

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 1st OCTOBER, 2009

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 2ND JULY AND THE JOINT MEETING OF BRIERLEY HILL AND STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEES ON 23rd JULY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the meeting of Brierley Hill Area Committee on 2nd July, 2009 and the joint meeting of the Brierley Hill and Stourbridge Area Committees on 23rd July 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.

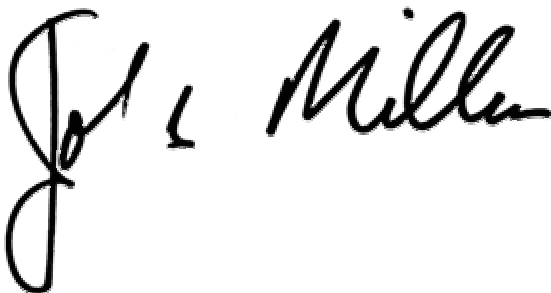
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
10. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 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 2000 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

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

RECOMMENDATION

15. 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 - See progress report attached

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 1st OCTOBER 2009
AREA LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE ON 2ND JULY

PUBLIC FORUM

Minute 13 (a)

A written question was submitted in relation to access to frontages for both businesses and customers in Brierley Hill Town Centre, without breaching traffic regulations. The questioner was requested to provide full details in relation to letters he had written, and action he had taken to the Principal Engineer, (Traffic and Road Safety) who would provide a written response to the questioner.

Response

A full written response was provided to the member of the public on the day following Area Committee.

Minute 13 (b)

A question was raised in relation to two businesses situated near the Fire Station Island, Brierley Hill, whose businesses were suffering financially due to lack of customers due to yellow lines on the road. The Area Liaison officer responded stating that Council Officers were in contact with the business owners.

Response

Prior to this question being raised by a member of the public, officers had previously discussed the issues directly with the respective businesses concerned.

In relation to one of the businesses which had a private forecourt, it had been possible to allow access from the highway to allow for an off-street parking facility.

Unfortunately, this approach was not a feasible option for the other business which was located close to the roundabout where the introduction of yellow lines is considered necessary for public safety on the highway.

Minute 13 (d)

A question was raised relating to re-surfacing work being undertaken to pavements in Tunstall Road, Crestwood Park, Kingswinford. The Principal Engineer, (Traffic and Road Safety) would investigate the issue, and a verbal update would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

Response

Tunstall Road has been identified as requiring resurfacing works, however, it is not included in this year's highway maintenance programme. The programme is compiled by individual streets, not by area or estates.

This road will be included in a future maintenance programme and until such time, the road will be inspected and any remedial work will be undertaken to ensure the road is safe.

Minute 13 (e)

Several members of the public raised questions relating to the felling and pollarding of trees that had been carried out by Green Care in Cot Lane/Hainult Close, Kingswinford without consultation with the local residents and concerns were raised that further tree works would be undertaken on a planned return visit by Green Care on 8th July, 2009. A request was made that the replacement of mature trees be undertaken by the Council. The Area Liaison Officer stated that the further visit planned by Green Care would be delayed pending investigations by Senior Officers and Ward Members would be advised of the outcome of those investigations and would report the concerns and comments stated above to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture.

Response

Please refer to the response provided to 13 (f)

Minute 13 (f)

Councillors Miller and Southall advised that they were awaiting responses from Green Care, as to whether trees that had been pollarded on Lawnswood Road, Wordsley were subject to Tree Preservation Orders. The Area Liaison Officer confirmed that he would ensure they received a written response

Response

Ward Members are now aware of the background associated with the management of trees between Hainult Close and Cot Lane. Further to the cancellation of the proposed tree works, a set of proposals were drawn up in consideration of concerns raised by local residents. It is intended that these proposals demonstrate the Council's intention to allow the management of trees on the site to continue but in a manner that is mutually acceptable to all parties.

The respective Ward Members have since approved the proposals that will see the resumption of the work on the Hainult Close/Cot Lane site.

Minute 13 (g)

A member of the public raised concerns in relation to the speed of and vibrations from vehicles utilising Water Street. The Area Liaison Officer indicated that he would request Officers to investigate the issues raised.

Response

Traffic calming measures in the form of speed humps have already been introduced along Water Street and generally been found to have been effective in reducing vehicle speeds. However, in order to balance the effectiveness of the traffic calming measures against the potential environmental impacts that may arise as a consequence, such as noise pollution, the scheme was designed in line with recommendations provided by the Department for

Transport so that any inconvenience should be kept to a minimum and within tolerable limits.

WARD ISSUES

Minute 21 (i)

Following a question raised by a member of the public relating to Quad Bikes being driven dangerously along Cot Lane, Kingswinford, Inspector Bradbury confirmed that he would direct the concerns raised to colleagues and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Response

Inspector Bradbury has been requested to provide a response.

MATTERS RAISED AT THE JOINT MEETING OF BRIERLEY HILL AND STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEES ON 23rd JULY

PETITIONS

A petition was submitted from residents who are concerned about the future of Broadfield House Glass Museum.

Response

In accordance with Council procedures, the petition was received and acknowledged accordingly.

NB All comments raised during the meeting were noted and taken into consideration as part of the wider consultation process.