

Appendix 1

DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - MATTERS RAISED AT THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE HELD 22nd JANUARY 2007

1. KING STREET GAP

Background: A member of the public submitted a question regarding an issue previously raised by Cllr Ali, relating to the misuse of the access gap in the central reservation in King Street. He stated that he had been riding his motorcycle in the area when he was hit by a car cutting through the gap and requested clarification on what would be done to alleviate the problem.

Another member of the public also made reference to the misuse of the King Street gap, particularly by taxi drivers and suggested that contact be made with them to warn them of the dangers of misusing the access or install a bollard to prevent abuse of the opening. Cllr Ali advised that this has been raised previously by a number of constituents and urged that action be taken before a major accident occurs.

Comments: An investigation into this matter has been carried out. A letter will be sent to the questioner.

A letter will be sent to the second questioner relating to this issue, with a copy sent to Councillor Ali. Council officers enjoy a close partnership with representatives of taxi services, and will inform appropriate organisations of the concerns.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

2. DERELICT LAND, WINDMILL END, NETHERTON

Background: A member of the public raised a question relating to a piece of derelict land in Windmill End, Netherton. Apparently the privately owned land had previously been fenced off but the fence has been pulled down and rubbish dumped on the site. DUE officers to take the matter up with the property owners with a view to tidying up the area and getting the fence replaced.

Councillor J Martin Supported the comments made by residents regarding the overgrown land in Windmill End. He requested that the land be tidied up as he had been advised it has been in its current state for almost 20 years. He requested that officers keep him updated directly on any developments on the matter.

Comments: Officers from the DUE Planning Enforcement Team are carrying out an investigation.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

3. **PARKING, RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL**

Background: A member of the public and Councillor Craigie raised concern relating to parking in the streets surrounding Russells Hall hospital. Hospital staff are parking on these streets, particularly Ashenhurst Road and as they often work long shifts from 8 am to 7 pm, many residents are struggling to park their cars when returning home from work. Several Members expressed sympathy with the issue and support was expressed for plans to erect a multi-storey car park at the site. Cllr Ms Craigie suggested the introduction of a residents' permit scheme similar to that in place near the Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton. It was requested that action be taken to improve the situation and protect residents' parking rights.

Comments: Residents do not enjoy parking rights on the public highway, which is accessible to all highway users who drive and park legally. Dudley Council does not currently have a policy relating to Residents Disabled Parking schemes. It is unlikely that such a policy would be drafted before 2010. A much larger scheme had been proposed in the recent Russells Hall Traffic Regulation Orders than that which was eventually introduced. The scheme was dropped for the streets in which residents did not universally support the introduction of the proposed traffic regulations.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

4. **QUARRY BANK TREES**

Background: Councillor Cotterill requested remedial work on a number of trees in his Ward, the details of which he had notified several times to Council officers over the last 12 months.

Comments: The issues raised by Councillor Cotterill were committed to decision sheets and signed off as "no work" by the Cabinet Member for Transportation. Green Care officers have contacted Cllr Cotterill and arranged for him to visit Green Care in February for a presentation on the Tree Strategy and the Risk Management Strategy followed by site visits to look at real examples. At this time, it is hoped that the processes and constraints for tree work and allocation of resources can be explained in order to allow a better understanding of these issues.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

5. **GOLDEN CROSS PUBLIC HOUSE, CRADLEY ROAD**

Background: Councillor Cotterill raised concern over the state of the Golden Cross Public House on Cradley Road. He reported that the property has been empty for some months making it a target for vandalism and arson. He requested that the Council take positive action to ensure that the owner of the property take necessary steps to secure the site.

Comments: The site has been boarded up in default of the owners and it is currently remains secure. DUE officers have contacted Councillor Cotterill to make him aware of the action taken.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

6. **KWIK SAVE, CRADLEY ROAD**

Background: Councillor Cotterill raised concern regarding the former Kwik Save site on Cradley Road which is now empty and expressed concern that the site would be a target for vandalism or travellers if it is not adequately secured.

Comments: The Council is doing as much as possible to resolve security issues associated with the site. However, Kwik Save or their administrators are still technically responsible for the site. At this stage it would be difficult to secure the site as we would block access to a site that is leased to someone else.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

7. **TRAFFIC ISLAND, HIGH STREET, QUARRY BANK**

Background: Councillor Sparks raised concern regarding the traffic at the traffic signals at the top of Quarry Bank High Street, particularly the left turn filter lane. He reported that at busy times, even when the traffic lights on the island are on green, it is not possible to get across the signals due to the build-up of traffic blocking the way. He commented that this was due to the design of the junction being inadequate as the filter lane is too short and requested that the lane be lengthened as soon as possible to ease the congestion.

Comments: It is intended that an investigation into this matter will commence during the 2008-9 financial year, with a view to improving future left-turn traffic movements at Quarry Bank High Street's junction with Thorns Road.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

8. **DUDLEY SPORTS**

Background: Councillor Ali raised a number of issues relating to sport in Dudley, including a request for a future agenda item. He referred to the St Thomas's Community Games to be held over 2 weeks commencing Friday 20th June 2008 and his previous efforts to obtain Council support for Borough-wide games, to no avail. He requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee regarding the possibilities of organising, with officer support, a Borough-wide games to be held in 2010.

Comments: The Assistant Director - Culture and Community has arranged to meet with Councillor Ali in February to discuss this matter.

Officers are keen to utilise the impact of the London Olympics on sport in the Borough and will work with Members to explore future opportunities.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

9. BUNNS LANE RESURFACING WORK

Background: Councillor Ali raised concern that the resurfacing work on Bunns Lane does not appear to include the implementation of any safety measures. He requested that traffic calming measures be installed to prevent accidents.

Comments: Highway resurfacing work in Bunns lane will not include local safety measures at this time. The request for a Local Safety Scheme for the Bunns Lane area will be investigated during the 2008-9 financial year for consideration as part of a future annual Local Safety Scheme programme.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

10. WATSONS GREEN ROAD

Background: Councillor Ali requested that anti-skid surfacing or some other safety measures be installed on the sharp bend outside the newsagents on Watsons Green Road to reduce the risk of accidents due to parked cars on both sides of the road.

Comments: Anti-skid carriageway surfacing or another safety measure will be assessed during 2008-9 for possible future introduction on the bend near to the newsagents in Watson's Green Road.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

11. NETHERTON CLEAN-UP/DOG FOULING NR. NORTHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Background: Councillor Rahman thanked Council officers for the recent clean up in the Woodside area, particularly the gulleys. He requested that similar work be done in Netherton, particularly to clean up dog fouling surrounding Northfield Road Primary School.

Comments: Street Cleansing Officers have cleaned the areas concerned.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

12. NETHERTON TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Background: Councillor Rahman reiterated a previous request for an area action plan to be drawn up to set out sustainable solutions to traffic problems in Netherton. He requested that officers consider the possibilities of the formulation of a plan and contact him with their comments.

Comments: Traffic Officers have contacted Councillor Rahman. It is proposed that a working group of Members is set up to guide development and consider options for Netherton centre, i.e. traffic management, quick win improvements etc. This could ultimately include the development of solutions to Northfield Road junction with

Halesowen Road although here we would possibly be considering Minor Highway Improvement.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

13. **LISTER ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

Background: Councillor Waltho expressed concern that the traffic scheme proposed for Lister Road does not address the problems previously raised by residents and Councillors at the local PACT meeting. He requested that officers revisit the scheme and amend the plans to deal with these issues.

Comments: It would be helpful if Officers from the DUE Traffic Team could be invited to a future meeting of the Police PACT meeting, so that Members and residents concerns might be considered.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

14. **POTHoles, NEW MILL STREET**

Background: Councillor Waltho requested that potholes in New Mill Street be repaired as soon as possible.

Comments: The Street Maintenance Team have repaired the potholes.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

15. **POTHoles, ALEXANDRA STREET, EDWARD STREET AND RUSSELLS HALL ROAD**

Background: Councillor Ahmed requested that potholes in Alexandra Street, Edwards Street and Russells Hall Road be repaired as soon as possible.

Comments: The Street Maintenance Team have repaired the potholes.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

16. **POTHoles, STEPPING STONE STREET**

Background: Councillors Craigie and Aston both requested that potholes in Stepping Stone Street be repaired as soon as possible.

Comments: The Street Maintenance Team have repaired the potholes.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

17. **ZEBRA CROSSING, WELLINGTON ROAD**

Background: Councillor Ahmed raised concern regarding the zebra crossing in Wellington Road, stating that cars often do not stop when pedestrians are waiting to cross the road and therefore requested that pedestrian light controlled signals be installed to ensure pedestrians can cross safely.

Comments: Consideration will be given during the 2008/09 financial year for upgrading the zebra crossing in Wellington Road to a pelican crossing.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

18. HERALD COURT

Background: Councillor Ms Craigie expressed concern regarding buses mounting the pavement at speed in Harold Court when passing each other. She reported that she had raised this issue both with the Council's traffic officers and with Travel West Midlands who had asked their drivers to take extra care in the area. However, she was concerned that drivers are still going too fast, as she had noticed damage to kerb stones in the area caused by buses.

Comments: Travel West Midlands have treated the subject of bus movements in Priors Street near to Herald Court extremely seriously. The company has issued instructions stating that disciplinary action will be taken against bus drivers overtaking buses stationary at the shelters opposite Herald Court. It is understood that loose kerb stones have been recently repaired by the DUE Highway Maintenance division.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

19. OVERFIELD ROAD - SCHOOL CROSSING

Background: Councillor Ms Craigie requested a school crossing be installed in Overfield Road to serve the various community facilities provided in that area.

Comments: A recent assessment indicates that a school crossing patrol cannot be justified for Overfield Road in the vicinity of Russells Hall Primary School.

Proposal: That the Area Committee note the information contained in this paragraph.

20. RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Background: Councillor Ms Craigie requested that a full traffic management review be undertaken in relation to the Russells Hall area, particularly with the aim of addressing the use of the estate as a 'rat run', with the associated problems for residents.

Comments: The Russells Hall residential estate contains traffic calming, traffic management measures and some sections of 20 mph speed limit. The greater Russells Hall area was the subject of major Traffic Regulation Orders in the relatively recent past. Resources are currently committed on a number of major highway schemes at other locations in the Borough.