

NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday 20th June 2012 at 6.30pm
at the Coseley School, Henne Drive,
Coseley

PRESENT:-

Councillors Mrs Ameson, A. Aston, Branwood, Casey, Caunt, Evans, Mrs Ridley, S Turner, Mrs Westwood and Wright; Miss A Jenkins (following appointment).

Officers

Assistant Director (Law and Governance) (as Area Liaison Officer); Assistant Director, Leisure and Culture and the Group Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety (Directorate of the Urban Environment); Marketing & Communications Officer (Chief Executive's); Assistant Director, Education, Play and Learning and Area Team Leader (Youth Service) (Directorate of Children's Services); Mrs K Taylor and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also in Attendance

Inspector G. Malpass (West Midlands Police); Station Commander C. Wood and Miss J Winpenny (West Midlands Fire Service), together with ten members of the public.

1 OPENING REMARKS

The Area Liaison Officer welcomed those present to the meeting and welcomed the two newly elected members of the Committee, Councillors Branwood and Casey.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor G Davies be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs Ridney be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

(In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Mrs Ridney thereupon took the Chair)

4 OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed those present and congratulated Councillor Mottram on being elected as the Mayor of the Borough for this Municipal Year.

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Davies and Mottram.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

7 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed

8 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of persons to serve on the Committee for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year.

During the consideration of this matter it was noted that paragraph 5 of the report submitted stated that the Dudley Youth Forum had now nominated a Miss Ashlea Jenkins to be the co-opted member to represent young people on the Committee.

RESOLVED

That Miss Ashlea Jenkins be appointed as the co-opted member for North Dudley Area Committee for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year, representing young people in the North of the Borough.

9 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of working groups for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That the North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocations Working Group be re-appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year and that the Working Group comprise the Chair and Vice Chair and Councillors Mrs Ameson, Evans and S Turner.

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APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the nomination of members of the Committee to serve on outside bodies in the 2012/2013 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the bodies indicated for the 2012/2013 Municipal Year:-

<u>Strong Communities</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre - Councillors Branwood and Wright	Annual
<u>Community Associations</u>	
Sedgley and District - Councillor Evans	Annual
Upper Gornal Voluntary Recreation Association - Councillor A Aston	Annual
Hurst Hill - Councillor G.H. Davies	Annual
Rainbow (Coseley) - Councillor Mrs. Ridney	Annual

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PETITIONS

No petitions were received at the meeting.

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YOUTH MATTERS

The Area Team Leader for Youth Service gave an oral update on new projects being undertaken by the Youth Service for young people to participate in, details of which were included in handouts circulated at the meeting.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted the Chair commented that she had attended the come and dine with me cooking project, which was very successful and that the atmosphere and work carried out at the youth centres were very positive.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted on Youth matters be noted.

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POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Malpass reported that there had been a reduction of crime in the area of the Committee, however the number of detections were not as expected, with a number of wards gaining below the average of 28-30%. Inspector Malpass commented that further consideration would be given to improve the figures.

Inspector Malpass also referred to an operation in respect of strong offender management and the ongoing issue in respect of metal theft. He also referred to an increase in reported thefts to unlocked sheds and garages and urged people to ensure they guarded against this.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on be noted.

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FIRE ISSUES

Station Commander, Mr C Wood reported on issues in relation to the Fire Service in particular the number of fire incidents that had occurred and the types of such incidents throughout the four wards comprising the area of the Area Committee. However, overall the number of incidents was very small.

The Station Commander then referred to various activities and projects undertaken by the Fire Service, namely, working with Schools to educate young people to identify health and safety fire risks and road safety. The Fire Service was also working with young people to encourage them to participate in courses with a view to increasing self confidence.

Councillor A Aston wished to express thanks to the Fire Authority on behalf of himself and Councillor Wright, for the warm welcome they had received since becoming members of the Fire Authority, and looked forward to working with them in the future.

RESOLVED

That the information reported on at the meeting on fire issues be noted.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

The Chair, on the behalf of Councillor Davies, referred to concerns that had been expressed regarding the location of a bus stop on Green Street. It was requested that consideration be given to the possibility of re-locating the bus stop to an area that backed onto council owned land with a view to a shelter being erected.

In response to the concerns expressed, Councillor S Turner, as a member appointed to the Integrated Transport Authority, undertook to pursue this matter.

PUBLIC FORUM

- (a) A member of the public referred to the relocation of the Dudley Archives, with particular reference to the costs of maintaining the Mount Pleasant site, and that the costs reported and actual costs were different.
- (b) The same member of the public asked that a new swimming baths be developed alongside the site of the former Coseley swimming baths.
- (c) In response to a question regarding the final costs following the demolition of the Coseley baths, the Area Liaison Officer undertook to arrange for a written response to be sent to the questioner.

The Chair also indicated that in respect of point (a) the new building for the Dudley Archives were currently being built; therefore it would not be possible to stop the development.

- (d) A member of the public referred to a leaflet that had been published in respect of the Summer Activezone 2012, in particular that there was little mention of any activities in Coseley except for Silver Jubilee Park. Reference was also made as to the possibilities of utilising other areas, such as Coseley Cricket Club for activities.

In responding the Chair advised that Coseley Cricket Club was privately owned and that the Council did not have a right of access, therefore agreements would need to be pursued with them directly. The Chair also reported that a number of schools in the area did carry out summer activities, however the leaflets were not usually published until the end of term.

Officers present also commented on and referred to a number of activities that would be undertaken in the summer details of which would be published in due course.

- (e) In response to a question regarding the sale of the land at the former Coseley baths site, the Chair advised that the land had not been sold and that requests had been made into the possibilities of using the site as a car park.
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AREA COMMITTEE GRANTS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the process for the allocation of expenditure from the delegated Area Committee grants budget for 2012 /2013. It was noted that requests for funding could now include revenue as well as capital schemes.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted be noted.
 - (2) That the Area Liaison Officer be authorised to administer the Area Committee grants process in accordance with any decisions made by the Committee.
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DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on standing authorisations and procedures for distributing funds delegated to this Area Committee and in respect of three applications determined by the Area Liaison Officer under delegated authority. Appendix A to the report set out the criteria for capital bids / allocations.

During the consideration of the report, it was noted that the capital allocation previously approved for Tipton Road Children's Home (Sedgley) had now been withdrawn as the allocation was no longer required.

The Chair also referred to the new criteria for funding capital and revenue schemes and invited all interested parties to apply for funding.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the arrangements for considering funding allocations made to this Area Committee, as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 and Appendix A to the report submitted, be approved.
- (2) That the action of the Area Liaison Officer under delegated authority and after consultation with Members of the Committee, in determining the following application for funding, be noted, as follows:-
 - (i) An application from the Woodsetton Charitable Trust (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton) in the sum of £4,050 to install fencing.

- (ii) An application from the Coseley Athletic Bowling Club (Coseley East) in the sum of £600 for the purchase of a pedestrian operated power sprayer.
- (iii) An application from the Upper Gornal Funday Committee (Upper Gornal and Woodsetton) in the sum of £329.97 for the purchase of three new gazebo's.

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HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Improvements within the North Dudley Area for the 2012/13 financial year.

Following the presentation of the content of the report and its Appendices the Chair welcomed the proposed programme of works.

RESOLVED

That the proposed initiatives within 2012/13 programmes for work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Improvements be noted and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation be informed that the proposed initiatives were supported by the Area Committee.

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DESIGNATION OF PLAYING FIELDS IN COMMEMORATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH SECOND FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

RESOLVED

That the item be withdrawn for further consideration.

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WARD ISSUES

- (a) Councillor Caunt raised concerns regarding the issue of inconsiderate parking caused by parents collecting and dropping off their children at schools within the North Dudley area. He stated that enforcement action had commenced in order to combat the issue.
- (b) Councillor Evans referred to the ongoing issue with air pollution and stated that he was still awaiting a response to previous comments made.

- (c) Councillor A Aston referred to Donkey Pool part of the Wrens Nest Nature Reserve and asked that people remained alert due to fish being found dead and that it was not known whether this had happened due to heavy rain or desecration.
- (d) Councillor S Turner raised concerns in regard to the lack of car parking at the shopping area in Gornal, and to an issue with regard to the ownership of the parking bays in Abbey Street. The question of whether or not this part of the highway had been adopted needed to be clarified and the Group Engineer - Traffic and Road Safety was requested to look into this and report back direct to Councillor Turner.
- (e) Councillor S Turner requested that the viability of providing a car park at the Darby and Joan Club be looked at. The Group Engineer - Traffic and Road Safety undertook for this to be done and report back direct to Councillor Turner.
- (f) The Chair raised a number of concerns in respect of the on-going issue of parking in relation to Coseley Railway Station.

In responding to issues raised the Group Engineer - Traffic and Road Safety stated that Traffic Regulation Orders for the Northern part of the Borough were being looked at and confirmed that Orders could be placed on private roads.

Councillor S Turner was also asked to raise the concerns made with Centro.

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

Information was given regarding the dates of Scrutiny Committees, held at the Council House, Dudley, to which members of the public were invited and were welcome to attend.

RESOLVED

That the information given in respect of the dates of meetings of Scrutiny Committees, be noted.

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DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following Information, as to the dates and venues of future meetings, was noted:-

Wednesday, 10th October 2012 at 6.30 p.m. at High Arcal School, High Arcal Drive, Sedgley.

Wednesday 30th January 2013 at 6.30 p.m. at The Dance Studio, Ellowes Hall School, Stickley Lane, Lower Gornal.

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CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Mrs Ameson reported that there was to be a funday at the Quarry Club on Saturday 14th July, 2012 between 12 pm and 4 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

CHAIR