

NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday 28th June, 2006, at 6.30pm
at Roberts Primary School, Roberts Street, Lower Gornal

PRESENT

Councillors: Mrs Ameson, Caunt, G H Davies, Evans, Mrs Millward, Mottram, Mrs Ridley, Ryder, Simms, Stanley and, following his co-option, Mr J Millward (Youth Member).

Officers

The Director of Children's Services (as Area Liaison Officer), Assistant Director of Law and Property (Legal and Democratic Services), the Senior Engineer (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mr G Pomford (Lower Gornal Youth Centre), North Dudley Area Housing Manager (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) and Mrs Holland (Directorate of Law and Property)

Approximately 40 members of the public were also in attendance.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ryder be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

(Councillor Ryder thereupon took the Chair)

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fraser Macnamara and Wright and the Assistant Director Directorate of the Urban Environment.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct Councillor Simms declared a personal and prejudicial interest in that part of Agenda Item No. 16 (Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order) relating to the issue of a Waiting Order in Jews Lane and Eve Lane and Kent Street and Burton Road, in that his mother is a resident of one of the streets named.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 23rd March 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Simms be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

6 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the co-option of members to serve on the Committee for the 2006/07 municipal year.

RESOLVED

That, with the exception of a co-opted Youth Member, to be considered further, no other co-opted members be appointed to the Committee.

7 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROTOCOL FOR AREA COMMITTEES

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted setting out the terms of reference and protocol for Area Committees.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and appendices to the report, submitted, on the Terms and Reference and Protocol for Area Committees, be noted.

8 PETITIONS

A Petition was submitted from residents of Oakland Drive in respect of Planning Application PO6/0741, Prior approval under Part 24 of the GPDO for proposed 02 antennas to be installed on a pylon at 28.75 metres and equipment cabinet to be located at ground level by Severn Trent Water at Himley Road, Lower Gornal.

It was noted that the Petition had already been referred to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for their consideration.

9 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the appointment of working groups in the 2006/07 municipal year,

RESOLVED

- (1) That the North Dudley Area Committee Capital Allocations Working Group be re-appointed for the ensuing municipal year, with its existing terms of reference and that the working group comprise Councillors Mrs Ameson, Davies, Mrs Ridney, Simms, Stanley and any other member of the Committee.
- (2) That the North Dudley Area Committee Skatepark Working Group be re-appointed for the ensuing municipal year, with its existing terms of reference and that the working group comprise all members of the Committee.

10 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 organisations.

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the organisations indicated for the 2006/07 municipal year or for the term period indicated.

Social Inclusion

Term of Office

Baggeridge Miners' Welfare Club –
Councillors Mrs Millward and Wright

Annual

Sedgley Combined Charities –
Councillors Caunt and Evans

Four year term
From 30.04.06

Community Associations

Sedgley and District Councillor Fraser-Macnamara	Annual
Upper Gornal Voluntary Recreational Association Councillor Ryder	Annual
Northway Councillor Evans	Annual
Hurst Hill – Councillor Davies	Annual
Rainbow (Coseley) – Councillor Mrs Ridley	Annual

11 YOUTH ISSUES

Mr G Pomford (Area Team Leader, Lower Gornal Youth Centre) introduced Mr Joe Millward as a candidate for co-option as a Youth Member to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That Mr Millward be appointed as the co-opted youth member for North Dudley Area Committee for the 2006/07 municipal year, representing young people in the Borough.

Following his co-option Mr Millward thanked the Committee for appointing him and informed them of the current activities of the Youth Parliament, of which he was a member representing Dudley.

Mr Pomford (Area Team Leader, Dudley North, Lower Gornal Youth Centre) updated the meeting on current issues affecting the North Dudley Youth Service as follows:

Youth Opportunities Fund – Dudley had been granted £338,000 from the Youth Opportunities Fund, specifically for young people within the age range 13 – 19 years of age. In order to inform adults and young people how to access funding, it was planned to hold a workshop on Thursday 13th July commencing at 6.30 pm at Saltwells Educational Development Centre. Further information could be obtained by contacting Jody Pritchard (Directorate of Children’s Services).

Summer Activities Programme – Two programmes had been organised, one at Lower Gornal Youth Centre to run from 7th to 18th August and further information could be obtained from Rajpal Singh at Lower Gornal Youth Centre; in conjunction with Coseley Youth Centre, Coseley would be running a three week programme at the Leisure Centre from 24th July – 18th August. Further details could be obtained from Mr Dave Cowan or Mr Murad Khan.

Coseley Youth Centre – A new Youth Worker commenced work at the Centre on the 1st May, 2006

Lower Gornal Youth Centre – Staff sickness had been causing problems but every effort had been made to keep the Centre operating on a normal basis and staff had been very supportive.

Princes' Trust XL Project – Five young people had gained their Bronze Award and four had gained their Silver Award in the Princes' Trust XL Project.

Oval Estate – Young people playing football in the streets had abused residents and indulged in anti social behaviour. No detached youth workers were in post in Dudley North to assist with the situation. Two detached youth workers based at Dudley Central were supporting Dudley North on a temporary basis in an effort to address the problem.

Anti Social Behaviour in Coseley – A meeting to discuss concerns regarding anti social behaviour had been held on 18th May 2006. Agencies had been invited to the meeting to discuss ways of collectively tackling the problem. The next meeting would be held on 20th July, 2006 at Coseley Youth Centre, commencing at 10.30 am, and it was hoped that young people from the area would attend, along with local residents.

RESOLVED

That information given in the verbal report of Mr Pomford on youth issues, be noted.

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POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Bailey, Sedgley Police, was in attendance at the meeting and updated the meeting on the current issues regarding neighbourhood policing, stating that neighbourhood policing was operational in the Gornal, Coseley, Woodsetton and Sedgley areas.

The police had responded to complaints received from residents in the Sedgley and Beacon Estate areas in relation to under-age drinking, as a result of which quantities of alcohol had been seized from young people in those areas. Two off-licences had been issued with fixed penalty notices for selling alcohol to under-age young people.

Inspector Bailey also reported that a traffic initiative had been undertaken in Sandfield Road; that the Local Authority had taken the issue of fly-tipping on board and would be responsible for pursuing prosecutions; called for the public to show consideration by not parking near to local schools; raised the issue of fixed penalty notices and double yellow lines, particularly in the area of Castle Street, Coseley; reported that, in conjunction with local partners and the Probation Service, graffiti in the Wallbrook area was being removed; that Public Watch (currently active in Sedgley) had been extended to the Coseley area and had proved invaluable in assisting the police, particularly with regard to alcohol and drug related issues; that a Fun Day would be held in Wallbrook on 5th August 2006; that the provision of youth facilities in the Coseley area had now been resolved and facilities were being provided on a Friday night; that damage had been sustained by buildings situated in Jubilee Park but that Mr J Bailey, of Greencare was working closely with the police to resolve the situation. CCTV and closing the park gates earlier were two options being considered; that the Drugs Intervention Programme would visit local schools and that off-road mini-motorbikes had been identified and dealt with.

Inspector Bailey also reported that the police were striving to become more accessible to communities and measures were in place to help them achieve this aim.

Councillor Stanley raised the issue of anti social behaviour taking place in Lower Gornal between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.00 am near a local bus shelter and asked that Inspector Bailey support him in trying to get the bus shelter moved from its present location.

Councillor Stanley also raised the issue of damage being perpetrated on the Coach Road. The police had been called but had not attended the scene. The police had though issued Mr J Bailey of Greencare with a crime number and monitoring of the amount of damage was taking place.

A suggestion was made that local residents should be encouraged to form a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Mr Pomford informed the meeting that he was hopeful that two detached youth workers could be deployed into the area at night.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Millward, Inspector Bailey reported that the roving CCTV camera for the Gornal area had been purchased and that she was awaiting confirmation of the area in which the camera would be deployed.

A member of the public expressed concern at the crimes of violence being perpetrated in the Gornal area and asked for the installation of CCTV cameras in the more secluded areas of the Borough.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

Councillor Evans expressed his disappointment at the response received from the Network Manager of CENTRO with regard to the bus service in North Dudley and the 223 service in particular. He asked that the Area Liaison Officer invite the Network Manager to the next meeting of the Committee on September 20th 2006, and advise him of the Committee's comments, in particular their disappointment at his being unable to accept the invitation to attend this meeting to respond to questions raised at the meeting held on 23rd March, 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Area Liaison Officer be requested to write to the CENTRO Network Manager inviting him to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 20th September 2006, in order that he might address the issues raised by this Committee and by members of the public at the meetings held on 23rd March 2006 and 28th June 2006.

PUBLIC FORUM

1. A question was raised querying the Council's position with regard to the new Disability and Equality Duty, legislation on which was due to come into force on 4th December 2006, and whether the Council would be in a position to implement the legislation by the due date.

The Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) responded at the meeting.

2. A question was raised as to whether Section 106 funding was available for the provision of leisure facilities for young people in the area.

In response the Area Liaison Officer stated that he would pass the question to the appropriate directorate who would respond direct.

3. A question was raised regarding the danger pensioners were exposed to in Hopyard Lane on a daily basis by traffic using it as a short cut.

In response, the Senior Engineer stated that he would arrange a site meeting to be made to include the appropriate Ward Councillors and the Head of Traffic and Road Safety.

4. Several written and verbal questions were raised regarding the relocation of Dudley Archives from Mount Pleasant School Coseley to Summerhill School Kingswinford.

The Area Liaison Officer responded that he would arrange for a verbal update to be made at the meeting on 20th September 2006.

5. Several questions were submitted expressing concern at the removal of the 223 bus service.

Councillor Stanley stated that he would report back to the next meeting on whether or not the general public were allowed to attend CENTRO Service Review meetings.

6. A question was raised regarding the inclusion of Cotwall End Valley into the A – Z of Street Names.

In response the Committee supported the inclusion of Cotwall End Valley into the A – Z of Street Names.

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PROGRESS OF ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS 2005/06

A joint report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Children's Services was submitted on information regarding the progress of visits to Adult and Children's social care establishments undertaken by Members during 2005/2006 to inform them of the actions taken in response to Member visits and on their comments and to identify issues arising from the rota visits and seek Members' views.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report and appendices 1 and 3 to the report, submitted, be noted.
 - (2) That the protocol concerning Elected Member visits to Adult and Children's social care establishments, attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be endorsed.
 - (3) That Councillors Mrs Ameson, Stanley, Ryder, Simms and Wright, be nominated as this Committee's representatives to visit Adult and Children's social care establishments in the 2006/07 municipal year.
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PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDERS

(Having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter Councillor Simms withdrew from the meeting during the duration of its consideration).

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on a proposed prohibition of waiting order in Jews Lane and Eve Lane, Upper Gornal and Kent Street and Burton Road, Dudley, in the light of objections received. The proposed Order would relate to the areas of this Committee and of Central Dudley Area Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised that the proposed prohibition of waiting order in respect of Jews Lane and Eve Lane, Upper Gornal, and Kent Street and Burton Road, Dudley, indicated on the plan attached to the report submitted, insofar as this Committee were concerned, be supported.

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OBJECTIONS TO DISABLED PARKING PLACES

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking the Committee's support for a change to the reporting procedure for objections to disabled parking places.

RESOLVED

That support be given to the change in procedure, in the light of the delegated powers of the Cabinet Member for Transportation under the terms of the Constitution to deal with traffic regulation orders which receive objections, so as to remove those applications for disabled parking places which receive objections, from consideration by Area Committees and to deal with the objections by Decision Sheet following full and proper consultation with the relevant Ward Members.

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DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on applications received for funding from the capital budget allocation of the Committee referred to in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the report submitted. He also reported on two further applications that had been received more recently from the Upper Gornal Arcade Traders and Residents Group and from Sedgley and District Community Association.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the application from Summerhill Forum for £16,994 for the installation of security fencing around open land covering Higgins Avenue, Harding Street and Brierley Lane, Coseley, approved under delegated powers during the recess, be noted, but that, at the request of Councillor Davies and with the Committee's support, no monies be released to Summerhill Forum until issues with regard to the design of the fencing have been resolved.
- (b) That the application received from Access in Dudley in the sum of £903.81 for the purchase of a computer, printer and software, approved under delegated powers during the recess, be noted.
- (c) That the application from Sedgley in Bloom in the sum of £6,444 for the purchase of barrier baskets to provide ongoing flower displays, approved under delegated powers during the recess, be noted.
- (d) That the application received from Upper Gornal Arcade Traders and Residents Group, for the purchase of an estate sign to raise awareness of the location of the shops in Lower Gornal Arcade, be approved in the sum of £1,234.15p
- (e) That the application received from Sedgley and District Community Association, for a CCTV installation, be approved in the sum of £2599.00.
- (f) That the information with regard to the Committee's Capital Budget, outlined in paragraph 10 of the report submitted, be noted.

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on the current status of responses to questions posed at previous meetings of the Committee.

The Senior Engineer informed the meeting that he had made a site visit to the area requiring gully cleaning and that although the gully had been cleared the lack of sufficient gully's to take away the excess water had been identified as the cause of the problem.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and the appendix to the report, submitted, be noted and
- (2) That the Senior Engineer be requested to discuss the problems further with colleagues in the Directorate of the Urban

Environment and Severn Trent Water, if appropriate, and that

- (2) That the information contained in the report, and the appendix to the report submitted, be noted.

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WARD ISSUES

- (1) Councillor Davies requested that the sign for Jack Newall Court be erected as a matter of urgency.

The Senior Engineer agreed to meet with Councillor Davies so that full details might be obtained and passed on to the appropriate section within the Directorate of the Urban Environment, following the meeting.

- (2) Councillor Mrs Ridney raised the issue of the poor standard of materials being used when repairing the Borough's road, stating that people had been attending her Councillor's surgery complaining that the repairs were disintegrating within a short space of time; she made particular reference to Bourne Street , Pemberton Road and Dickens Avenue.

The Senior Engineer agreed to investigate and report back to the meeting.

- (3) Councillor Simms reported that Officers had visited the landfill site at Bourne Street, where it had been reported that youths had gained access and fires set. Officers had also reported that the site had been fenced off, but that he and Councillor Mrs Ameson had visited the site and had easily gained access.
- (4) Councillor Simms reported that temporary traffic lights had been erected in Wrens Nest Road but that the timings of the lights were not correct.
- (5) Councillor Simms reported that the car park signs for the Kent Street Arcade were not visible.
- (6) Councillor Evans congratulated Sedgley in Bloom (and Mrs Moody in particular) on the splendid achievement of their initiative in conjunction with the pupils of Queen Victoria School, Sedgley, and for which the North Dudley Area Committee had awarded capital allocation funding.

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FUTURE DATES AND VENUES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

It was noted that future meetings of the Committee would be held on the dates shown and at the venues indicated, as follows:

20th September 2006 – Wallbrook Primary School
28th November 2006 – Ellowes Hall School
7th February 2006 – Dormston Sports Hall
28th March 2006 – Straits Primary School

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN