the problem by fitting anti-syphon traps to the bath. It was recommended that additional anti-syphon traps be fitted to the kitchen sink and bathroom wash hand basin. Arrangements for this work to be carried out have been made.

The report from Pipeline Services, which the resident advised the Local Authority had received, has not been traced, which suggests that the additional maintenance work is required to the waste pipes for the whole of the block. However, Officers will continue to review the need for additional maintenance should the solution suggested not be successful in resolving the problem”.

5. **Ramp to the Quarry Bank Community Centre**

In response to a comment made by a Member regarding the ramp at the Quarry Bank Community Centre, the Member has been advised that funding has been made available to provide a ramp to the library link in this current financial year.

6. **Land to the rear of Darby End Road**

In response to an request by a Member for an untidy parcel of housing land to the rear of Darby End Road to be declared surplus to requirements and an alternative use found, i.e. allotments, the Member has been advised that the land has been regularly maintained, however, further discussion will take place with ward councilors and local residents in relation to the alternative use suggested.

7. **Removal of four overgrown conifer trees**

A Member drew attention to the four overgrown conifer trees at a housing property located at Hereford Road and requested that these be removed. In responding, the Member has been advised that Officers of the Directorate of the Urban Environment have reduced in size a large conifer tree in the grounds of the old age pensioners' bungalows in Hereford Road, however, this matter has been passed to the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) for consideration on whether the tree can be removed permanently.

8. **Garage at Darby End Road**

In response to an issue raised by a Member requesting that the boarded up garage at the bottom of Darby End Road be cleaned up, made safe and re-let, the Member has been advised that the garages have now been repaired, however, two garages have not yet been let because there are currently no applicants.

9. **Local Police and Communities Together Meetings**

In response to a comment made by a Member in relation to Housing Managers to recommence their attendance at Local Police and Communities Together Meetings, the Member has been advised that the Assistant Director of Housing Management has made a commitment that Housing Managers will attend local Police and Communities Together meetings, whenever possible.

**Finance**

10. This report has no direct financial implications.

**Law**

11. Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is empowered to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or conducive to, or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

**Equality Impact**

12. This report complies with the policies of the Council on Equality and Diversity.
13. Children and young people have not been consulted on the preparation of this report, as report seeks only to note progress on issues raised at its previous meetings.

**Recommendations**

14. That the information above be noted.



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**AREA LIAISON OFFICER**

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### **List of Background Papers**

Minutes of the meeting of the Central Dudley Area Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2009