

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE**

Monday, 7th July, 2003 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Stanley (Chair)
Councillor Mrs Millward (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Mrs Ameson, D Caunt, G H Davies, Evans, Finch,
Ms Ridley, Ryder and Simms; Mrs K Clarke and Mr Round, together with
Mr J Freeman (Area Liaison Officer), Mr G Isherwood and Mr R Morris
(Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mr J Millar (Director of the Urban
Environment), Mr D Lowndes and Mr B Meade (Directorate of the Urban
Environment) and Mrs Holland (Chief Executive's Department)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:-

Approximately 65 members of the public.

31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

32 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Caunt and Mottram,
Dr Cartwright and Mr Gray.

33 **GORNAL WOOD AREA - PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND
ONE-WAY STREETS**

Further consideration was given to the report of the Director of the Urban
Environment submitted to the North Dudley Area Committee meeting
held on 17th June 2003. It had been resolved at that meeting that a
special meeting of the Committee would be held to discuss further the
amended proposals outlined in the report.

Mr Isherwood and Mr Morris (Traffic and Road Safety Department,
Directorate of the Urban Environment) expanded on the report and gave
an oral presentation on the details of the proposed amendments included
in the appendix to the report.

Question and Answer Session

A question and answer session followed, on which the following issues
were raised:

- (i) In response to concerns from a member of the public who stated that there were eight parking spaces outside his business just below Red Hall School and that the proposal being put forward would eliminate five spaces, pointing out that the business opposite his shop (CHN) did not have enough parking spaces for their employees already, Mr Isherwood responded that the proposals provided for spaces for five to six vehicles and that time limited waiting could be introduced.
- (ii) In response to a question from a member of the public, Mr Isherwood stated that the proposals for Bank Road had been reviewed in consultation with Ward Members and that, other than a short section near to the bus station, the proposal for waiting restrictions had been abandoned.
- (iii) In response to a question from a member of the public, Mr Isherwood explained that it was proposed to retain the proposal for the introduction of a “one-way” system in Garden Walk.
- (vi) Various questions were asked about measures taken by the Council to investigate the provision of additional parking. One member of the public asked whether a cost comparison had been undertaken between the traffic management proposals now advocated and the provision of additional parking facilities. Other members of the public expressed their belief that extra car parking and the imposition of waiting restrictions and one-way streets were linked and should not be treated as separate issues. In response the Chairman pointed out that the question of the provision of a car park was being investigated by the Council and a report would be submitted to a future meeting but that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the proposals for waiting restrictions and one-way streets, rather than car parking.
- (vii) In response to a question from Councillor Evans regarding whether part of the bus station could be utilised to provide extra parking, Mr Isherwood stated that the configuration of the bus station called for a large turning circle and that the amount of space provided at present was only just enough to allow for this manoeuvre to take place.
- (viii) In response to a further question from Councillor Evans in respect of the utilisation of the inner circle, Mr Isherwood stated that any use of the inner circle for parking purposes would create a potential conflict for vehicles.

- (ix) In response to a question from a member of the public, Inspector Murcott of West Midlands Police, replied that a shortage of available police officers would hamper the enforcement of the proposed restrictions.
- (x) In response to a question from a member of the public, the Chairman replied that concerns regarding traffic wardens and similar matters would not be addressed at this meeting as further consideration needed to be given to the issue.
- (xi) Mr Isherwood replied that neither the imposition of a 20 mph zone nor traffic calming measures would be appropriate on Temple Street.
- (xii) A member of the public expressed concern that, under the proposals, five car parking spaces would be lost in Louise Street near to the junction with New Street.
- (xiii) Councillor Mrs Millward expressed grave concerns in respect of road safety in the vicinity of Red Hall School, particularly that emergency services would not be able to gain adequate access should an emergency arise. She was of the opinion that, prior to the imposition of any traffic restrictions in the area, a traffic survey needed to be carried out, ostensibly in the vicinity of Red Hall School, where the speed of traffic coming down the hill needed to be monitored and recorded. She stated further that the provision of a car park needed to be regarded as a priority that needed to be provided for before any traffic restrictions were imposed.
- (xiv) Councillor Finch commented that the proposed deployment of traffic restrictions needed to be considered in conjunction with car park provision adding that he believed that the cost of providing a car park could be prohibitive. He called on Officers and Members to ensure that the issue of the need for car parking in Gornal was discussed at a full Council meeting.
- (xv) Councillor Finch also pledged his support to the concept of providing a car parking facility in Gornal prior to any traffic restrictions being imposed.
- (xvi) The Chairman stated that he supported the call for car parking provision in Gornal, but had doubts whether funding would be forthcoming for this.
- (xvii) Members of the public urged Members to investigate the possibility of car park provision on land situated in Abbey Road, and pointed out that the proposed traffic restrictions would reduce current parking spaces in Gornal by fifty percent.

- (xviii) The issue of access from the front of the Darby and Joan Club to the possible land that could be developed for car parking was raised by a member of the public who also asked if the Council had investigated whether the land was suitable.
- (xix) The issue of yellow lines in Prospect Road was raised by a member of the public, in response to which Mr Isherwood confirmed that the meeting formed part of a consultation process, the details of which had not yet been finalised.
- (xx) The issue of the double yellow lines to a section of Himley Road was raised by a member of the public who stated that double yellow lines would be superfluous as parking was very infrequent.
- (xxi) The issue of the proposed parking restrictions affecting Church Street was raised by a resident of Church Street, who expressed the view that the imposition of parking restrictions would not slow down the vehicles using the road.
- (xxii) In response to a question from a member of the public with regard to future plans for Red Hall School and the issue of the land on which the school stands being utilised for use as a car park, Councillor Millward stated the understanding that future plans for Red Hall School were in the distant future and that Gornal needed a car park on an urgent basis.

Petition

A petition calling for a car park to be provided in Gornal was submitted and referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for attention.

Conclusion

Following a short discussion it was

RESOLVED

That the North Dudley Area Committee recommend that no action be taken until a positive decision has been taken by the Council on the provision of a car park and that the Director of the Urban Environment, the Executive and the Council be notified accordingly.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking members of the public for their views, and said that he was glad that everyone had been able to express their views fully and openly.

CHAIR