

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 8th NOVEMBER, 2012

REPORT OF THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA LIAISON OFFICER

**MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE
ON 28TH JUNE, 2012**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on a number of issues raised at the 28th June, 2012, Brierley Hill Area Committee 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.

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.

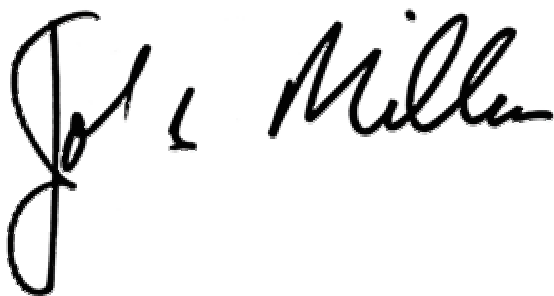
8. Provisions relating to the Council's Housing stock are contained in the Housing Act 1985.
9. Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council as Waste Disposal Authority for its areas to provide places where its residents may deposit their household waste free of charge.
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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**PROGRESS REPORT ON MATTERS RAISED AT THE BRIERLEY HILL AREA
COMMITTEE ON THE 28TH JUNE 2012**

YOUTH ISSUES

Issue – reference minute 7

Following a presentation by the Area Team Leader, Early Years, Youth and Education Services on the youth services activity taking place in the Brierley Hill Area Committee wards, the Director of Children's Services was requested to:

- a) Submit a report in relation to the activities carried out by the Look Out Project to a future meeting of the Committee.
- b) Provide details to Councillor Foster of the linkages and other partners that the Youth Service were involved with
- c) Submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee detailing further work undertaken with young people.

Response:

- a) The Look Out Project is a faith based organisation that does not fall within the responsibility of the Council. However, Councillor John Martin was provided with a link to the website which provides details in relation to Project.
- b) The information as requested by Councillor Foster was provided by Amanda Grove, Head of Youth Service
- c) A report detailing further work undertaken with young people will be provided at the meeting of Area Committee on the 8th November.

PUBLIC FORUM

Issue – reference minute 14 (e)

A written question was submitted from a member of the public regarding the parking bay close to Bell Street, Brierley Hill and a request that this be monitored as members of the public were parking in the bay all day, thus deterring customers from visiting retailers and suppliers failing to deliver goods due to the lack of parking and unloading facilities. The Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation undertook to investigate the issues raised and respond direct to the questioner.

Response:

A letter was sent by the Group Engineer, Traffic and Transportation to the member of the public concerned, advising on the enforcement of parking restrictions at the location and responding to a request that the one hour limited waiting time period might be reduced.

The member of public was advised that parking restrictions for either one or two hours are the optimum in shopping areas, because either of these waiting periods assists most types of businesses than in a shorter period of time.

In addition, Parking Management have responded to a number of enforcement requests from the member of the public and site visits have been made. The time limited parking bays at this location are enforced, together with all the other parking restrictions in Brierley Hill.

Issue – reference minute 14 (f)

A written question was submitted from a member of the public expressing concerns that new contracts may be issued to four further pharmacies in the Brierley Hill Area of the Area Committee and the affect that this would have on the current pharmacies situated in the area. Members responded direct to the questioner expressing their support for no further pharmaceutical licences to be issued to new pharmacies in the above area.

It was resolved that a letter be written by Members of the Committee to the Black Country Pharmaceutical Society expressing their support for no further pharmaceutical licences to be issued to new Pharmacies within the Brierley Hill area of the Area Committee.

Response:

In reply to letters sent by Democratic Services on behalf of Area Committee, responses were received from the NHS and the Department for Health that were forwarded to the questioner.

BRIERLEY HILL HIGH STREET WORKING GROUP – HIGH STREET ENHANCEMENTS

Issue – reference minute 18

Arising from the report on the proposed enhancements to High Street, Brierley Hill as part of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network major scheme, members of the public raised concerns in relation to the restriction on parking and the affect that this would have on deliveries and trade.

Following further discussions Members agreed that all traders within the Brierley Hill High Street should be consulted further in relation to the proposals.

The Director of the Urban Environment was requested to convene a meeting with all Traders within the Brierley Hill High Street, the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Community Safety and appropriate Officers to further consult on proposals in relation to the High Street enhancements.

Response:

The meeting was convened on 27th September when all traders and occupiers of the High Street between its junction with Venture Way and Level Street were invited by letter. Eight representatives attended the meeting which was held at the Concord Market where they were able to express their views on the current situation and preferences for future management of the road space. It was generally accepted that the need to continue servicing the retail units from the High Street was paramount but it was also recognised that the availability of parking had become a problem in particular with disabled badge users.

The Council were also encouraged to bring forward a solution at the earliest opportunity to safeguard investment in the town.

SANDRINGHAM PLACE, WORDSLEY.

Issue – reference minute 19

Following a report on issues associated with vacant retail units at Sandringham Place, Wordsley, the Head of Economic Development was requested to provide feedback to the Vice-Chair following discussions with the owner of the three properties referred to in the report.

Response:

The owners of the vacant retail units at Sandringham Place have been contacted as to their intentions regarding the future of the units, to request that they carry out improvements and to offer guidance on any redevelopment proposals. To date, no response has been received, however, officers continue to seek feedback on future proposals.

BEECH ROAD, KINGSWINFORD

Issue – reference minute 20

Following the presentation on the condition of the flats at Beech Road, Kingswinford, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee updating Members on the outcome of the options appraisal and associated costs in relation to the flats at Beech Road, Kingswinford.

Response:

A report updating Members will be provided at the meeting of Area Committee on the 8th November.

WARD ISSUES

Issue – reference minute 23

In response to matters raised by Councillor Blood in relation to New Bradley Hall, the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was requested to provide a written response.

Response:

A Members Working Group, supported by officers has been set up by Councillor Waltho. The purpose of the group is to determine the long term future of New Bradley Hall and the wider options available. The Working Group is also intended to reflect on the whole model of Adult Social Care for Older People in Dudley. The Working Group has met once to date and continues to consider this sensitive issue.

At this time new Bradley Hall remains open and will remain to so until such time as a key decision has been taken. As places become vacant they are being filled with short term placements.

Cllr. David Vickers, as the Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult & Community Services, is a member of the Working Group.

Issue – reference minute 25

Councillor Martin requested that a report regarding the work carried out by the Joint Activities Group be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Response:

A report detailing the work carried out by the Joint Activities Group will be provided at the meeting of Area Committee on the 8th November.

ENDS