

## **CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 at 6.30 p.m.  
at Castle High School and Visual Arts College, St James's Road, Dudley

### **PRESENT: -**

Councillor Ahmed (Chairman)  
Councillor K Finch (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Ali, Miss Arshad, Mrs M Aston, Cotterill, Miss J Cowell, M Davis, A Finch, Mrs Roberts, Sparks, Waltho and Zada; Mr Lawley, Mrs Oakes and Mr Rodney

### **OFFICERS:**

The Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (as Lead Officer to the Committee), Assistant Director (Environmental Management), Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration and Transportation and Group Engineer – all Directorate of the Urban Environment; Assistant Director Policy Performance and Resources, Policy Analyst for Communities and Resources – both Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services; Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision – Directorate of Children's Services; Senior Solicitor and Ms K Farrington – both Directorate of Corporate Resources

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Inspector Gary Malpass, West Midlands Police – for Agenda Item No. 5

Station Commander Adrian Cherry, West Midlands Fire Service – for Agenda Item No. 6

Councillor L Jones, Leader of the Council and Councillor Adams, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Mr Bill Kirk, Chief Executive of New Heritage Regeneration Limited - for Agenda Item No. 8

16 Members of the public

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43. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors J D Davies, Ms Wood and Ms V Little.

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44.            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ahmed declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 8 (Dudley Town Centre Regeneration), in view of the fact that he was a Member of Dudley Regeneration Partnership Board.

Councillor Ali declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 8 (Dudley Town Centre Regeneration), in view of the fact that he was a Member of Dudley Regeneration Partnership Board.

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45.            MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 be approved as correct records and signed.

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46.            YOUTH SERVICE

The Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision gave an oral update on new projects being undertaken by the Youth Service for young people to participate in, details of which were included in handouts circulated at the meeting.

She referred, in particular, to the youth provision that had been offered over the past few months and the new skills young people had developed. She indicated that the Fusion event that had taken place in October 2011 had been very well attended and that young people had enjoyed all aspects of the event.

During the presentation, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that the Detached Team was now working three nights a week across the Central Dudley area engaging with a range of groups of young people. She particularly referred to a project, which would enable young people to be trained in order to deliver sex and relationship education to other young people. She stated that the Youth Partners and Communities Together (PACT) had been working with new contacts to improve the local area and had been successful in gaining external funding to purchase gardening equipment. She also referred to the success of the condom distribution scheme and commented that it was anticipated that a similar scheme would be set up in the Netherton area in the near future.

Reference was then made to the increasing number of young people accessing the Russells Hall Youth Centre and the new activities currently being offered. It was reported that young people had been working with staff to apply for funding to improve the facilities in order to attract young people who had not attended the centre hitherto.

The Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision then indicated that the development of the gym at Meadow Road Youth Centre was now complete and that young people had also completed an instructor course which enabled young people to teach other young people to use the equipment safely.

In referring to future developments, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that young people, particularly girls would be looking at the layout of different rooms at Meadow Road Youth Centre, with a view to improving and making better use of the space available.

Reference was then made to the youth team working in partnership with Dudley College to look at setting up future work within local secondary schools.

In concluding, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision outlined the programme of activities to be undertaken in the Borough during the February half term. She also stated that copies of the programme of activities would be available to Members on request.

Following the presentation, Members of the Committee expressed appreciation for all the work that had been carried out by the Youth Team to ensure that youth provision was being offered at Meadow Road Youth Centre.

In responding to a question in relation to activities being offered in Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's ward, the Area Team Leader for Central and Safe Provision indicated that the Detached Team was working with Woodside Youth Centre with a view to offering a condom drop in session on a Wednesday evening. She also stated that the Detached Team was currently working with young people on a number of sporting activities offered at Netherton Park, although she indicated that due to the time of year and the cold weather, activities offered at the park had been limited.

A Member then referred to the site at the White Lion public house and indicated that it had been derelict for a while and was currently attracting gangs of young people causing anti-social behaviour. He suggested that the owners be contacted with a view to bringing the building back into use. In responding, the Area Team Leader for Central Safe and Provision indicated that she would liaise with the Detached Team to identify possible youth provision in that area for young people to access and participate in.

The same Member then referred to the St Thomas's Network and Community games event to be taken place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2012 at Dudley Zoo and Castle. In promoting the event, he urged all interested young people to get involved and asked the Area Team Leader for Central Safe and Provision for support in attracting young people and encouraging them to participate.

Reference was then made to the low level of youth engagement at the Russells Hall Youth Centre owing to the Centre not being utilised properly. A Member indicated that complaints had been received by residents in relation to young people on the estate consuming alcohol, using drugs and causing anti-social behaviour and asked what the Youth Team intended to do in the area to alleviate the problems. In responding, the Area Team Leader for Central Safe and Provision indicated that she was aware of the problems affecting the Russells Hall area and stated that the Youth Team was working with young people to identify possible youth provision young people would like to see offered at the Centre. She stated that a group of young people had been banned from accessing the Centre and that Police Officers visited the Centre on a regular basis. She stated further that the Centre needed updating and were currently applying for funding to improve the facility.

In responding, the Chairman indicated that grants from the capital budget of the Committee could be applied for to improve the Centre and referred the Area Team Leader for Central Safe and Provision to the Policy Analyst for Communities and Resources in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services for further information.

#### RESOLVED

That the information, as circulated at the meeting and reported orally, be noted.

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#### 47. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Gary Malpass of West Midlands Police introduced himself to the Committee and reported on current police issues in the area of the Committee, with particular reference to crime figures. He indicated that the number of offences committed compared to this time last year had reduced considerably, however, extra resources had been positioned in identified 'hot spot' areas to target crime and anti-social behaviour.

Members of the Committee welcomed the Inspector to Central Dudley Area Committee and looked forward to a positive working relationship with the Inspector.

A Member of the Committee then referred to the current anti-social behaviour problems affecting the Castle and Priory ward and requested that a more proactive approach be given to combat these issues.

A general comment was then made to the very good working relationship Members had had with Inspector Richard Jones and congratulated him and wished him all the very best in his new career.

#### RESOLVED

That Inspector Gary Malpass be thanked for his presentation and that the information reported be received and noted.

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48. FIRE SERVICE ISSUES

Station Commander Adrian Cherry of West Midlands Fire Service introduced himself and reported on fire issues surrounding the central area. He indicated that the number of reported accidental fires in dwellings and arson fires on vehicles had reduced compared to this time last year, although reported fires in non-domestic dwellings had slightly increased. The Station Commander indicated that arson fires had been the main concern on various parks in the Central area, however assurances had been given that the Fire Service was carrying out proactive work in areas affected to combat the issue.

The Station Commander also indicated that fire courses would be run from Dudley Fire Station in the near future.

Members of the Committee welcomed Station Commander Adrian Cherry to Central Dudley Area Committee and looked forward to a positive working relationship.

A Member then referred to the recent scheme introduced by Dudley MBC to limit households to three bin bags per week and queried whether the scheme had resulted in an increased number of rubbish fires. In responding, the Station Commander confirmed that there had been no evidence to prove that the scheme had caused an increase in rubbish fires and that fires had been reported usually on streets and parks where gangs congregated.

In responding to a question from a Member, the Station Commander confirmed that he would be attending future meetings of the Regeneration Board on the Castle and Priory ward and requested dates following the meeting.

RESOLVED

That Station Commander Adrian Cherry be thanked for his presentation and that the information reported be received and noted.

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49. PETITIONS

A petition had been received objecting to the relocation of Woodside Day Centre and the possible loss of places to clients. It was noted that a report in relation to this matter would be considered at Agenda Item No. 9

A petition had been received from residents requesting that Dudley MBC provide a pedestrian phase in the existing signals at the cross roads by the Red Lion public house, Netherton, or provide an alternative form of pedestrian crossing at that point for safety reasons. It was noted that the petition would be referred to the Petitions Officer for consideration in the first instance and then to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for a report to a future Area Committee.

A petition was received from residents requesting that the access steps between Robin Hood Road leading to Marion Close be closed. It was noted that the petition would be referred to the Petitions Officer for consideration in the first instance and then to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for a report to a future Area Committee.

A petition was also received from residents of Dudley Town and the local area strongly objecting to the official analysis of the obtrusive public consultation regarding a new market place. It was noted that the petition would be referred to the Petitions Officer for consideration in the first instance and then to the Directorate of the Urban Environment for a report to a future Area Committee.

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50. DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on regeneration activity in Dudley Town Centre, in the context of the Dudley Town Centre Area Development Framework (ADF) adopted by the Council in 2005; the delivery of the Framework and the new Black Country Joint Core Strategy.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration and Transportation briefly summarised the information contained in the report submitted to the meeting.

A presentation was then given on the regeneration of Dudley Town Centre by Bill Kirk, Chief Executive of New Heritage Regeneration Limited. He updated the Committee on current development activity, proposals and plans in the vicinity of Dudley Town Centre, which included the following:-

- The Castle Hill master plan including proposed developments at Dudley Zoo and Castle and surrounding areas.
- Proposals for the new archive centre adjacent to the Black Country Museum.
- Proposals for the former Gala Bingo site at Castle Hill.
- The Vocational Centre on the Tower Street West site providing for hair and beauty, sport and leisure, public services, creative and performing arts.
- The Sixth Form Centre on the Priory Road site.
- Proposals for a new Technical College with university links.
- Dudley Market place proposals based on the outcome of the consultation.
- Up-lighting proposals for Dudley Town Centre and the Priory ruins.

- Proposals for a major foodstore on the site of Cavendish House.
- Ongoing works, projects and proposals affecting key buildings of significance and architectural interest in the Town Centre.
- Proposed residential development at Constitution Hill, Dudley.

At the conclusion of the presentation, reference was made to the positive cumulative effect the proposed regeneration schemes would have on Dudley Town Centre. This included attracting additional residents and visitors to the town, together with a range of associated business opportunities.

Arising from the presentation, Members and members of the public welcomed the new proposals and indicated that the variety of new developments proposed for Dudley would benefit the Dudley area. However, a number of questions and comments were raised by Members and members of the public relating, in particular, to the following:-

- The positive consultation with market traders on the proposals for the new design of the market place as the Area Committee and members of the public felt that it was important to invest in a scheme that was acceptable to all.
- Positive comments were made in relation to the proposal for a possible University Technical College in Dudley and the proposal to demolish Cavendish House and replace this with a major foodstore. A general comment was made in relation to the possibility of providing halls of residence for students. Mention was also made of the Mary Portas Review and work that had already been undertaken arising from the review.
- General comments were made in that the lighting scheme for Dudley Town Centre and the Priory Ruins should incorporate various Islands around the Dudley area and that in view of the proposed new developments, consideration should be given to re-opening King Street.
- Concerns were raised that in the original proposals for the market place the public toilets would be relocated. Members indicated that it was important that public conveniences were located in the Town Centre and requested that officers consider leaving the public toilets in their current location.
- In referring to the increased number of students who would access Dudley following completion of the Colleges, with particular mention to the anticipated increase in vehicular traffic, concerns were raised in relation to the condition of the road network in and around Dudley and a request was made that the matter be investigated.

- A general comment was made in relation to Dudley Zoo not having the capacity to accommodate larger animals and it was requested that as part of the proposals for the Zoo, consideration be given to provide more secure locations for larger animals.
- Members queried the possibility of extending the regeneration plans to incorporate other townships in the Borough to enhance their appearances and also the possibility of an alternative public facility to bring people into the Town Centre.
- Mention was made of the number of derelict shops in the Town Centre and concerns were raised that unless high quality businesses invested in the Town Centre, people would not want to shop in the town. A further comment was made relating to car parking in the Town Centre. It was considered that there was an insufficient amount of car parking provision within the Town Centre area, which was discouraging customers to use the town resulting in businesses losing trade. It was also reported that rent for market traders was considered to be too high and should be set at a more reasonable level. It was believed that this would encourage more traders, which in turn would attract more customers into the town.
- A specific question was raised in relation to the extent of consultation with Members and trade representatives on the regeneration plans for Dudley Town Centre.
- Disappointment was expressed at the proposed plans to demolish the former Hippodrome/Gala building.
- In concluding, a general comment was made in relation to Dudley not having any sporting facilities and teams based in the area and it was suggested this issue be looked at in the future.

The Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration and Transportation, together with the Chief Executive of New Heritage Regeneration Limited, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration responded as follows:-

- Assurances were given that public conveniences would be located in the Town Centre as part of the new regeneration plans. In terms of comments made in relation to extending the lighting scheme to incorporate islands in the vicinity of Dudley Town Centre and improving the road network to tackle the possible increase in vehicles, assurances were given that these issues would be investigated. It was confirmed that re-opening King Street would also be investigated. It was also reported that the plans to run a metro line from Walsall to Stourbridge via Dudley were also being considered.



- In relation to the comment made concerning Dudley Zoo, it was noted that the Zoo was not within the direct control of the Council. It was an important part of Dudley Town Centre and the Council supported the way in which the Zoo was operated.
- The Leader of the Council indicated that he had been involved in the regeneration of Dudley Town Centre since 2003 and that a critical point had been reached where a contemporary design needed to be achieved in order to restore Dudley Town Centre to attract more people and make the area more open and accessible for all who worked and shopped at the market. He expressed enthusiasm at the proposals for the new developments for Dudley Town Centre and surrounding areas, and hoped that the developments would attract high quality businesses to the area.
- In relation to the comment made in relation to extending the regeneration plans to other townships, it was reported that the main focus was currently on regenerating Dudley.
- It was reported that the Council did not have the power to force people to invest in shops in the Town Centre; however, it was assumed that high quality investors would be inclined to invest in the centre if money was being spent to regenerate the Town Centre.
- In referring to the comments made in relation to inadequate parking in the Town Centre, assurances were given that extra free parking spaces were currently being investigated, however, there had been no evidence that free parking would revitalise the Town Centre.
- In responding to the question raised above in relation to the extent of consultation with Members and trade representatives, it was reported that all proposals had been discussed at a number of various meetings held in the presence of all parties involved.
- In referring to the former Hippodrome building, it was reported that the building had been empty for a very long time. It was reported that as part of the regeneration plans for Dudley, a number of possibilities had been investigated with a view to bringing the building back into use, however, the reality was that the building as it currently stood would not be put back into use and therefore a decision needed to be taken to develop the site.

The Chairman then expressed gratitude to the Assistant Director, Economic Regeneration and Transportation, the Chief Executive of New Heritage Regeneration Limited, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration for attending the meeting and requested that all comments made at the meeting be considered.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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51.

PETITION – WOODSIDE DAY FACILITY

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted responding to a request made in a petition received on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 relating to the relocation of Woodside Day Facility and the possible loss of places to clients.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director Policy Performance and Resources indicated that, following an assessment of Woodside Day Facility, the Council's Asset Management team had identified two significant problems with the Centre. These included major repair work of a retaining wall, which had collapsed onto an adjacent private owners property and central heating boiler failure. On investigation, the estimated cost of repair work amounted to approximately £300,000. However, following consideration of all factors, the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services had taken the decision not to relocate the facility.

In referring to the possible loss of placements to clients, the Assistant Director Policy Performance and Resources indicated that reviewing the needs of any person using social care services was good practice and important because people's needs did change over time. However, an assurance was given that people who needed the service would continue to receive appropriate treatment and support.

Members then expressed gratitude at the decision not to relocate the facility and indicated that officers reconsider the process on similar future decisions so that unnecessary distress could be avoided.

Reference was then made to the Equality Impact paragraph of the report submitted to the meeting and concern was raised with regard to the wording. A comment was made that the paragraph suggested that in the future a revised decision to relocate the facility could be made. In responding, the Assistant Director (Policy Performance and Resources) assured the Committee that any future decisions made in relation to Woodside Day Centre would not affect the location of the building.

RESOLVED

That the petition received by the Council and the response, as set out in the report submitted, be noted.

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PUBLIC FORUM

- (1) In response to a question on the Council's recruitment and retention policies and procedures, in the light of its recent endeavours to reduce staffing costs, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) indicated that Dudley Council had a comprehensive recruiting procedure that was strictly adhered to in order to employ the high calibre of officers expected by residents of the Borough. He undertook to arrange for a written response to be submitted to the questioner.
- (2) The same member of the public requested that Councillors make it clear to officers that their role was to serve the Councillors for the benefit of the electorate. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) indicated that, with the support of Members, officers had a good working relationship with all Councillors of Dudley Council.
- (3) The same member of the public alleged that officers mostly avoided answering questions submitted in written correspondence raised by the public. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) assured the Committee that officers did endeavour to answer specific questions raised to the best of their ability.
- (4) A member of the public expressed gratitude to Mr Peter Vangeersdaele, Group Engineer and Councillor Ali for attending a meeting with residents to discuss the traffic problems affecting Oakham Road and possible solutions and requested an update on the issues discussed.

In responding, the Group Engineer indicated that a number of locations along Oakham Road had been investigated for the introduction of controlled crossing facilities. However, unfortunately, none of the locations could be taken forward as they either did not meet the criteria for usage as set out in the Council's pedestrian crossing policy or otherwise were technically not feasible. He stated that the route had been added to a list of requests for consideration in next year's local safety scheme programme and the outcome of the investigations would be reported to a future Area Committee.

The Group Engineer reported that traffic data indicated that the flow on Oakham Road had increased by almost a third whilst the Burnt Tree scheme was under construction. Since its completion, traffic levels had reduced but not, however, to the level prior to the Burnt Tree scheme and was still elevated by about 15%. He indicated that there was evidence to suggest that on completion of the Oakham Road/Dixons Green Road safety scheme, traffic levels were elevated by 6%, which could probably be attributed to demand from the local community. In concluding, he stated that residual elevated flows were probably a result of the spread of the knowledge of the route to a wider community through their usage of it during the Burnt Tree construction period.

- (5) A member of the public submitted a question in relation to Dudley being mentioned in negative terms, as demonstrated recently in Parliament, and requested that an integrated plan for Dudley Town Centre be prepared. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) indicated that hopefully, the presentation heard earlier in the meeting had allayed the questioner's fears.
- (6) A member of the public drew attention to the number of new manhole covers on the approach and exit roads at Burnt Tree Junction that had become loose and requested that an engineer investigate the matter. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) indicated that he would arrange for an engineer to survey the site.
- (7) A member of the public commented on the time it had taken to go through half of the agenda and expressed the view that a special meeting should have been arranged on the Dudley Town Centre Regeneration. In responding, apologies were given for the time it had taken for the presentation, however, due to the importance of the issue, the Chairman had not wanted to restrict discussion.
- (8) A member of the public drew attention to the litter on the Russells Hall Estate, with particular mention to Overfield Park. The same member of the public also drew attention to joy riders using Overfield Park during the nighttime. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) undertook to investigate the issues raised and provide a written response to the questioner.
- (9) A member of the public expressed gratitude for the work carried out on the Woodside Estate and requested that a fence be erected around Woodside Park and the paths be repaired. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) undertook to investigate the issues and respond to the questioner direct.

- (10) A member of the public submitted a lengthy question and enclosure thereto on behalf of the residents of the Russells Hall Estate and requested to be given a date on when signs would be erected in the area to stop car parking nuisance in Abbotsford Drive. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) indicated that the question submitted should be answered following a verbal presentation to be given on the Russells Hall Traffic Working Group later in the agenda.
- (11) A Co-opted Member of the Committee drew attention to people spitting when crossing the road from Cousins to the Churchill Precinct and requested that this matter be investigated. In responding, the Assistant Director (Environmental Management) undertook to arrange for a written response to be submitted to the questioner.
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53. WARD ISSUES

- (a) Councillor M Davis drew attention to the condition of the hoardings and the derelict building opposite Revival Fires and requested that the area be cleaned up.
- (b) Councillor M Davis referred to a field opposite Russells Hall Hospital that was available for purchase and requested that an officer contact him regarding possible purchase and using the area for extra parking.
- (c) Councillor M Davis requested that a Working Party be set up with Dudley market stallholders to design a refurbished market.
- (d) Councillor Mrs Roberts drew attention to the anti-social behaviour on the Russells Hall Road and requested that this matter be investigated.
- (e) Councillor Mrs Roberts expressed gratitude to officers involved in removing a tree on the Russells Hall Estate.
- (f) Councillor Mrs Roberts queried when signs would be erected to stop car-parking nuisance in Abbotsford Drive.
- (g) Councillor Cotterill referred to the condition of grass verges on Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank and requested that the matter be investigated.
- (h) Councillor Cotterill made a general comment as to why e-mails had not been answered.
- (i) Councillor A Finch requested that signs be erected on Elm Green and Beech Green to deter speeding vehicles.

- (j) Councillor Mrs Aston drew attention to the former Duncan Edwards public house site and requested that the fence be replaced.
  - (k) Councillor Zada raised concerns in relation to the Council's plans for the Library and Art Centre at Netherton and requested an update.
  - (l) Councillor Zada raised concern that the public toilets in Netherton remained closed and requested the matter to be reassessed.
  - (m) Councillor Zada requested confirmation as to whether Dudley Council required a petition to be drawn up prior to addressing the issue of yellow grit bins.
  - (n) Councillor Miss Arshad again drew attention to unauthorised parking outside St Joseph's Catholic School and drivers using mobile phones whilst driving and requested that serious action be taken.
  - (o) In referring to the proposed new food store development, Councillor Ali requested that King Street be re-opened.
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54. RUSSELLS HALL TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP

The Group Engineer gave a verbal update on the progress of the Traffic Regulation Orders for various roads in the Russells Hall area, which had been approved at both the Central Dudley and Brierley Hill Area Committee meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.

It was reported that a decision sheet in respect of the Traffic Regulation Orders had been signed by the Cabinet Member for Transportation on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 and the Order had been sealed on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The Group Engineer also indicated that work on site had commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

The Group Engineer indicated that instructions would be issued in February, 2012 for the traffic order signs, marketing and guardrails, but since the 'Prohibition of driving except for access' signs needed to be illuminated, these would be delayed.

The Group Engineer indicated that as previously agreed by the Working Group, no double yellow lines would be installed at Middlepark Road, Ashenhurst Road or the Oval until Members had carried out further consultation to ascertain residents views about the waiting restrictions proposed for their streets. It was confirmed, however, that the proposals had been included in the sealed Traffic Regulation Order for future installation if implementation was requested by Members.

In concluding, the Group Engineer confirmed that the Traffic Regulation Orders had been publicly advertised on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

In responding to a question, the Group Engineer confirmed that Dudley Council's own parking attendants with the exception of Moving Traffic Regulation Orders, which the Police would manage, would enforce all Traffic Regulation Orders in the Russells Hall area.

RESOLVED

That the information, as reported orally, be noted.

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55. CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on proposals for the allocation of expenditure from the delegated capital budget of the Committee for the 2011/12 municipal year.

RESOLVED

(1) That grants to the organisations indicated below for the purposes, and in the sums indicated, be approved:

(a) NETHERTON, WOODSIDE AND ST ANDREW'S WARD

(i) Netherton Central Tenants and Residents Association (TRA)

That the sum of £1,309.93 to fund the purchase of Laptops, printers and software packages to help support the work of the TRA and that in view of the very small amount of income available to the TRA, the grant money be paid up-front to enable the purchase of the equipment.

(b) ST THOMAS'S WARD

(i) Sledmere Community Association

That the sum of £3,000 to be spent on improvements to the structure of the flooring within the community association building and to supply and install two water boilers for hot drinks and that in view of the very small amount of income available to the Association, the grant money be paid up-front to enable the purchase of the equipment.

(2) That the action taken by the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, in approving the application by Meadow Road Youth Centre – Youth Services for the purchase of gym equipment, in the sum of £664.88 on the grounds of urgency, be noted.

- (3) That the action taken by the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, in approving the application in relation to the Dudley Counselling Centre/Dudley Christian Fellowship in the sum of £3,000 to contribute towards the cost of refurbishment of the ground floor within the Counselling Centre, on the grounds of urgency, be noted.
- (4) That the Area Liaison Officer for the Central Dudley Area Committee be authorised to implement the above actions in accordance with the agreed control procedures.
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56. MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2011 RELATING TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on issues raised at the meeting of the Central Dudley Area Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, with regard to services provided by the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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57. MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2011 OTHER THAN THOSE RELATING TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted on progress on issues raised at the meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, other than those relating to the Directorate of the Urban Environment.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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58. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

The dates of meetings of Scrutiny Committees for the remainder of the current municipal year were noted.



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59.

DATE OF FUTURE MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE

It was noted that future meeting dates for the Committee would be determined at the annual meeting of the Council in May.

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The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

CHAIRMAN