

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9th March 2006 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Civic Hall, Brierley Hill

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor Tyler (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Blood, Burt, Debney, Ms Foster, Ms Harris, Islam, Mrs Jordan, Miller, Mrs Patrick, Southall and Tomkinson.

Officers

Mr E Lowson (Area Liaison Officer), Chief Executives Directorate, Principal Solicitor (Directorate of Law and Property), Assistant Director (Economic Regeneration), Principal Engineers, Traffic Transportation and Transportation Policy, Principal Recreation Officer, Sports and Recreation (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Assistant Director of Access and Inclusion (Directorate of Children's Services), and Ms K Smith (Directorate of Law and Property).

Together with 20 members of the public.

77

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19th January 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed subject to the addition of Councillors Blood and Mrs Jordan to the names of those present.

78

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Debney declared a Personal Interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct in agenda item 13 - (Proposed Skatepark Provision), as members of the Friends of Wordsley Park Group were known to him.

Councillor Tomkinson declared a Personal Interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct in agenda item 14 -(Capital Allocations) as members of the Management Committee of Pensnett Community Centre were known to her.

Councillor Southall declared a Personal Interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct in agenda item 13 - (Proposed Skatepark Provision), as he was a member of the Friends of Wordsley Park Group and in agenda item 14 – (Capital Allocations) as members of the St Mary's Church of England Church were personally known to him.

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Harley and Mrs Pearce.

80 CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13 (c) it was

RESOLVED

That Agenda Item No 5 (Unit 14 The Wallows Industrial Estate, Fens Pool Avenue, Brierley Hill), be considered as the final item of business.

81 PETITIONS

The following petition was submitted by the person indicated and referred to the officer shown for attention:-

Mrs Alice Livie of "The Cottage Spring" Public House, Mill Street, Brierley Hill, on behalf of local residents requesting traffic calming measures along Mill Street, Brierley Hill. The petition was forwarded to the Director of the Urban Environment for consideration.

82 YOUTH ISSUES

The Area Liaison Officer outlined the discussions that had taken place at the Working Group meeting and reported that there would be a short presentation on youth agenda issues to the first meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year.

83 PUBLIC FORUM

The following question was raised by a member of the public and a response given as indicated:-

1. A written question with regard to road safety and traffic issues along the Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill was submitted requesting a pedestrian crossing or central refuge be installed, as there were a large number of elderly residents who had to cross the road by the bus stop.
2. The representative of the Directorate of the Urban Environment stated that traffic issues along the Stourbridge Road were being reviewed and the Stourbridge Road would be considered as a potential site for installing speed cameras. The request for a refuge and pelican crossing would be taken under consideration.

84

APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF LAND AND PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNCIL

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted regarding land and property within the committee's area.

On consideration of the report it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Housing, be recommended to refuse the sale of land at Hawbush Road, Brierley Hill, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted, for the reasons stated in the report.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Housing be recommended to refuse the sale of land to the rear of 25 and 27 Greenfields Road, Kingswinford, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted, for the reasons stated in the report.
- (3) That the Cabinet Member for Leisure be recommended to accept the surrender of the lease of Knott Welfare Hall, Seagers Lane, Brierley Hill, as shown hatched on the plan attached to the report submitted, on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Law and Property.

85

PROPOSED JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT – HIGH STREET/BRIERLEY HILL ROAD, WORDSLEY

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the results of public consultation and to seek the Area Committee's views on the proposed junction improvement at High Street/Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the Committee support the scheme as shown on Drawing No: HD/1286/2 attached as Appendix C to the report submitted.

86 HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME - 2006/2007

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Pedestrian Crossings and Safer Routes to School within the Brierley Hill Area for the 2006/2007 financial year as detailed in the attached appendices to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the proposed Local Safety Schemes, Pedestrian Crossings and Safer Routes to School initiatives, as outlined in Appendices A, B, and C attached to the report submitted, be supported.

87 OBJECTION TO DISABLED PARKING PLACE PROGRAMME J

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on an objection received to an application for a disabled parking place in programme J, of the on-street disabled parking place scheme, for 79 Limes Avenue.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised that the objection to 79 Limes Avenue be overruled and the application be introduced as advertised.

88 PROPOSED SKATEPARK PROVISION

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the outcome of investigations into suitable sites for skatepark provision carried out by the Community Plan and Young People's Working Group.

Two sites, King George V Park, Wordsley and Kinver Open Space Wordsley, had been identified as being capable of accommodating a skatepark based on physical, environmental and corporate constraints with the only factor likely to prevent their construction being objections by residents. An additional site proposed for consideration was an open space adjacent to Brockmoor Community Centre.

After detailed discussion, with several objections being raised to the installation of a skatepark at each of the sites, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That further consideration of a skatepark at King George V Park, Wordsley, and the two alternative sites, be deferred until a review of the impact of the "Multi Use Games Area" had been carried out after six months of use, to enable feedback from the Police and residents on any issues that may have arisen from its use.
- (2) That a site visit be arranged for members of the Committee to view the skatepark installed in Halesowen.

CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A verbal report of the Area Liaison Officer was given on applications received for funding from the capital allocation of the Committee.

Upon consideration of the recommendations made, it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That application no. 10/05 submitted by Nine Locks Youth Centre, for £5,000 towards the provision of ICT and photographic equipment to be used in the youth centre, be approved.
- (2) That application no. 11/05 submitted by St Mary's Church Centre for £10,000 towards improvements to the kitchen facilities be approved.
- (3) That application no. 12/05 submitted by Pensnett Community Association, for £10,000 towards the replacement of flooring in the community association building, be approved.

- (4) That application no. 13/05 submitted by the Dudley Borough Business Crime partnership for £3,000 towards the purchase of surveillance and communications equipment to co-ordinate the collection and use of information on crime and antisocial behaviour in Brierley Hill town centre, be approved.

90

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- (i) Councillor Tomkinson requested that proposals for the future of derelict buildings along Brierley Hill High Street, with particular reference to the old Nat West Bank building, be looked into.
- (ii) Councillor Islam requested that residents be informed of action to be taken on the situation with the trees in Leys Road and Leys Crescent. The representative of the Directorate of the Urban Environment agreed to respond in writing to the residents concerned and Ward Councillors with an update on the situation.
- (iii) Councillor Islam requested that road safety along Fenton Street be reviewed in light of pedestrians having difficulty in crossing the road. The representative of the Directorate of the Urban Environment agreed to look at the situation.

91

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as indicated below:-

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Unit 14 The Wallows Industrial Estate, Fens Pool Avenue, Brierley Hill	3

92

UNIT 14, THE WALLOWS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, FENS POOL AVENUE, BRIERLEY HILL

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on Unit 14, The Wallows Industrial Estate, Fens Pool Avenue, Brierley Hill.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Law and Property be recommended to accept the proposal as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report submitted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the dates and venues of future meetings of the Committee would be determined at the Cabinet Meeting of the Council.

The meeting ended at 9:15 pm

CHAIRMAN