

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 6th DECEMBER, 2007

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 4th October Brierley Hill Area Committee that relate to services provided by the Council.

BACKGROUND

2. The Council provides a number of services that have considerable impact on local communities.
3. Requests for service and information are received at Area Committee on a regular basis from both members and the general public, relating to a range of services. Few enquiries can be answered immediately, with many prompting further investigation, feasibility studies and public consultation, prior to being reported back to Committee.
4. To keep Committee updated, a progress report is attached.

FINANCE

5. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

LAW

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are largely governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
7. Provisions relating to Highways including trees thereon are contained in the Highways Act 1980.
8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.

10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
11. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
13. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.

EQUALITY IMPACT

13. This report is consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity policy. There is no direct effect on children or young people.

RECOMMENDATION

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



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Brierley Hill Area Committee Liaison Officer

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List of Background Papers

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 6th DECEMBER, 2007

REPORT OF THE AREA LIAISON OFFICER

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

- 1. At the previous Area Committee, a petition was received on behalf of users of Amblecote Library, situated within Brook Primary School, objecting to the proposed closure of the library**

Response:

A response to the first named petitioner was provided by the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

The Select Committee for Regeneration, Culture and Adult Learning at its meeting on the 24th October supported the proposed library modernisation programme

- 2. At the previous Area Committee, Councillor Lavender submitted a petition on behalf of users of Wall Heath Library, objecting to the proposed closure of the library.**

Response:

Again, the response to the first named petitioner was provided by the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

The Select Committee for Regeneration, Culture and Adult Learning at its meeting on the 24th October supported the proposed library modernisation programme.

- 3. A petition was submitted on behalf of St Mary's RC School, Brierley Hill, requesting additional extended crossing patrols on Mill Street, Brierley Hill.**

Response:

On 15 October, officers from the Traffic Management team met the Head teacher and representatives from the school to discuss the latest position concerning the school crossing arrangements. It was agreed that the School Crossing Patrol outside the school gates in Mill Street had now been extended for the morning session so that the Patrol now operated between 8.15 to 9.15 and 14.50 to 15.25, as the provision of additional extended Patrol cover is not feasible at this time.

Opportunities to pursue an alternative approach through the introduction of a permanent facility, such as a zebra or pelican crossing were also discussed. This would need more detailed appraisal and it was therefore agreed that a further meeting would be convened in the New Year to discuss this matter further.

4. Receipt of a petition submitted by Councillor Mrs Wilson on behalf of local residents requesting the removal of bushes in Chapel Street, at the side of Brickiln Court, Brierley Hill.

Response:

A tenants' meeting was held on 12th November attended by Council officers. It was agreed that the bushes would be trimmed initially and then cut back and maintained to a height of 8ft by the end of February. It was also jointly agreed to assess the situation again following the opening of the parallel route in order to gauge any possible noise pollution or visual intrusion.

5. Receipt of a petition submitted by local residents of Tiverton Close, Kingswinford, requesting closure of a Public Footpath.

Response:

The request for closure of the Public Right of Way due to anti social behaviour has been discussed with the Police Crime Prevention Officer. The outcome being that reported crime and anti social behaviour along this particular Right of Way is low and could not support a 'Closure or Gating Order'.

A letter has been sent to local residents explaining that the Council has been made aware of the anti social behaviour issue and in order to make a better assessment of the problem, residents have been advised that it is essential to register all incidents associated with the footpath with the local police.

6. Receipt of a petition submitted by local residents of Lingfield Way, Kingswinford, requesting remedial action with regard to flooding drains in the cul-de-sac.

Response:

A response was provided by the Street Maintenance team to the first named petitioner informing that the surface water in Lingfield Way disappeared after the worst of the extreme rain had stopped falling, indicating that the gullies were not blocked but rather that the flood was caused by the sheer volume of water.

The Council has a duty to maintain drainage infrastructure only up to the point where surface water enters Severn Trent's sewer system.

Although the gullies are functioning correctly, they were cleansed again on Monday 2nd July 2007.

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 5TH JULY 2007

Issue related to the Council's policy and procedure concerning flooding.

Response:

The Head of Contingency and Disaster Management is satisfied that all the appropriate procedures were adequately implemented and all measures carried out to minimise the effects of localised flooding.