

Stourbridge Area Committee - 9th March 2009

Report of the Area Liaison Officer

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of written responses made to questions asked at previous meeting.

Background

2. At the meetings of this Committee held on 17th November 2008 and 19th January 2009, it was indicated that written replies would be sent to the questioners on the following questions:
3. A member of the public expressed concerns regarding Braille signage on the squash courts at Halesowen Leisure Centre. The Area Manager Sport and Physical Activity has written to the questioner advising that to confirm with the Disability Discrimination Act, when physical changes are made to public buildings a review of access arrangements is carried out. He explained, within the contents of his letter to the questioner, the reasons for Braille signage at the Squash Courts. He also advised that the alleged £5,000 for the signage was incorrect. The figure stated was for all of the signage in the building. The cost for Braille signage was £50. There has been further communications between the questioner and the Area Manager Sport and Physical Activity on this matter.
4. A member of the public, who was unable to attend the meeting requested that the Committee reconsider its decision to set aside funds from the income of the Ernest Stevens Trust for a period of five years, towards the cost of the repair of the gates at Mary Stevens Park. The Interim Chief Executive answered the request on the night of the meeting and has written to the questioner advising him that the Committee had been advised of the requirements of the Scheme for the Trust, which obligated the Committee, acting as Trustees, to maintain the property of the Trust, which includes the gates at Mary Stevens Park. The Interim Chief Executive also advised that the Committee had not entirely ruled out the possibility of giving allocations from the net income to local voluntary groups in exceptional circumstances.

Finance

5. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Law

6. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

9. The report takes into account the Council's Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

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



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Jane Porter
AREA LIAISON OFFICER

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List of Background Papers:

Question slips handed in at previous meetings of the Stourbridge Area Committee.
Correspondence sent in response by Council Officers.